

CLOSE UP

Pronghorn may be the fastest land animal in North America, but there's one thing that an estimated 100 pronghorn that have roamed the Glassford Hill area near Prescott Valley cannot outrun – development.

On Jan. 24, the Arizona Game and Fish Department, in partnership with the Arizona Antelope Foundation and local private landowners, reduced the size of the iconic herd by capturing 45 of the fleet-footed animals and transporting them to various release sites in southeast Arizona.

The one-day operation was conducted on private property south of Highway 89A. A helicopter was used to round up and funnel the pronghorn into a holding area, where wildlife biologists, veterinarians and others evaluated the health of each pronghorn, attached an ear tag for identification and fitted them with GPS tracking collars.

The pronghorn then were transported almost 300 miles south to release sites near Bonita, Altar Valley and San Bernardino Valley, where they will bolster small populations in these areas.

– Dale Hajek

AZGFD biologists and representatives from partner organizations formed a line to ensure that the pronghorn continued into the holding area after they were directed into the vicinity by a helicopter.

