

Species Habitat Evaluation for Pronghorn Antelope in Nevada

Landowner/Operator: _____ County: _____ Date: _____
 Farm No.: _____ Tract: _____ USGS Quad Name: _____
 Field(s): _____ Acres: _____ Section: _____ Township: _____ Range: _____
 Assisted By: _____

An NRCS Area Biologist should be contacted before attempting to use this form

Habitat: Pronghorns are adapted to low, rolling topography and commonly inhabit landscapes that occur from 4000 to 6000-feet in elevation. Preferred pronghorn range have shrubs with a mean height of 15-inches. Low sagebrush dominates commonly used summer ranges. The preferred winter ranges are dominated by shadscale, black sagebrush, and winterfat.

Food: Forage and drinking water are the primary components of pronghorn habitat. Succulent grass and forb plants are preferred forage. As upland herbaceous plants dry out, pronghorn move to intermittent lakebeds or playas to graze succulent vegetation. Fall growth of crested wheatgrass, where snow cover is light, can provide good wintering habitat for pronghorn.

Species Habitat Evaluation: Pronghorn Antelope

FACTOR	COMPONENTS	HABITAT VALUE RATING	PRESENT	PLANNED
Plant Community Type	Dwarf sagebrush dominated plant communities (low sagebrush, black sagebrush, Lahontan sagebrush) <u>or</u> salt desert shrub plant communities	0.8 to 1.0		
	Big sagebrush-bunchgrass plant communities	0.4 to 0.7		
	Pinyon and/or juniper woodland (forest)	0 to 0.3		
Plant Diversity	Present vegetation consists of 20 or more forb species; 5 or more shrub species; and, 5 or more grass species	0.8 to 1.0		
	Present vegetation consists of 5 to 9 forb species; 2 to 4 shrub species; and, 2 to 4 grass species	0.4 to 0.7		
	Present vegetation consists of less than 5 forb species; less than 2 shrub species; and, less than 2 grass species	0 to 0.3		
Landscape	Flat to gently rolling terrain with broad drainageways, slopes less than 30%	0.8 to 1.0		
	Moderately rolling to steep, somewhat dissected terrain	0.4 to 0.7		
	Rough terrain, steep to very steep slopes, strongly dissected or "broken" topography	0 to 0.3		

Species Habitat Evaluation: Pronghorn Antelope *(continued)*

FACTOR	COMPONENTS	HABITAT VALUE RATING	PRESENT	PLANNED
Forb and Browse Utilization <i>(by air-dry weight)</i>	Total annual utilization of forbs and grass plants by domestic livestock, big game, or wildhorses is less than 40%	0.8 to 1.0		
	Total annual utilization of forbs and grass plants by domestic livestock, big game, or wildhorses is 40 to 50%	0.4 to 0.7		
	Total annual utilization of forbs and grass plants by domestic livestock, big game, or wildhorses is more than 50%	0 to 0.3		
Livestock Grazing Management	Area evaluated is not grazed	0.5 to 1.0		
	Grazing management meets NRCS practice standard and specifications <i>(i.e., periods of grazing and rest are identified; utilization levels of herbaceous vegetation established and maintained; browse utilization levels and recruitment objectives established and attained).</i>	0.5 to 1.0		
	Grazing management does <u>not</u> meet NRCS conservation practice standard and specifications	0 to 0.4		
Water Sources	At least one year-round, ground-level, water source per section (640 acres)	0.8 to 1.0		
	One year-round, ground-level, water source per every 2 sections (1320 acres)	0.4 to 0.7		
	Early-season (ephemeral) water sources only <u>or</u> water sources spaced at greater than one per every 3 sections	0 to 0.3		
Fencing	No fencing within evaluation area; if fencing present, fence design does not restrict antelope movement	0.8 to 1.0		
	Fencing present within evaluation area with some fence sections modified to provide for antelope passage	0.4 to 0.7		
	Fencing within evaluation area restricts antelope movement	0 to 0.3		

Habitat Evaluation Score for Pronghorn Antelope =

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