

Pronghorn
(*Antilocapra americana*)

ORDER: Artiodactyla
FAMILY: Antilocapridae

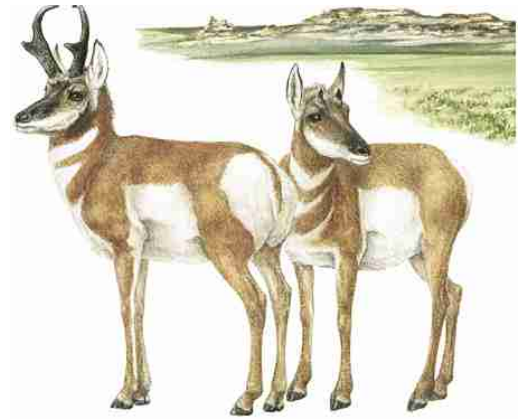
Conservation Status: The Sonoran pronghorn (*A. americana sonoriensis*) is Endangered.

Pronghorn are endemic to North America, and are the only living members of the family Antilocapridae. In the Pleistocene, about a dozen species roamed the continent. Two things distinguish their horns from those of all other mammals: they fork, and the black, outer, forked sheath is shed annually from the unforked, bony core. The horns of females are shorter and do not develop a pronounced prong-like shape. Pronghorns stay in the open, relying on their excellent eyesight and speed for protection – they have been clocked at 72 km per hour. They communicate with each other visually, by raising the mane on the back of the neck into a stiff brush and erecting the white hairs on the rump. When a Pronghorn activates this visual beacon, it is coupled with an olfactory signal: the rump glands emit a strong smell.

Also known as:
Antelope, Pronghorn Antelope, Berrendo

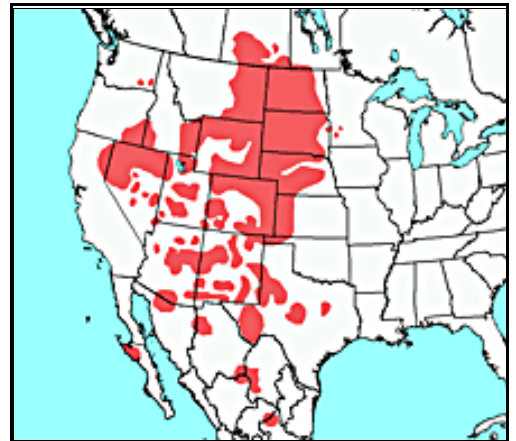
Length:
Range: 1.3–1.5 m males; 1.3–1.5m females

Weight:
Range: 42–59 kg males; 41–50 kg females



Antilocapra americana – female, right; male, left

Credit: painting by Elizabeth McClelland from Kays and Wilson's *Mammals of North America*, © Princeton University Press (2002)



FIELD NOTES

DATE: _____ LOCATION: _____

