

Culture & History

The Salish and Pend d'Oreille name for pronghorn is staán and the Kooentai is nittuǰp. Like other game animals, pronghorns were both a source of food and a resource to make clothing, moccasins, tools, and jewelry. For example, the Kootenai would use pronghorn horns on a headdress as a symbol of leadership.

Today, pronghorn hunting in Montana is mainly done in the eastern half of the state, where the population of pronghorn is higher. Pronghorns are not hunted within the Flathead Reservation.

The only herd in western Montana is on the Bison Range. Though the herd is relatively smaller, the pronghorns are still a visitor favorite!

Making the Jump

Despite being one of the fastest animals on Earth, pronghorns have one weakness: their ability to jump. Hundreds of years ago, this was not much of a dilemma. Living in open plains and grasslands, there was not many obstacles for pronghorns that they couldn't just as easily go around.

However, after the introduction of domestic livestock by white settlers, local land owners started to fence off land. This particularly became a problem for the pronghorns in the mid 1800s, when barbed wire was invented.

Unlike deer and elk, which can jump over most fences, pronghorns prefer to go under. Often, the animals become tangled in the wires, leading to injury and death.

On the Bison Range, special wooden frames have been made on the bottom of the fences to allow pronghorns to safely duck under and continue on their way, while keeping the larger animals contained.

PRONGHORNS



Staán - Nittuǰp

If you are interested in learning more about our wildlife, contact us at :

Phone: (406) 644-2211
CSKTBISONRANGE@GMAIL.COM

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Interesting Facts

The average pronghorn weight is 100-125 lbs (45-57 kg) for bucks, 90-110 lbs (40-50 kg) for does, and they are usually about 35-40 inches (90-100 cm) tall at the shoulder.

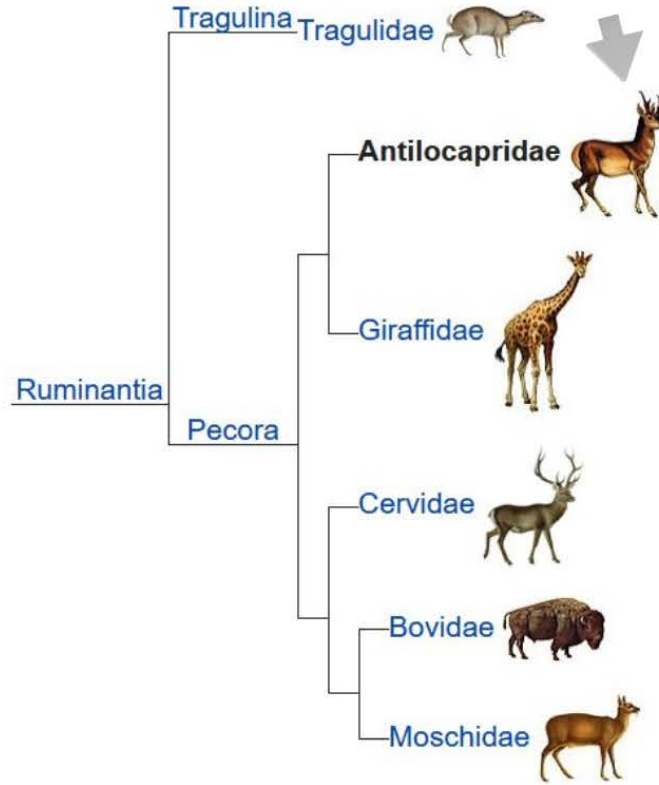
Though many people refer to pronghorn as antelope, they are not in the same family. Antelope is an umbrella term referring to any ungulate in African that is not a cow, deer, giraffe, or goat. The name comes from their similar appearance and behavior.

Pronghorns are the fastest mammal in North America, able to run 40-60 mph (64-97 kph)

They get the name 'pronghorn' from their distinctive horns that form two prongs. Each horn has a permanent core with a keratinous sheath, and the horns are shed annually.

Pronghorns have hollow hair, which helps trap air near the body and keep them warm. They are able to raise and lower their hair to cool off in warmer weather and stay warm in cold temperatures.

The pronghorn is the only surviving member of the family Antilocapridae, which is part of the Giraffoidea superfamily. Their closest relatives are giraffe and okapi.



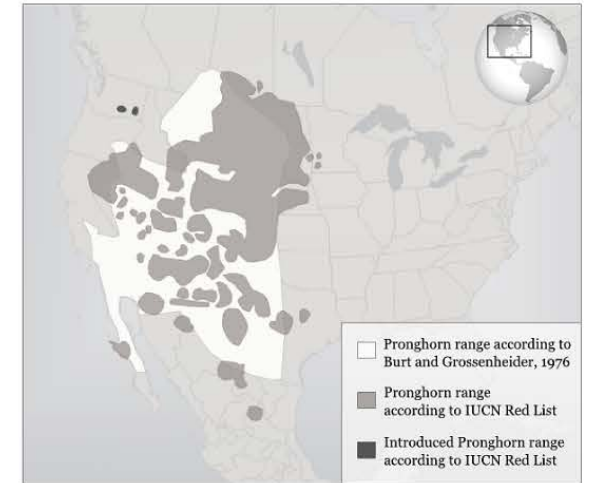
(Chen, et al, 2019)

The antilocapridae split off from the giraffidae family during the Early Miocene, roughly 23-5 million years ago in North America.

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Based on genetic evidence, there are two subspecies of pronghorns (*Antilocapra americana americana*), *A. a mexicana* and *A. a peninsularis*. There are also, *A. a oregona* and *A. a sonoriensis*, but these have only superficial differences. Overall, the pronghorn is not considered endangered. However, *A. a mexicana* are listed as low risk and *A. a sonoriensis* as critically endangered.



(Wikipedia, 2022)

Pronghorn: A Visitor Guide