

## **TEN TERRIFIC TIPS TO SAFE AND SUCCESSFUL PRONGHORN ANTELOPE HUNTING**

- Scout your hunt area and develop a plan.
- File your trip plan with a responsible adult.
- Carry two spare tire, tools and extra water.
- Carry and drink plenty of water while you are in the field.
- Pace yourself, don't walk or over exert yourself in the midday heat.
- Use natural cover and antelope habits to get close.
- Keep in constant communication with hunt partners.
- Make sure your shot is clear, with a safe backstop.
- Properly punch the tag and quickly field-dress the animal.
- Get the hide off, cool the meat down, no plastic or coolers.

## **AVOID HUNTING ACCIDENTS**

- Unload guns when not in use, especially when approaching other hunters, vehicle or camp. Never put a loaded firearm in a vehicle.
- Always keep your gun pointed in a safe direction. Be aware of who and what is around you.
- Keep your finger off the trigger until you are ready to shoot. Be sure you're steady and your shot is clear.
- Be sure of your target and what lies beyond.



# **A Quick Guide To Safe Pronghorn Antelope Hunting**

# Hunting Safety

When you're hunting antelope there are a few things to remember to make your hunt safe:

- Pack the things you need. Be sure your vehicle is road worthy before you set off to hunt. A few vehicle necessities are:
  - Water (1 gal. Per person per day)
  - Two Spare Tires Jack, Tools,
  - Shovel and Axe
  - Tarp or Shade
  - 200 ft. Sturdy Rope
  - Knife, Pliers, Hammer
  - Sleeping Bag or Blanket
- You will be hunting in hot, dry conditions. Carry plenty of water with you; wear a brimmed hat, light, loose clothing and use plenty of sun screen. Pace yourself, allow plenty of time to get out and back. Save sweat, not water. Drink the water, but avoid traveling afoot or exertion in the midday heat.
- Fire is a real danger. Be careful where you park. Hot car exhaust systems can easily ignite tall, dry grass. Never throw burning material out into the open. Be sure campfires are dead out. Carry a shovel and plenty of water, in case of accidental fire.

- Plan your hunt. Use your scouting trip to plan and prepare for potential problems with terrain and conditions. Clearly mark hunts route strategies and anticipate problems. Communicate your plan clearly with hunt partners and plan safety into all your hunt activities.
- File A Trip Plan. Write down where you're going, whom you're going with and exactly when you expect to be back. Leave a map, if possible, indication your hunt area, camp and planned stops. Give phone numbers for key contacts, at home and in your hunt area. 'File the plan with a dependable adult before you leave. Check in when you return to let that person know you're safely back.
- Pronghorn antelope can see long distances and run fast. This may seem obvious, but you may be tempted to shoot at greater distances. Avoid the temptation and get closer. Take more time, use vegetation and other natural cover to get closer. Be sure there are no other animals or even people in your shot. Never shoot at an animal on a hilltop, with an obscured or unsafe background.

# Successful Hunting

## SCOUTING

### You're First hunt

The key to successful pronghorn antelope hunting is the pre-hunt scouting. A map can tell you a lot about an area, but nothing beats getting out and looking around. Plus you get to see where the animals are a few things to look for:

- Pronghorn antelope are creatures of habit. Take the time to find out where they are at certain times of the day, so you can use the animal's habits to help you hunt
- Look for sign. Tracks, rubs, and spoor all give away the location and habits of antelope. You can often tell where they are feeding, watering and resting, without ever seeing the animal.
- Note terrain and vegetation. Find natural cover, corridors for herd movements, think how they might work for you, what could possibly give away your approach, or the best way to get your animal back to your vehicle or camp, once you are successful.
- Locate routes, campsite, etc. After surveying the countryside, mark natural campsites, rest and work areas, as well as routes to the hunt area.

## THE HUNT

Be adaptable, things may change from when you scout. Factor in that other hunters may be in the area, changing weather, or animals spooked by the season opening.

- Hunt as close to your plan as you can. Use your knowledge of the animals and terrain to your best advantage, but adjust for unforeseen factors. Get within your effective range and be sure our shot is clear and safe, before you pull the trigger.
- Keep in constant communication with your hunt partners. Never assume anything. Anticipate changes in position, problems and opportunities. Take advantage of a partner's position? Don't shoot.

## GAME CARE

Follow these simple steps:

- Cool it down. Get the hide off, get the insides out, let it cool naturally before using ice.
- Clean it off. Wash the carcass of with clean water and wipe it down, then put it in a game bag. Don't wrap it in plastic or put in directly into a cooler
- Keep it dry. Avoid putting meat directly on melting ice or in water.