

Bandelier National Monument
Santa Fe, New Mexico

December 14, 1957

Memorandum

To: Regional Director
From: Superintendent
Subject: Animal Census Report

Attached hereto is biennial report 10B1E1 for calendar years 1956 - 1957. The estimates were made from wildlife records kept at the office, records and observations made on patrol, pellet count census, and from reports of visitors.

Because of limited personnel we were unable to make comprehensive surveys of all wildlife species, however, enough observations were recorded to allow significant comparisons to be made with reports of previous years.

The State Department of Game and Fish added significantly to our information of deer population with a deer transect established on the mesa south of Frijoles Canyon this fall. Also, Mr. Louis Simpson, Rt. 2, Santa Fe, helped a great deal with a complete report of bird observations during the summer of 1957.

Aside from the over-population of skunks at Headquarters, and illegal hunting activity along the south and west boundaries, the only management problem of the moment is the ever increasing number of feral burros inhabiting the southern reaches of the Monument. These burros were observed as far north as section 29, in vicinity of the Stone Lions, this summer. Since the range condition will not support the present deer population, control of this exotic animal is imminent.

Paul A. Judge
Superintendent

In duplicate

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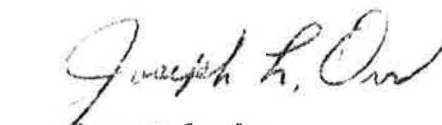
Species	Estimated No. and/or relative Abundance	Comments
Wolf	rare, occurrence sporadic	No reports this period. Neither food nor cover adequate.
Cougar	rare, occurrence sporadic	One large animal sighted with deer kill, upper Frijoles Canyon, mid summer 1957.
Bobcat	10 rare	Based on past census and observation, population static. Animals and tracks seen occasionally.
Spruce Squirrel	common	See below
Abert Squirrel	common	Drought conditions coupled with a beetle epidemic the past three years has killed 70% of the pine, and has resulted in considerable reduction (perhaps 60%) in squirrel population.
Chipmunk	common	
Song Sparrow	common	
Beaver	rare	Beaver continues to be very scarce in the monument. However, with increased precipi- tation in 1957, an increase next year is probable.
Peromyscus	common	Peromyscus continues to decrease with the decrease of Pinus sp.
Rabbit	common	While not abundant, rabbits have been sighted occasionally at elevations below 6,000 feet. Road kills indicate a cotton- tail, jack rabbit of 2:1. Winter patrols on mesa report tracks common.
Birds Vulture	common 500	Six actual counts made during a three month period, 1957, covering $\frac{1}{4}$ the monument area, reported 168 birds (turkey vultures).
Hawk	20 common	Only one hawk sighted during the above cited bird census. The redtail and sparrow hawk are most commonly seen.
Eagle	rare	One golden eagle sighted in Frijoles Canyon Oct. 27, 1957; no apparent nests.
Grouse	rare	No reports this period.
Quail	rare	Prolonged drought has denuded the monument.

Board File

ANNUAL WILDLIFE REPORT FOR BANDOLIER NAT'L MONUMENT, 1958

<u>Species</u>	<u>Estimated No. and/or relative Abundance</u>	<u>Comments</u>
Mammals		
Wolverine	rare, occurrence sporadic	No records this period. A small herd exists near west boundary in the Jones mountains.
White Deer	2,500 abundant	This is the largest estimate in the history of the monument; however, we consider it conservative based on a pellet transect established in a representative location in the fall of 1957. Pellet group counts indicate 66.37 deer per section. Animals in good condition as a result of abundant rain in 1957, and improved forage. Disease and predation is nil, although hunting pressure is severe.
Black Bear	18 common	Observations during 1956-1957, indicate bear well distributed over the monument. A total of 26 animals sighted during the 2-year period. A drought period lasting to June '57 probably accounted for this condition of bear this summer, but with above average rainfall in 2nd half of year, they entered winter in better condition.
Moose	rare	No reports this period.
Ringtail	common	Many animals observed near headquarters area 1956-1957. Several young sighted. All animals in good condition.
Skunk	abundant	Daily complaints from visitors in campground. Most skunks less afraid of the campers than the campers are of the skunks. Local popula- tion dependant on campers for food. Several litters observed near headquarters.
Badger	rare	No reports this period.
Grey Fox	80 common	Estimate based on past reports and observation. Daily occurrence in headquarters area in summer, and sightings along the road. Animals in good condition.
Coyote	30 rare	Occasionally seen at night, but not as common as grey fox.

Species	Estimated No. and/or relative Abundance	Comments
Turkey	common 100	Despite drought conditions, the merriam turkey continues to migrate into the monument for the winter. State allowed 2-day hunting in Jensen Mtns., Nov. 1957. Flocks numbering 20+, were sighted in two canyons in October and November, 1957.
Dove	common	Mourning doves are commonly seen in all sections of the monument.
Owl	common	Owls frequently heard at night and occasionally sighted.
Haven	common	Daily sightings throughout the year.


 Joseph L. Orr
 District Ranger

Copy for Region 3