

Bandelier National Monument
Santa Fe, New Mexico
January 15, 1960

Memorandum

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

Attached is the subject report LOBIEI for the calendar year 1959. Employee and visitor field observations, area wildlife records, patrols, and pellet transect counts were the methods used in determining the actual abundance and numerical estimates of wildlife populations.

The New Mexico State Department of Game and Fish has continued operation of the deer pellet transect plot established in the fall of 1957. It is hoped to establish additional transect plots in the monument and with available time, have our own personnel run frequent check counts on these plots. At present only a migration or population trend can possibly be determined from previous counts with only one transect plot.

Feral burros still continue inhabiting the southern area of the monument. During the 1959 fall hunting season, several burros and tracks were observed throughout the backcountry on hunting patrols which extensively covered all sections south of Frijoles Canyon. Porcupines presented a management problem in damage to ponderosa and pinyon trees in and around the campground and picnic use areas, however activity has now subsided.

Paul A. Judge
Superintendent

In duplicate

EJWidmer/ejw

ANNUAL WILDLIFE REPORT FOR BANDELLER NATIONAL MONUMENT 1960

Species	Estimated No. : and/or Relative : Abundance :	Comments
<u>Mammals</u>		
Elk	rare, occurrence sporadic	No observations reported this period. State Department of Game and Fish reports a small number still present in Santa Fe National Forest adjoining west boundary.
Mule Deer	600 abundant	State pellet transect counts approximates 47 deer per section, indicating over population prevalent. However, typical browse vegetation shows no over-use; condition of animals good; disease nil. No over population apparent. No population comparison feasible with past estimates other than relative abundances due to only one transect plot and the few number of actual pellet counts.
Black Bear	10 common	Several tracks and some observations made in various locations throughout the Monument. No problems of bear incidents involving visitors or employees.
Ringtail	common	All recorded observations were made at night. Uncommon during daytime.
Skunk	common	Still common, however observations less frequent and campground problem with animals no longer exists.
Grey Fox	common	Several observations made at night along main entrance road. Animals appear in good condition.
Coyote	common	Observed both daytime and nighttime. Two large packs(4-7) observed at different locations, January and February 1959.
Cougar	rare, occurrence sporadic	Tracks observed occasionally; one medium sized animal reported by visitor in Frijoles Canyon located in cave above the Ceremonial Cave, fall 1959.
Bobcat	rare	One visitor observation of animal crossing main entrance road, August 1958

Species	Estimated No. and/or Relative Abundance	Comments
Abert Squirrel	common	Frequently observed in campground. Population trend upwards following 1956-57 drought, when observations became infrequent.
Chipmunk	common	
Gopher	common	
Beaver	rare	One observation of new cuttings and dam construction in Frijoles Canyon below Lower Falls, August 1958.
Porcupine	common	Control efforts instigated in past year to minimize damage of pines around main visitor use area. Damage negligible at present time.
<u>Birds</u>		
Vulture	common	Frequent observations during summer months.
Hawks	common	Observations reported frequently throughout year.
Eagle	rare	One observation made by visitor at refuse dump, August 1958.
Quail	rare	Two coveys of scaled quail observed near fire lookout on main entrance road, fall 1959.
Turkey	common	Population appears to be increasing. Flocks sporadically seen along highway #4 adjacent to boundary. One flock of 30+ were observed in Capulin Canyon during a fall hunting patrol, 1959.
Dove	common	
Owl	common	
Raven	common	