

ANNUAL WILDLIFE REPORT

The winter months of 1965 produced only 32 inches of snow and 5.92 inches of precipitation; however, the spring and summer months produced 18.74 inches of precipitation which did much to help the growth of natural food for the wildlife.

The winter months were fairly warm and open, providing a plentiful food supply for the wildlife; and the storms were sufficiently scattered so that foraging was not too difficult. The combination of warm weather and a lot of moisture during the year has shown an increase in the amount of food for the wildlife, and therefore a slight increase in population.

The larger mammals and turkeys move to higher elevations in the warm spring and summer months and to the lower elevations during the winter. This migration tends to produce a seasonal change in the various animal populations on the Monument. Deer, however, can be seen in Pijoles Canyon at any time of the year. It has been noted that the size and weight of the male deer appears to be much greater than in previous years. This can possibly be attributed to more and better food conditions.

Coyotes, Bobcats, Badgers and Fox were observed in the area; and appear to be on the increase. All of the animals observed were rather wary of the observer, except the Gray Fox which appears to be rather tame and will not run far away when approached.

Wild turkeys (Gallinaceous) have been noticed in increased numbers during the past year. Two flocks were observed on Pijoles Mesa, totaling 52 turkeys. This increase is believed due to the improvement in range conditions.

No effort was made during the year to reduce the feral burro population nor have accurate counts been made. The burros are doing some damage to the range and definitely are not an aid to erosion control.

The amount of wildlife observed and reported in the Upper Pijoles area of the Monument is especially gratifying. Deer, Bear and Coyote are continually being observed; and occasionally elk by visitors and Monument personnel in that area.

Los Alamos County planted 50 head of elk during the winter, and some of them have been reported as being in the Upper Frijoles area of the Monument.] *

The following are some comments on some of the animals in the Monument, all of which appear to be in good conditions:

Black Bear - Bears have been more commonly seen than in previous years by both visitor and employee. Bears have been seen in the vicinity of Ceremonial Cave and the Entrance Station; and so far no problems have been encountered with the bears.

Bobcat - These animals generally stay at the higher elevations along the west side of the Monument; however, occasionally they are seen in the vicinity of the Fire Lookout and along the entrance road at night.

Cougar - There was one report of a cougar in the area. It was heard screaming during the night down the canyon from the Residential Area; and upon investigation tracks were found in the vicinity of the Upper Falls.

Mule Deer - There seems to be little doubt that the Mule Deer in this area are increasing in number. They are a common sight in the Headquarters Area and some are observed on every patrol into the back country area.

Gray Fox - Three were observed quite often during the year in the picnic area and in the Stone House Residential Area.

Ringtail Cat - Although this beautiful little animal is rarely seen; tracks indicate that several live in the rock slides in Frijoles and Capulin Canyons and that they are on the increase. Two Ringtails were seen on the Monument during the early evening attempting to get food out of garbage cans. After an initial, cautious approach they appeared to be unafraid of humans and were not disturbed by the sound of human voices or of vehicle noises.

Scrub Quail - This is the first observation of this species since 1961 when a covey was observed near the Back Gate. A small covey was observed during the spring near the Fire Lookout, and a small covey was observed in Frijoles Canyon in August.

Golden Eagle - Six observations of this majestic bird were made during 1965. Golden Eagles have been observed in Frijoles Canyon and along the Rio Grande.

Vulture, Turkey - On almost any part of the Monument between April and October and at any time of the day you can see many of these birds soaring overhead. Quite a large flock has roosted for years on several dead snags on the south rim of the canyon above the picnic grounds and the ruins.

The estimated numbers in the following census are based upon reports from visitor and Monument personnel.

2 Beaver stocked
in Upper-Frijoles

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

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Submit in triplicate to the Regional Director who will submit the report in duplicate to WASO. Use symbols in Columns 3 and 4 as follows: RELATIVE POPULATION: Abundant Generally (AG); Abundant Locally (AL); Common Generally (CG); Common Locally (CL); Rare (R); Infrequent (I). POPULATION TREND: Up (U); Static (S); Down (D). See reverse for detail explanation of symbols. If all important facts on wildlife have not been covered, a narrative report should be prepared as outlined on the reverse.

Park Bandelier National Monument								Prepared by Charles A. Rowe				Date April 29, 1966					
SPECIES (1)	ESTIMATED POPULATION (2)	RELATIVE POPULATION (3)	POPULATION TREND (4)	NO. MOVED OUT ALIVE (5)	NO. STOCKED IN PARK (6)	REDUCTION KILL (7)	ACCIDENT AND POACHER KILLED (8)		SPECIES (1)	ESTIMATED POPULATION (2)	RELATIVE POPULATION (3)	POPULATION TREND (4)	NO. MOVED OUT ALIVE (5)	NO. STOCKED IN PARK (6)	REDUCTION KILL (7)	ACCIDENT AND POACHER KILLED (8)	
							Car	Other								Car	Other
Antelope									Peccary								
Armadillo									Pika								
Badger	10-15	R	U				1		Porcupine	20-30	R	U					2
Bat	C L								Prairie Dog	5-10	I	U					5
Bear, Black	15-20	R							Rabbit, Cottontail	CL	CG	U					
Bear, Grizzly									Rabbit, Jack								
Beaver	4	R							Rabbit, Snowshoe								1
Beaver, Mountain									Raccoon	25-30	R	U					
Bighorn									Rodents, Small		CG						
Bison									Seal								
Bobcat	15-20	R	U						Sea Lion								
Caribou									Skunk	25-30	AL	S					2
Cat, Ringtail	25-30	R					1		Squirrel, Ground		AG	S					3
Chipmunk	C L								Squirrel, Tree		AG	U					2
Coati-Mundi									Weasel								
Cougar	1	I	S						Wolf								
Coyote	35-50	R	U				1	1	Wolverine								
Deer, Blacktail									Alligator								
Deer, Mule	500+	AG	U				4	2	Crocodile								
Deer, Whitetail									Turtle, Green								
Elk	6	I	S						EXOTICS								
Fox, Gray	15-20	R	U						Boar								
Fox, Kit									Burro	100+	AL	U					
Fox, Red									Goat								
Fisher									Horse								
Goat, Mountain									Mongoose								
Gopher, Pocket	C L								Nutria								
Lynx									Rabbit		AG						
Manatee									Birds								
Marmot																	
Marten																	
Mink																	
Moose																	
Muskrat																	
Ocelot																	
Opposum																	
Otter, River																	
Otter, Sea																	

Additional Species

Merriam's Turkey 75 - 100 AG U