

1966

ANNUAL WILDLIFE REPORT

The winter months of 1966 produced 2.06 inches of precipitation, and 4.09 inches of snowfall. The spring and summer months produced 9.35 inches of precipitation to make the total amount of 11.41 inches of precipitation. This amounts to a 50% reduction in precipitation from that of 1965, and is 3.72 inches below the annual average.

It was an open winter with the few snowstorms scattered sufficiently so that foraging was not too difficult for the wildlife and provided a plentiful food supply. An abundant acorn and moderate pinyon crop were produced and provided ample food for both birds and mammals that rely on most for food. The choke cholla and other wild fruits produced only a moderate crop. The late summer rains improved the grass and browse so that game animals wintered well.

Aside from some illegal hunting along the south and west boundaries, the only management problem of the Monument is the ever increasing number of feral burros inhabiting the backcountry. A survey of this problem was made during the year and a count made to determine the number of feral burros in the monument. A copy of this report is attached.

The New Mexico Game and Fish Department met with the staff throughout the year in an attempt to help locate and establish deer transects in the Monument. Also, all of the range personnel were given "Reserve Conservation Officer" Commission so that State Fish and Game Laws can be enforced as well as Park Service Regulations.

Wildlife patrols were made in the Upper Frijoles area of the Monument to determine the range forage conditions and the species and amount of wildlife in that area. Probably the most important change in wildlife in the was the number of elk observed (12). They were scattered on the mesa and in the canyon near the Beaver Dams. Also, observed were grouse, bear and turkeys. There were no beaver observed anywhere in the area.

A wildlife patrol to the detached Teankwi Section was successful, and not too many animals were observed. Badger (1), fox (1), coyote (2), rattlesnake and a few deer were all that were observed.

The following are some comments on some of the animals of the area:

Badger: Appear to be on the increase according to reports and observations.

Black Bear: Observations indicate that bear are well distributed over the Monument as a total 20 bear were observed. A sow bear was observed teaching her cubs to fish near the upper crossing of Frijoles Creek.

Beaver: Continue to be very scarce, and those planted in 1965 have moved down canyon from beaver dams. Food is scarce and they have left the area as they have not been seen for quite sometimes.

Bobcats: Based on past census and observations this animal although it does stay in the higher elevations appears to be on the increase in the Monument.

Coyotes: They are becoming less observed in the area, and when they are seen it is usually one. Very seldom are observations made of more.

Cougar: Their animal's observation is very rare: however, one was observed with a kill near the "Y" on Frijolitos Mesa, and one was heard screaming during the night.

Mule Deer: There is little doubt that this animal is on the increase, and the estimate is rather conservative considering the number of deer observed. With the establishment of transects on the west side of the Monument we will get a better estimate of the number of deer in the area.

Elk: Tracks of this animal were found throughout the upper areas of the Monument, and with the number of elk brought in by Los Alamos County, the number in the Monument may increase.

Porcupine: This animal evidently is once again on the increase in the Monument as evidence by the number of trees being damaged.

Skunk: They are seldom seen in the canyon now. Possibly the removal of the campground to the mesa has relived the pressure they used to put on the camp-plant area.

Turkey: This very majestic bird is observed less often than in previous years. This decrease in observation is quite possibly caused by the heavy amount of visitor use and the increasing area population. They appear to be seeking the more remote areas, as witnessed by some of the reports received.

Quail: After many years of absence they have returned to the area as several coveys were observed both in the canyon and on the mesa.

Golden Eagle: Four observations of this majestic bird were made during the year. One of them was an immature Golden Eagle.

Owl: Several observations of the owls were made during the year. One observation of the long-eared owl was made in front of the Visitor Center, and several observations were made of the Pygmy Owl.

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UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

ANNUAL WILDLIFE REPORT

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 4/25/67						
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	S				1		Porcupine	25-30							
Bat		L							Prairie Dog	5-10							
Bear, Black	15-20	R	S						Rabbit, Cottontail		C	L					
Bear, Grizzly									Rabbit, Jack								
Beaver	4	R	S						Rabbit, Snowshoe								
Beaver, Mountain									Raccoon	20-25	R	D					
Bighorn									Rodents, Small		CG						
Bison									Seal								
Bobcat	15-20	R	U				1		Sea Lion								
Caribou									Skunk	20-25	CL	D					
Cat, Ringtail	20-25	R	D				1		Squirrel, Ground	C	L						
Chipmunk	8	L							Squirrel, Tree	C	L						
Coati-Mundi									Weasel								
Cougar	2	I	U						Wolf								
Coyote	30-35	R	D				1	1	Wolverine								
Deer, Blacktail									Alligator								
Deer, Mule	50-55	AG	U				3		Crocodile								
Deer, Whitetail									Turtle, Green								
Elk	10	I	U						EXOTICS								
Fox, Gray	15-20	R	S						Boar								
Fox, Kit									Burro	100+	AG						
Fox, Red									Goat								
Fisher									Horse								
Goat, Mountain									Mongoose								
Gopher, Pocket	8	I							Nutria								
Lynx									Rabbit								
Manatee									Birds		AG						
Marmot																	
Marten																	
Mink																	
Moose																	
Muskrat																	
Ocelot																	
Opposum																	
Otter, River																	
Otter, Sea																	

Additional Species

Merriams Turkey 50-75 - AG-U