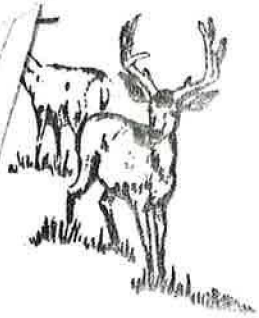

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State of New Mexico

DEPARTMENT OF GAME AND FISH

FRED A. THOMPSON
SECRETARY TO THE COMMISSION
AND DIRECTOR OF THE DEPARTMENT

STATE CAPITOL
SANTA FE

December 19, 1961

SUPERINTENDENT	
ADM. ASSISTANT	
CHIEF R	EJW
ARCHI	
FORE	
DIST	
PAR	

Mr. Paul A. Judge, Superintendent
Bandelier National Monument
Santa Fe, New Mexico

Dear Mr. Judge:

Elk were first released in the Jemez Mountains in the early spring of 1948. These animals were from Yellowstone Park and were trucked into the Clear Creek area. They have since spread to the extent that elk can now be found in varying numbers from the Chama River on the north to Jemez Springs on the south. Areas of particular concentration are the San Pedro parks adjacent to this area.

Elk are known to be in considerable numbers in Los Alamos County. A year or so ago, we received a report of a band of about eight at the head of Frijoles Creek. The observer did not mention whether they were in or out of the park. We received no reports from hunters this year, but elk sightings in the Jemez are relatively common place and the hunters seldom report their observations any more.

Under normal circumstances, elk would be expected to be on the park as they are in adjacent areas in the Jemez Mountains. The original release consisted of twenty-one cows and calves and seven bulls. This release has since increased, so that, there should be at least two hundred head and perhaps more in the Jemez Mountains.