

**Southwest Region
Santa Fe, New Mexico**

N16

September 23, 1963

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Memorandum

To: Assistant Regional Director, CI&U
From: Staff Park Ranger (Wildlife Management)
Subject: Survey of upper Frijoles Canyon for possible over-use of this region by deer

With the thought in mind that we might have inherited an area that would result in wildlife problems, a trip was made on September 19 into the upper Frijoles Canyon which had been added to Bandelier National Monument in May of this year.

The land has been under the control of the Atomic Energy Commission and has not been open to travel for many years; consequently, no hunting has been allowed.

Before undertaking the trip, it was discussed with Superintendent Henson and members of his staff, at which time it was decided to invite New Mexico Game and Fish personnel and Forest Service representatives. Those making the trip were Edward Lang, Assistant Chief of Game Management, and Biologist Walter Snyder of New Mexico Game and Fish Department; Mr. David Patton, Wildlife Biologist of the Forest Service; Park Ranger Charles Rowe of Bandelier, and I. Transportation was supplied by the New Mexico Game and Fish Department.

The trip started from the upper end of the Canyon next to the main road (Highway No. 4). At the present there is not a developed trail into the upper end of the Canyon so we picked our way down through the boulders to the Canyon floor.

Particular attention was given to conditions of the principal browse species to determine if there had ever been

any severe over-utilization that would have suggested a build-up and die-off of a deer herd. There was no evidence which would have suggested such a situation. The Canyon is not used as a migratory route because of the precipitous upper end; the animals cannot go across the Canyon because of the cliffs on either side. A few deer apparently come in from the lower end and use the Canyon as a summer range. Two deer were sighted and tracks of four others recorded.

After the trip each representative gave his opinion of range conditions and the unanimous comment was that there had never been any excessive ungulate populations in the Canyon and that present utilization is nil. Transects would be of no use at this time so none will be established. If a trail is opened through the upper Canyon to connect with the main road, a new migration route might become established. This might bring more deer into the middle and lower end of Frijoles Canyon and could add to the present problem on the utilization of the principal browse species.

(SIGNED)

Stanley E. Broman

cc:

→ Bandelier