

UNITED STATES
DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

August 18, 1944

MEMORANDUM for the Regional Director, Region Three.

In response to Acting Regional Director Scoyen's memorandum of July 31, 1944 there follows a special report of accomplishments in the wild life conservation field at Bandelier National Monument for the year of 1944.

Wild life conditions in Bandelier National Monument may be said to be generally good for the season of 1944. Mule deer are present in greater numbers than ever before, but many dry does are noted and there is a decided decrease in the numbers of fawns. This is thought to be due to the fact that intensive hunting just outside the monument boundaries has reduced the bucks to such an extent that many does did not breed last winter.

* [Bear have suffered because of sheepmen intensively guarding their flocks on the Valle Range.

The Merriam turkey suffered somewhat from the severe winter of 1943-44 and their numbers show about a 15% reduction over last year. Sheep herders and wood cutters continue to take a heavy toll of young on the higher breeding grounds outside the monument.

The illegal hunting of grouse in the high country has almost resulted in the extinction of the bird on the monument. Grouse probably reached an all time low last year and no noticeable increase is noted this season. An unusually large number of lumber men and stockmen on the breeding range has been a result of the abnormal war demand for lumber and meat.

Gradual elimination of illegal grazing on the southern part of the monument is responsible for betterment of the range and more abundant forage for wild life in that region.

Although heavy fish stocking has been accomplished in Frigoles Creek, the extremely heavy fishing by Army personnel has about depleted the fish in this stream. Prospects for good fishing after the war are not encouraging. Capulin and Alamo Canyons have been little fished and offer much better prospects.

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It is believed the greatest measure of protection for turkey, grouse and bear in this territory would be accomplished by giving them better protection on their summer breeding range. This might be accomplished by enlarging the monument to encompass some of the higher country or encouraging the state to make the breeding range a game refuge. Planting of beaver in Alamo and Capulin Canyons would go far in bettering fishing in these two streams.

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Custodian.