

December 13, 1953

Memorandum

To: The Superintendent

From: Park Ranger

Subject: Wildlife Count

There have been three wildlife patrols made during the past two winters. These were made immediately following new snow falls, so that only fresh tracks were counted.

One patrol was made on November 26, 1952 after 4" of new snow. One member of the Bandelier staff covered the mesa south of headquarters. He traveled from Corral Hill to approximately one mile beyond Lummis Canyon, then down the mesa for about a mile, then back to the rim of Frijoles Canyon above headquarters. He covered about nine miles. One other member walked down Frijoles Canyon to the Rio Grande and down river for about one mile then back to the headquarters area, covering about eight miles.

On January 31, 1953 a member of the staff walked down Frijoles Canyon to the Rio Grande and then down White Rock Canyon for about a mile and returned to headquarters, covering around eight miles. This patrol was made after 5" of new snow.

On December 12, 1953, fourteen members of the Los Alamos High School Biology Class and two instructors, aided in the wildlife patrol and game count. Four members of the class traveled upper Frijoles Canyon for about two miles and then returned to the headquarters. Three of the group covered lower Frijoles Canyon to the Rio Grande and back and eight covered the mesa south of the headquarters area. Four of the latter eight traveled up the mesa and four went down the mesa, each traveling about five miles. A total of approximately forty one miles was covered on foot on the three patrols.

It was evident that approximately two thirds of the wildlife was on the lower part of the mesa, and canyon bottoms at this time of year. On the mesa top the animals ranged from 6550 feet to 6200 feet of elevation. In the canyon bottom the wildlife was mostly below an elevation of 6000 feet, with most of the count being made along the Rio Grande at 5500 feet of elevation.

A few more Deer and Rabbit tracks were counted on the mesa top than in the canyon bottom and along the Rio Grande, but more Fox, Bobcat, Coyote, Bear, Burro, Squirrel and Turkey tracks were counted in the lower part of the canyon and along the river.

A summary of track counts made on the patrols broken down by types of terrain traversed is as follows:

Type of Terrain	Linear Miles Travelled	Deer	Turkey	Coyote	Bobcat	Bear	Fox
Mesa Top:							
Above 6550 ft.:	8	22	0	0	0	0	1
Mesa Top:							
Below 6550 ft.:	11	61	1	4	0	1	2
Canyon Bottoms:							
Below 6000 ft.:	18	22	7	5	1	0	9
Along River 5500 ft.:	4	68	0	1	1	2	3
Totals	41	173	8	10	2	3	15

It is estimated that approximately one fifth of the monument area was covered. From this as estimate of totals on the monument might be as follows:

Deer	Coyote	Fox	Turkey	Bear	Bobcat
865	50	75	40	15	10

This is possibly high for deer and fox, but low for Turkey. It seems reasonably close for Coyote, Bear and Bobcat.

John F. Turney
Park Ranger