



UNITED STATES
DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

NATIONAL PARK SERVICE
Bandelier National Monument
Santa Fe, New Mexico

IN REPLY REFER TO:

N16

January 10, 1963

Memorandum

To: Superintendent
From: Wildlife Ranger
Subject: Wildlife Patrols

Three wildlife patrols were made during the month of December to determine the number and location of the various forms of wildlife in the Monument between Highway #4 and Frijoles Canyon and down in Frijoles Canyon itself.

The first patrol was made on December 23rd in the vicinity of the backgate from Highway #4 to the rim of Frijoles Canyon, along Escobas Mesa for two miles and then returning to Highway #4 across country. This patrol covered approximately four to six miles at elevations of 7,200 to 7,500 feet.

This patrol was an attempt to see if the Merriam's Turkeys (66) previously reported were still in that vicinity. 35 turkeys were observed as well as many tracks which quite possibly could have belonged to this band. There were several young in this group. A few deer were observed within this area.

The second patrol was made on December 24th, during the first snowfall of the month, covering the Burnt Mesa area for approximately four miles at elevations of 6,800 to 7,300 feet.

This patrol was to determine what species of wildlife may be seen in this area and to count the number of tracks. There were 12 turkeys observed roosting in a dead ponderosa pine. 12 deer feeding off of a group of junipers and three coyotes were observed as well as the tracks of many small animals.

The patrol of the morning of December 26th was made in Frijoles Canyon from headquarters to the water intake up canyon at elevations of 6,000 to 6,500 feet and from headquarters down canyon to the Upper Falls at elevations of 6,000 feet to 5,800 feet covering approximately six miles.

It was evident from this patrol that a large part of the wildlife population of the Monument can be found in the canyon bottoms as most of the animals observed were in this area. On the mesa tops the largest percentage of the wildlife was found from elevations below 6,800 feet.

A summary of visual sightings and track counts follows:

Visual Sightings:

Terrain	Deer	Turkey	Coyote	Bobcat	Fox	Raccoon	Skunk
Mesa top 7,200-7,500	5	35	1	0	0	0	0
Mesa top 6,800-7,300	12	12	2	1	0	0	0
Mesa top below 6,800	25	7	4	1	2	0	0
Canyon bottom 6,000-6,500	19	0	2	0	4	3	2
Canyon bottom 5,800-6,000	22	0	3	2	1	3	3
Totals	83	54	12	4	7	6	5

Track Count:

Terrain	Deer	Turkey	Coyote	Bobcat	Fox	Raccoon	Skunk
Mesa top 7,200-7,500	12	51	7	3	1	0	0
Mesa top 6,800-7,300	23	17	4	1	3	0	0
Mesa top below 6,800	61	9	8	4	7	13	0
Canyon bottom 6,000-6,500	22	0	9	2	8	17	7
Canyon bottom 5,800-6,000	38	0	15	9	6	25	9
Totals	156	77	43	19	25	55	16

A very small percentage of the Monument was covered by these patrols and from the figures presented, it appears that the deer population may be a little low and the coyote, bobcat and racoon may be reasonably close. From all indications and information that can be gathered, it appears that the turkey population may be on the increase.

One thing noted during the patrols was the number of squirrel, fox and racoon tracks in the vicinity of the headquarters area.

All of the animals observed appeared to be in good condition.

Charles A. Rowe
Charles A. Rowe
Wildlife Ranger

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Copy to: Regional Director/for Regional Staff Forester
(Wildlife Management)