

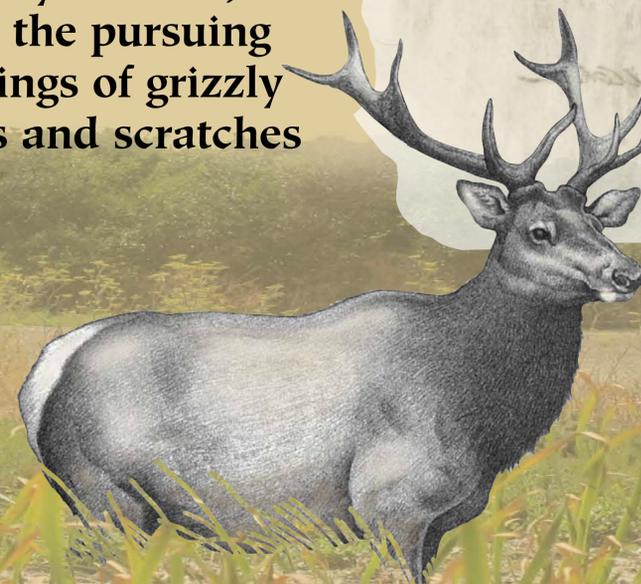
# Anza Expedition of 1776



## Where the Elk and the Antelope Play

In 1775 and 1776, Lt. Colonel Juan Bautista de Anza, Father Pedro Font, along with 240 settlers, soldiers, and others traveled 1,800 miles from Sonora, Mexico to Monterey, California. Anza and Font, with a small group passed through by horseback close to this spot on March 31, 1776 on their way to explore what later became known as the San Francisco Delta. The animals and landscape they saw were vastly different from what you see today.

These hills in 1776 were covered with native bunchgrasses and streamside woodlands along canyon bottoms. In his diary, Font often recorded frequent sightings of tule elk and pronghorn antelope. He mentions the “large deer” (undoubtedly tule elk) whose swiftness allowed them to elude capture by the pursuing soldiers and their horses. Font also recorded sightings of grizzly bears and seeing “...Indians badly scarred by bites and scratches of these animals.”



*Welcome to the homeland of the Huchiun, an Ohlone-speaking tribe.*

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Animal illustrations by Barbara Downs, from *Mountain State Mammals* by Ron Russo

Dates and stories taken from the diaries of Anza and Font, courtesy of the Center for Advanced Technology in Education, University of Oregon, [www.anza.uoregon.edu](http://www.anza.uoregon.edu).