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GOVERNMENT HUNTERS KILL
MANY PREDATORY ANIMALS

Since 1915, when Uncle Sam turned hunter of wild animals that roam the western ranges and prey on the farmer's live stock, he has accumulated a game bag the like of which was never before witnessed in history, according to reports to the Biological Survey, United States Department of Agriculture, just made public.

By trap and gun the Government hunters have killed a total of 156,150 predatory wild animals. That period represents the time of Government activity in that kind of work. The result of this labor is of incalculable benefit to the farmer and stockman.

Listing the predatory animals which go to make up the kill total, the inventories of the 6-year campaign are as follows: 406 bears; 17,842 bobcats and lynxes; 133,604 coyotes; 668 mountain lions; and 3,630 wolves. The figures represent the total game bag of the Government hunters, varying in number from 200 to 500, and the kill of State employees engaged in cooperative campaigns. The total shows the number of scalps taken; it does not include the large number of animals killed by poison. Probably the figures would be doubled if those animals, too, were placed in the list. Many poisoned animals, however, are never found.

During the fiscal year 1921, figures show the total number of predatory animals killed was 27,637, classified as follows: 89 bears, 2,468 bobcats and lynxes, 24,258 coyotes, 128 mountain lions, and 594 wolves. The average destruction by these animals is estimated to be, for each wolf and mountain lion, about \$1,000 worth of live stock; each coyote and bobcat, \$50 worth; and each stock-killing bear, \$500 worth. In view of these estimates an idea may be obtained of the tremendous damage averted by the Government's skilled hunters. Those figures are averages; in some cases, notably that of the Custer wolf, the depredations of individual predatory animals have reached much higher figures. The Custer wolf was estimated to have killed at least \$25,000 worth of cattle before it was disposed of not long ago.

The figures cited above represent the Government's activities along this line in the 16 States of Arizona, Arkansas, California, Colorado, Idaho, Montana, Nevada, New Mexico, North Dakota, Oklahoma, Oregon, South Dakota, Texas, Utah, Washington, and Wyoming. During the 6-year campaign more predatory animals were killed in Nevada than in any other State, due largely to the fact that that State was the first to conduct a cooperative campaign with the Federal Government, starting in 1916. The total killed in Nevada, not including animals poisoned, is placed at 32,068. Utah comes second with 21,712; Texas, third, with 18,602; Idaho, fourth, with 16,018; Oregon, fifth, with 12,524; and Washington, sixth, with 10,015.

Texas leads the 16 States in number of wolves disposed of, the total being 1,566 during the 6-year campaign, or more than 40 per cent of the total number of wolves killed in all 16 States. Wyoming ranks second in number of wolves killed, with 480; New Mexico third, with 441; Montana fourth, with 339; Arizona fifth, with 183; and Utah sixth, with 170.

In the number of coyotes whose scalps have been taken by Government hunters and in cooperative campaigns, Nevada leads with 27,173; Utah is second, with 18,767; Texas, third, with 14,830; Idaho, fourth, with 14,454; Oregon, fifth, with 10,351; and Washington, sixth, with 9,631.

In 6 States the number of bobcats and lynxes disposed of during the 6 years runs into four figures as follows: Nevada, 4,864; Utah, 2,669; Texas, 2,199; Oregon, 2,045; Idaho, 1,418; and New Mexico, 1,292.

Arizona and New Mexico account for nearly two-thirds of the total number of mountain lions killed, their totals being 255 and 170, respectively. In Utah, 71 mountain lions were killed; in Oregon, 43; Colorado, 36; in California, 29; and in Nevada, 24.

In all the States, except Arkansas, Oklahoma, and South Dakota, State authorities cooperate with the Federal Government in the campaigns.