



U. S. DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
Office of the Secretary
Press Service



7/5/22

MEMORANDUM TO MR. CHEESMAN, BIOLOGICAL SURVEY.

I am sending you 3 copies of the news item entitled

"ELK HERDS NEED PROTECTION AND FORAGE DURING WINTER"

which was mailed today It was distributed as checked below:

Department officials and others who receive copies of all releases to the press.

Farm Papers.

Farm Editions of Daily Papers.

:Full List.

Daily Newspapers:One in a city--all cities.

:One in a city--in cities having more than one daily.

:Full List.

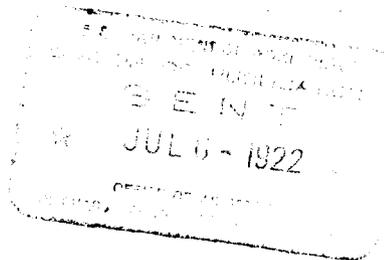
Sunday Editions of Dailies:One in a city.

Washington Correspondents and free-lance writers.

~~Dailies~~

Trade Papers as follows:

~~Sporting Publications~~



Please forward a copy of this item to the office in your bureau

*15 Riley
15 Goldman
Moe*

directly interested.

If additional copies of any article originating in your bureau are desired please attach request for them to the manuscript when it is approved in your office. If you are unable to anticipate such a need, please request the desired number of copies immediately upon receipt of this memorandum.

Yours very truly,
 F. M. RUSSELL,
 In Charge,
 Press Service.



U. S. DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
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Release -- Immediate.

July 5, 1922.

ELK HERDS NEED PROTECTION
AND FORAGE DURING WINTER.

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The estimated number of elk remaining in two large groups in the United States at the present time is only about 52,000, according to the Biological Survey of the United States Department of Agriculture. To insure the permanence of these splendid game animals, which are among the largest and finest of all deer, the cooperation and coordination of Federal, State, and all other interested agencies is needed.

The elk of the Yellowstone Park region constitute the only really large herds of big game remaining in the United States, and although these number about 25,000, they are a mere remnant of the great herds which formerly ranged from Maine to California. The northern group, which ranges within the Yellowstone National Park in summer and migrates northward, suffered greatly from the adverse conditions of the winter of 1919-20.

The elk in the southern group are scattered in summer at high elevations in the southern part of Yellowstone Park, and in the mountains of the Teton, Bridger, Wyoming, and Washakie National Forests. With the first heavy snowfall they descend to lower levels, where their winter range has become more and more restricted by the coming of settlers. Thousands of elk congregate in the path of their former migration in the vicinity of the winter refuge maintained by the Biological Survey at Jackson, Wyo. A winter feeding ground at this point attracts many elk, and it has been found necessary to furnish a supply of hay for them. Feeding is not recommended, however, where natural winter forage in sufficient quantity is available.

The other principal herds remaining on their native ranges are the Roosevelt elk, confined to the Olympic mountains in northwest Washington, and smaller isolated groups, mainly near the Pacific coast, which include the valley elk in a small area at the lower end of the San Joaquin Valley, Calif. If an elk is estimated to be worth \$75, the value of the present herds in the United States would be approximately \$4,000,000, which is a substantial national asset.

Within the past 10 years several thousand head of elk have been transferred from the Yellowstone Park region to localities in many States for restocking purposes. In Arizona, where conditions are suitable, these transplanted herds are thriving. In other districts it has been demonstrated that it is unwise to introduce elk on restricted areas near farming communities as more or less injury to crops occurs and claims for damages are to be expected.

The high mortality among elk in recent years has been due partly to weather conditions, such as periodical summer droughts followed by unusually severe winters, and partly to the encroachment of settlers, through whom much suitable winter range is eliminated. Hunters kill elk as game and many of the finest animals become victims of tooth-hunters operating illegally. Mountain lions, lynxes, wolves, and coyotes also kill many.

Adequate winter range, affording sufficient forage, and adequate winter protection must be provided if elk are to be maintained even in moderate numbers. In the opinion of the United States Department of Agriculture, limited areas of hayland urgently needed to supply forage for winter use should be purchased.

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