



U. S. DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

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COMMISSION SELECTED TO
CONSIDER ELK PROBLEM

Meets in Washington on February 28 to Develop
Plans for Proper Conservation and
Management of Wyoming Herds

As chairman of the President's National Conference on Outdoor Recreation, the Secretary of War has announced the selection of a commission to meet in Washington, D. C., February 28, to determine a cooperative plan for the administration and conservation of the elk now ranging on Federal and State lands south of Yellowstone National Park and in the vicinity of Jackson Hole, Wyoming, where the Biological Survey of the United States Department of Agriculture maintains a winter elk refuge. The sessions of the commission will be public and will be held at 10.30 a.m., in the Board Room of the Fine Arts Commission, Department of the Interior. The following have been invited to serve on the commission:

Charles Sheldon of the Boone and Crockett Club, Chairman
W. C. Deloney, representing Hon. Frank C. Emerson, Governor of Wyoming
Robert E. Miller of Jackson, Wyoming
E. A. Goldman of the U. S. Biological Survey
Will C. Barnes of the U. S. Forest Service
Horace M. Albright of the National Park Service
F. S. Herbert of the General Land Office
Seth E. Gordon of the Isaak Walton League of America
O. H. Van Nordeon of the Camp Fire Club of America
Kermit Roosevelt of the American Game Protective Association
Arthur Ringland of the National Conference on Outdoor Recreation

For years the conservation of the elk herds ranging in the vicinity of Jackson Hole, Wyoming, has been a source of great concern. These herds, now

believed to number approximately 30,000 head, are a great economic asset of national importance but their existence is jeopardized through the continued restriction of the winter range and the lack of a long-term method of game management. The summer range, largely within Federal and State reservations, is regarded by Federal officials as sufficient. The problem is to restrict the numbers of elk to the available food supply. Under present conditions great numbers starve to death on the winter range during severe weather. Such an unnecessary waste of a natural resource is considered deplorable.

Through the efforts of the State of Wyoming, citizens of Wyoming, the United States Biological Survey, and the Isaak Walton League of America, the herds have been maintained by the winter feeding of hay in Jackson Hole. But the problem of starvation is recurrent and can only be solved by a coordinated plan of management worked out by all agencies interested. The facts on which to base a coordinated plan of management are well known and it is believed that through this conference a satisfactory plan can be developed to preserve for maximum public welfare one of the most important types of American big game.