

INFORMATION FOR THE PRESS



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ELK ON WINTER REFUGE
ATTRACT WESTERN VISITORS

With the lightest snowfall on record for many years in Jackson Hole, Wyoming, the highway to Rock Springs and Kemmerer, Wyoming, is reported to have been open to travel the entire winter, and motorists from Wyoming, Idaho, and Utah have been able for the first time to drive in their own cars to see the elk in their winter habitat on the Elk Refuge near Jackson. Reports to the Biological Survey, of the U. S. Department of Agriculture, which maintains the elk refuge, say that in the first week of March the elk were in exceptionally good condition. They had not concentrated on the feeding grounds to take the hay ordinarily spread before them at this season, but were widely scattered and rustling for themselves on the mountains in the vicinity. The ground was reported bare in places but frozen to the depth of three feet. Absence of snow, it is feared, may lessen the irrigation water for the hay meadows later on, but the reservation protector, Almer P. Nelson, states that unless it should become necessary to feed the elk before the end of the winter, the supplies of hay on hand can be carried over for next season. Thus, if there should be only a slight yield of hay next year, because of any shortage in irrigation water, the refuge will be prepared to care for the elk, even through severe weather conditions. Ranchmen in the vicinity, however, have been feeding their cattle for the last three months, and most of their hay will be gone before their pasture lands are ready for grazing.

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