

INFORMATION FOR THE PRESS

United States Department of Agriculture

Release - Immediate

Washington, D.C., October 15, 1937.

SURPLUS BIG-GAME OFFERED FOR SALE

Somewhat larger numbers of surplus buffalo and elk are being offered for sale this fall and winter by the U.S. Biological Survey than in previous seasons as a result of serious damage last summer to ranges on big-game preserves in the West by drought and grasshoppers. Surplus big-game animals are disposed of annually to avoid overgrazing of their ranges and resulting shortages of feed.

This season the following big-game animals are available for sale or disposal: At the National Bison Range, Moiese, Mont., 150 buffalo, 140 elk, and 100 mule deer; at the Wichita Mountains Wildlife Refuge, Cache, Okla., 80 buffalo and 50 elk; at Fort Niobrara Game Preserve, Valentine, Nebr., 31 buffalo and 12 elk; at Sullys Hill Game Preserve, Fort Totten, N.Dak., 8 buffalo and 20 elk. Survey officials hope to have all these animals disposed of by the end of the year. The total number of buffalo to be disposed of is ²⁶⁹~~178~~, or 91 more than last season. Last year there were 57 surplus elk as compared with 222 this year. No mule deer were disposed of last year.

Big-game animals run wild on these preserves and ^{are} maintained as nearly as possible under natural conditions. Surplus stock is offered for sale under established scales of prices, and preference is given to applicants who wish to buy them for propagation or exhibition. These surplus animals can be obtained also by State, county, city or municipal zoos, parks, or game preserves, or institutions for propagation or exhibition, at cost of capture, crating and transportation, but can not be donated to institutions for commercial purposes or to private individuals.

Additional information regarding the animals available for disposal may be obtained from the Biological Survey, U.S. Department of Agriculture, Washington, D.C.

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