

INFORMATION FOR THE PRESS

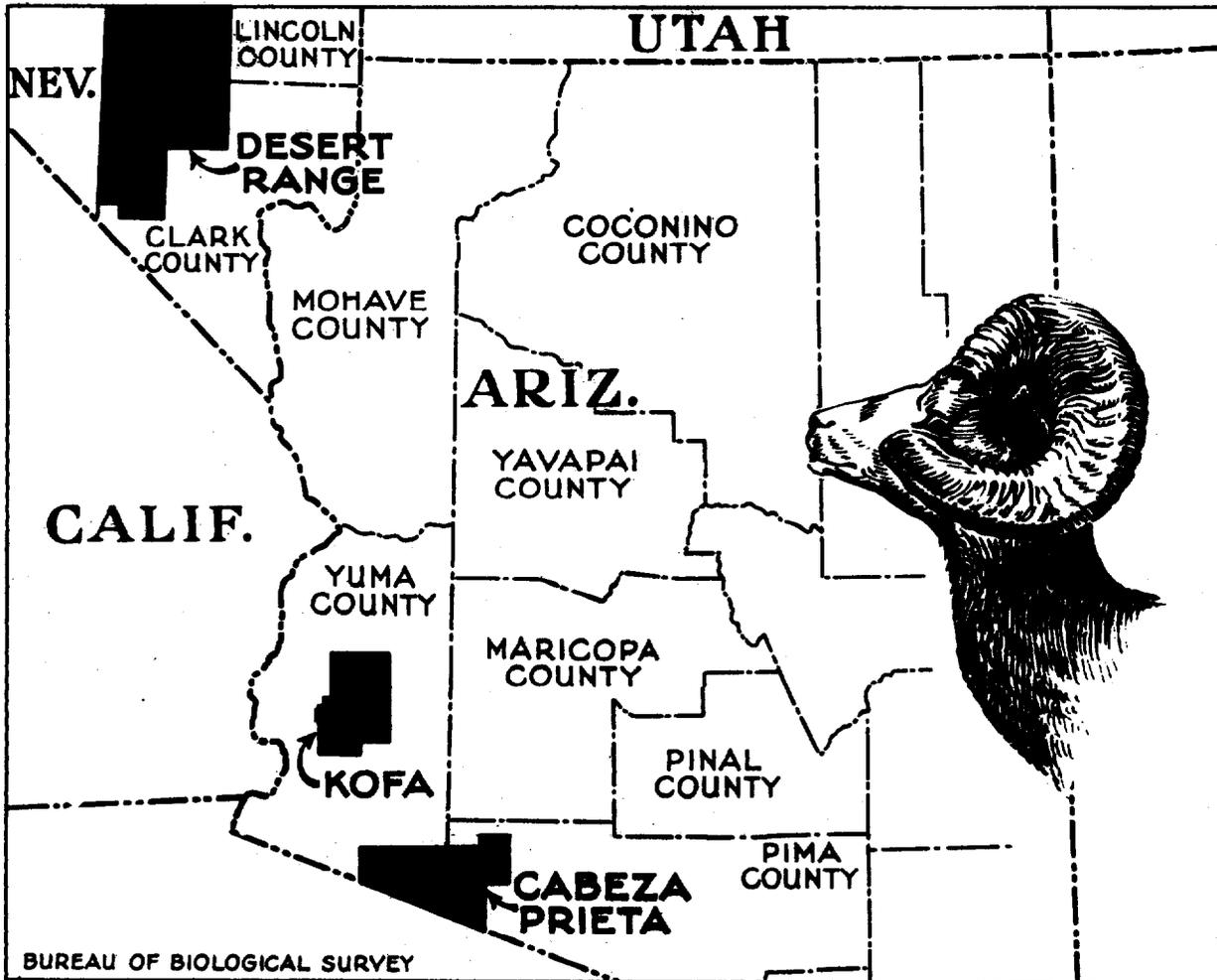
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2 NEW GAME RANGES ESTABLISHED IN ARIZONA FOR MOUNTAIN SHEEP

The Kofa and Cabeza Prieta game ranges in Arizona, recently established by Executive order of President Roosevelt, have added more than a million and a half acres to the Federal areas devoted to wildlife conservation, says the U. S. Biological Survey. Set apart primarily as refuges for mountain sheep, or bighorns,



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The two ranges will also afford protection and security to other species of wildlife. Among these are antelope, peccaries, mule deer, and Gambel quail.

Kofa range is in Yuma County of southwestern Arizona. The Cabeza Prieta embraces parts of Yuma and Pima counties and borders on the Mexican state of Sonora. Both lie in some of the most arid country in the United States, desert land with rugged mountains reaching to heights of more than 4,000 feet.

Kofa range is within 15 miles of the California border at one point. Comprising 661,120 acres, the area is rectangular in shape, 30 miles across at its widest point and more than 40 miles from north to south. The range is crossed diagonally by two mountain ranges, the Kofa range in the north and the Castle Domo mountains in the southern part. In between lies La Posa plain.

Thirty five miles south of Kofa Range, the Cabeza Prieta extends eastward for 50 miles with 45 miles neighboring on the Mexican border. This area includes 866,880 acres. Also characterized by mountain and plain, the Cabeza Prieta is more arid and the mountains less precipitous, though greater in number. Separated by wide flat land and valleys, the mountains include parts of Cabeza Prieta, Sierra Pinta, Mohawk, Granite, Agua Dulce, Growler and Little Ajo ranges.

The proximity of the Cabeza Prieta Game Range to the Mexican border lends an unusual international interest. Already negotiations are pending with the Mexican government for the establishment of a similar game range adjoining and south of the border.

The setting apart of these two ranges, says the Biological Survey, is of particular interest to all who are vitally concerned with the preservation of native American wildlife. A few years ago this section abounded in game, but indiscriminate hunting and poaching came dangerously close to eliminating some of the most valuable species.

The bighorn, most interesting of the larger wildlife in this section, which is its hereditary home, has been seriously depleted in numbers, although Yuma county is still thought to have more mountain sheep than any other county in the United States. This native animal thus persists in numbers that warrant protection, and with the establishment of these ranges there seems no doubt that the species can be perpetuated, the Survey points out.

The only other Federal refuge area maintained especially for bighorns is the Desert Game Range, surrounding the Dixie National Forest in Clark and Lincoln Counties of Nevada. This area of 2,022,000 acres was established in 1936.

The need for paying special attention to conserving bighorns, says the Biological Survey, is shown in the recently completed inventory of big-game animals in the United States in 1937. The compilation showed a total of less than 17,000 bighorns in the entire country. In 1913 Ernest Thompson Seton estimated the national total at 28,000. The 1937 estimates showed about 1,700 in Arizona and about 1,000 in Nevada.

The new Kofa and Cabeza Prieta ranges, like the Desert Game Range, will be administered and operated jointly by the Department of Agriculture and Interior. Under this supervision and with State and local cooperation, it is expected that the wildlife in this part of Arizona will be able to flourish in its natural surroundings.

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