



# DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

## INFORMATION SERVICE

COORDINATOR OF FISHERIES

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More than 162,000 deer and elk hides, collected by the various States, were channeled into the leather trade during the 1942-43 hunting season, the Fish and Wildlife Service has reported to Secretary of the Interior Harold L. Ickes.

These hides were urgently needed to furnish the necessary leathers for gloves for the Signal Corps, mukluks for the Arctic troops, and a host of other military requirements, Dr. Ira N. Gabrielson, Director of the Service declared.

Minnesota headed the list of States reporting with a turn-in of 35,000 hides, followed by Wisconsin with 25,000; Utah, 20,450; Michigan, 20,000; Maine, 10,000; Pennsylvania, 8,404; New York, 8,000; Montana, 7,500; Washington, 6,000; and Colorado, 5,000.

Nearly a million deer and elk hides were imported into the United States during 1940. These hides came largely from countries in South America, from New Zealand, and other sections where shipments either have been interrupted because of the war in the Pacific or where shipping space is urgently needed for other goods.

Due to the falling off of imports and the increasing demands for military use, Dr. Gabrielson said, a plan was worked out between representatives of the Army, the War Production Board, and the Departments of Agriculture and Interior, whereby the States were requested to cooperate to the fullest extent possible within existing laws so that every deer hide available could be converted into the needs of the **Armed forces.**

State game departments, in turn, urged hunters to turn the hides over to local conservation officers or to local designated groups such as sportsmen's organizations or salvage committees. The hides collected were then placed in the hands of tanners and processors by the State game departments, obviating the sale of skins as such.

Since the large quantities of deer hides normally imported from South America and Asia are not sufficient (under present shipping conditions) to supply the demand, a more intensive campaign will be waged by the various States during the coming hunting season.

On March 20, 1943, a general preference order "freezing" deerskin leather was issued by the War Production Board.