



43a10b4

DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

INFORMATION SERVICE

FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE

For Immediate Release

Because deerskins are urgently needed for war purposes, the War Production Board and the Fish and Wildlife Service of the Department of the Interior, in a joint statement issued today, made a new appeal to deer hunters to turn all deer hides obtained this season into commercial channels for the manufacture of military equipment.

Deer hides furnish the necessary leathers to make gloves and mukluks (Arctic shoes) for cold climate use. These are urgently needed by the Armed Forces. General Preference Order M-310, amended September 20 by the War Production Board requires the channelling of deerskins into military equipment except those skins which are used for personal or gift purposes.

It is important to the war program that full use be made of the domestic supply of deer hides since present conditions have interrupted the flow of foreign deerskins which came from many of the out of the way ports of the world.

Hunters should understand, however, that this request to salvage deerskins applies only to animals legally taken in compliance with State laws and regulations.

Skins taken by hunters can be sold or released to a tanner, dealer, glove manufacture, or similar intermediary, if permitted by State law, in which case processors will pay the market value for the hides.

In states where trading in deerskins is prohibited by law, it is hoped that the State game commissions will set up agencies to collect the skins so that they may be made available for Government use.

In order that no skins will be wasted, hunters are urged to take the utmost care in removing and preserving their deerskins. State game commissions and conservation departments will supply hunters with instructions on the correct method of removing the hide and preparing it for the leather market.

Arrangements are being made so that lists of names and addresses of individuals and concerns that purchase raw deer and elk hides also will be provided to hunters by their State game departments.

A similar campaign last season which did not get under way until November resulted in the collection of more than 162,000 deer and elk hides by the various States, all of which were channelled into the leather trade for military use.

In renewing the program this year, the Quartermaster Corps, War Production Board, the United States Departments of Agriculture and the Interior, State game and conservation departments, sportsmen's organizations, individual hunters, hide dealers, and leather manufacturers will work together to make all deerskins available for the war effort. The War Production Board and the other interested Federal agencies have expressed confidence that hunters and state game commissions will be eager to cooperate in aiding the war program by getting behind this organized effort.