



## DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR INFORMATION SERVICE

FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE

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### INTERIOR ANNOUNCES BIG GAME DISPOSAL SALE

For \$50 someone who has a craving for wild game meat can get half an elk; for \$100 a whole elk; half a buffalo for \$90 and a whole one for \$180; even a few quarters of buffalo are available at \$45 each. But the purchaser must get his order in early. For the Department of the Interior, in announcing the opening of the annual big game disposal sale, emphasized that orders would be handled on a "first come, first served" basis.

Live elk under two years of age are available for \$90; live buffalo under two years for \$150. Longhorn cattle, including some fine specimen steers, will be sold at public auction.

Periodic reduction of these herds is necessary for the protection of the range and for management purposes.

Surplus elk and buffalo are available at Wichita Mountains National Wildlife Refuge, Cache, Oklahoma; National Bison Range, Moiese, Montana (bison only); Fort Niobrara National Wildlife Refuge, Valentine, Nebraska; Sullys Hill National Game Preserve, Fort Totten, North Dakota. Orders are now being solicited. Longhorn cattle auctions will be held at the Wichita Mountains Refuge on September 22, and at the Fort Niobrara Refuge on October 12.

Correspondence regarding orders or conditions of sale should be addressed to the managers of the respective refuges.

Live animals will be delivered to the purchaser's truck at the capturing corral; butchered animals will be delivered to the purchaser's truck or to a transportation company.

A feature of this year's sale, according to officials of the Bureau of Sport Fisheries and Wildlife, is the offering of 135 elk. This is the first time that the Bureau has been able to offer butchered elk in more than very limited quantity.

Previous disposals of these animals have been confined principally to the sale of live animals for propagation or display purposes or to public institutions for food. Due to unusually good breeding conditions the elk herd on the Wichita refuge has increased to the point that management of the herds and protection of the range requires a substantial herd reduction.

The number of bison to be sold this year, 249, is slightly less than in previous years. The number of longhorns, 126, is about the same as at previous sales.

Prices are generally the same at all four refuges although there are differences in one or two instances. Quarters of buffalo are available only at National Bison Range. At Sullys Hill, whole carcasses only are available, and no live elk sales can be made due to lack of capturing facilities.

At Wichita Mountains, where elk and bison are available, special handling of whole or half carcasses is provided at an increased price. The butchered animals can be packaged in either family style cuts or barbecue-style, frozen, packed in shipping containers with dry ice and delivered to transportation company or to the purchaser's truck. A half an elk so handled costs \$65 and a whole one \$130; a half a buffalo so handled will bring \$110 and a whole one \$220.

Following is a list of the available animals by refuge:

Wichita Mountains--130 buffalo, 120 elk, 93 longhorns; National Bison Range--81 buffalo; Fort Niobrara--32 buffalo, 7 elk, 33 longhorns; Sullys Hill--6 buffalo, 8 elk.

For the official price list and conditions of sale write to the Fish and Wildlife Service, Department of the Interior, Washington 25, D. C., or to the manager of one of the four refuges. Orders should be placed directly with the manager of the refuge most convenient to the purchaser.

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