



**U. S. Department of Agriculture**  
**Office of Information**



Release -- Immediate.

**GOVERNMENT TAKES STEPS TO SAVE  
ELK HERDS FROM STARVATION.**

The two principal herds of elk in the United States -- one of which is under the protection of the Biological Survey of the U. S. Department of Agriculture -- are in danger of such serious depletion, due to early severe weather and feed shortage, that special funds have been set aside for the purchase of hay for these animals whose home is in and near Yellowstone National Park. Department officials are making every possible effort to procure the needed feed despite the serious scarcity of hay and forage in the region. Approximately 40,000 elk roam this section of the country. They are divided into two groups, known as the northern and southern herd, respectively. The latter, which winters in the vicinity of Jackson Hole, to the south of Yellowstone Park, is the one for which the Department of Agriculture is seeking to make provision.

Reports have recently been received from Government representatives in the region of Yellowstone National Park stating that many elk are destined to starve if the present severe weather continues and if no additional supplies of feed are provided. On the winter elk refuge in Jackson Hole the Department has in store approximately 1,300 tons of hay which normally would be sufficient to carry the

southern herd through the winter. But cold weather and heavy snows came so early that there is grave danger that the animals will be without feed before many weeks have passed. Ranchmen in the region are confronted with a serious condition and are reluctant to part with any of their hay.

The northern elk herd is under the supervision of the National Park Service of the Department of the Interior, which is also making every effort possible to prevent loss of these animals.

These two herds are the largest elk herds remaining in this country, though at one time elk were to be found in large numbers as far east as the Blue Ridge Mountains. These animals, like the buffalo and antelope, have now been reduced to a mere fraction of their former numbers. The few herds that remain besides those in the vicinity of the Yellowstone Park are relatively small. Loss of many of the animals in the larger herds might be irreparable, say Government officials.