



DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

INFORMATION SERVICE

FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE

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The taking of 118,879 predatory animals in Federal-cooperative control operations carried on in 29 States during the fiscal year 1944 has resulted in the saving of thousands of sheep, calves and poultry needed to increase the production of food and wool, according to a report made to Secretary of the Interior Harold L. Ickes by the Fish and Wildlife Service.

Despite insufficient manpower, this total represented an increase of 3,592 over the take of 115,267 predators in the preceding year, and consisted of 108,050 coyotes, 8,900 bobcats, 1,170 wolves, 592 bears and 167 mountain lions.

The greatest number of coyotes were taken in Texas--14,756. Wyoming was second with 12,002, followed by Oregon with 10,343; Colorado, 9,832, Nevada, 9,790; Idaho, 8,800; California, 8,211; and Montana, 7,035. Of the methods used for taking predators, trapping accounted for 72,727.

From July 1, 1915, to June 30, 1944, the Service reports that control operations have destroyed a total of 1,771,663 predators, of which 1,569,625 were coyotes.

The Service conducts control operations in cooperation with States, counties, livestock and farm associations, municipalities, and individuals to protect sheep, cattle, and poultry from destruction by coyotes, wolves, bobcats and mountain lions. Some 37,000,000 adult sheep and lambs graze upon predator-infested lands, principally in the 11 western states. Cooperators provide funds for this work in a ratio of more than \$2 for each dollar of Federally-appropriated money.

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