



DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

INFORMATION SERVICE

FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE

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NATION'S WORST WINTER HITS WILDLIFE IN WESTERN STATES

The nation's worst winter weather on record is proving disastrous to wildlife in the Western states.

The Fish and Wildlife Service reported today that heavy snows and extreme cold have starved and frozen countless waterfowl, upland game birds, and big game animals to death. Critical areas are in northern Wyoming, central Montana, Colorado, Idaho, northern Nevada, and western Oregon and Washington, where almost one million ducks normally winter.

Natural food for wildlife has been exhausted. Planes, trucks, horses, and sleds have been used to dump several hundred tons of grain near large concentrations of birds. State game departments, sportsmen's groups, and farmers are cooperating with the Service in the emergency feeding. The Service has allotted \$24,000 in special funds for the work.

Bulldozers, dump trucks, ski-equipped planes, power wagons, and truck-mounted snow plows from national wildlife refuges in the disaster-stricken region are being used to break open roads and to haul supplies for human and livestock needs, the Fish and Wildlife Service disclosed.

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