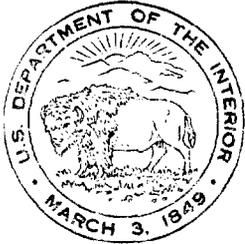


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DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR INFORMATION SERVICE

NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

For Release MAY 4, 1961

ELK REDUCTION CONTROL ANNOUNCED FOR GRAND TETON NATIONAL PARK DURING 1961 SEASON

Elk hunting on a limited scale will be permitted again in a portion of Grand Teton National Park, Wyoming, during the 1961 hunting season in order to preserve forage resources from abuse through over-grazing, the Department of the Interior announced today.

Grand Teton is the only national park where hunting is permitted. Congress enacted a law in 1950 permitting elk hunting there and from 1951 through 1958, 1,200 special elk hunting permits were authorized annually. Elk reduction was not necessary in 1959 or 1960.

Following a recent meeting of National Park Service representatives with the Wyoming Game and Fish Commission at Cheyenne, Wyoming, a joint State-Federal recommendation was made to permit elk reduction in a designated portion of the Park during the 1961 season, in order to relieve the pressure of elk herds on the summer range in southern Yellowstone National Park and in the area between Yellowstone and Grand Teton National Parks. The recommendation has now been approved by Governor Jack R. Gage of Wyoming and by Secretary of the Interior Stewart L. Udall.

National Park Service Director Conrad L. Wirth said that the agreement calls for the issuance of 2,000 special permits to qualified, licensed hunters. Wirth said qualified applicants will be deputized as park rangers to participate in the elk management program.

Wirth said that 2,000 permits, instead of 1,200 as in the past, will be available this year in order to attract enough hunters to accomplish the desired reduction. He said past experience has shown that a relatively small percentage of the permit holders take advantage of them. In the eight years of hunting in Grand Teton, the annual kill averaged 166 animals.

The season opens October 15 and ends November 30, coinciding with the migratory habits of the elk as they move from the southern portion of Yellowstone through Grand Teton and onto their wintering grounds on a National Fish and Wildlife Service refuge south of Grand Teton.

Because of the severe climatic conditions, tourist travel in the two parks is virtually halted by the time the elk season opens.

Application for the special permits are now being accepted by the Wyoming Game and Fish Commission at the Cheyenne office from the holders of valid elk licenses. The taking of elk of either sex will also be permitted in the Park special permit area. The hunters who are deputized as special park rangers must camp only at designated areas within the open permit area, Wirth said, and use only authorized roads for travel within the areas open for hunting.

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