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Fish and Wildlife Service, Albert M. Day, Director

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INVENTORY OF BIG-GAME ANIMALS OF THE UNITED STATES, 1949  
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The annual inventory of big-game animals of the United States represents a report to the public on one of the important natural resources of the country. The figures presented in this report have been supplied by State game officials and include the number of big-game animals on federal, state and some private lands within the boundaries of the respective states. For most species the figures constitute the best rough estimates that can be made, rather than exact counts. They are not intended to be used as management tools, for which estimates of population trends are often more serviceable. The annual enumeration of big-game species does, however, serve several worthwhile purposes. The year-to-year experience obtained in making the surveys is resulting in gradual improvement of census techniques which will eventually extend the usefulness of the figures. Possibly the chief value of the inventory at present lies in keeping before all conservation groups information on the comparative abundance of our big-game animals. These figures show that some kinds of big-game mammals are numbered in the hundreds of thousands or even by millions, while others are dangerously close to extinction. The former groups must be brought into balance with their available food supplies on properly managed ranges; the latter must be provided with the necessary conditions for continued existence and growth of their populations. Both of these goals must be achieved before the condition of the big-game herds can be considered satisfactory.

The tabular presentation of the inventory for 1949 differs in several ways from that of 1948 and requires a word of explanation. Closely associated species and States have been brought together in the table to make comparisons easier; likewise, major totals have been placed beside the States or species to which they refer in order to simplify reading.

Another change sets up a pre-hunting-season total in addition to the kill totals and totals on December 31 as shown for 1948. (See also Explanation of Table.) In theory the maximum size of the population of a big-game species would be reached directly after the normal period of bearing young, but the pre-hunting-season total, actually a broad approximation, should be an acceptable substitute. Only the maximum totals (shown at the left and top of the table) have been rounded off; the others are given exactly as reported by the States. The various types of inventories used are designated by symbols on the table.

ANNUAL INVENTORY and KILL of BIG-GAME ANIMALS by STATES, 1949

| ESTIMATED BIG-GAME TOTALS BY STATES | BY SPECIES     | MOOSE (12,000) |         | ELK (265,000) |            | WHITE-TAILED DEER (5,750,000) |             | BLACK BEAR (150,000) |         | MULE DEER (2,350,000) |             | BLACK-TAILED DEER (800,000) |             | PRONGHORN ANTELOPE (250,000) |           | BISON (BUFFALO) (6,500) |         | PECCARY (JAVELINA) (125,000) |         | MOUNTAIN GOAT (11,000) |         | ROCKY MT. BIGHORN (10,000) |      | GRIZZLY BEAR (850) |       | BROWN BEAR (1,600) |      | WOODLAND CARIBOU (35) |         | TOTALS       |                | STATES    |         |
|-------------------------------------|----------------|----------------|---------|---------------|------------|-------------------------------|-------------|----------------------|---------|-----------------------|-------------|-----------------------------|-------------|------------------------------|-----------|-------------------------|---------|------------------------------|---------|------------------------|---------|----------------------------|------|--------------------|-------|--------------------|------|-----------------------|---------|--------------|----------------|-----------|---------|
|                                     |                | Kill           | Inv.    | Kill          | Inv.       | Kill                          | Inv.        | Kill                 | Inv.    | Kill                  | Inv.        | Kill                        | Inv.        | Kill                         | Inv.      | Kill                    | Inv.    | Kill                         | Inv.    | Kill                   | Inv.    | Kill                       | Inv. | Kill               | Inv.  | Kill               | Inv. | Kill                  | Inv.    | Kill         | Inv.           |           |         |
| 100,000                             | Arizona        | -              | -       | 856 L,S       | 1,093 P    | 1,193 S,L                     | MPU         | 45 S                 | MPU     | 7,053 S,L             | MPU         | -                           | -           | 437 L,S                      | 4,852 P   | -                       | 400 T   | 1,334 L                      | MPU     | -                      | -       | -                          | -    | -                  | -     | -                  | -    | -                     | -       | -            | 10,918         | 6,425     | Arizona |
| 1,060,000                           | California     | -              | -       | 118 S         | 1,300 T    | -                             | -           | 1,200 I,L            | 18,000  | 36,000 I,L            | 550,000 K,P | 17,000 I,S                  | 435,000 P,K | 350 S                        | 4,700 T   | -                       | -       | -                            | -       | -                      | -       | -                          | -    | -                  | 1,300 | -                  | -    | -                     | 54,668  | 1,010,300    | California     |           |         |
| 405,000                             | Colorado       | -              | -       | 8,218 S,L     | 35,600 P,K | -                             | -           | 745 L                | 5,500   | 71,219 S,L            | 269,800 P,K | -                           | -           | 1,129 S,L                    | 8,000 K,P | -                       | -       | NOS                          | 10      | NOS                    | 4,500 P | -                          | -    | -                  | -     | -                  | -    | -                     | 81,341  | 323,410      | Colorado       |           |         |
| 221,000                             | Idaho          | 2/             | 60 S    | 1,050 P       | -          | 1,200 S                       | 17,500 P    | 537 S                | 6,500   | 21,085 S              | 127,500 P   | -                           | -           | 383 S                        | 7,689 T   | -                       | -       | -                            | -       | -                      | 1,350 P | -                          | -    | 15                 | -     | -                  | -    | 28,660                | 192,474 | Idaho        |                |           |         |
| 150                                 | Kansas         | -              | -       | NOS           | 2          | -                             | 50          | -                    | -       | -                     | -           | -                           | -           | -                            | -         | -                       | -       | -                            | -       | -                      | -       | -                          | -    | -                  | -     | -                  | -    | -                     | -       | 110          | Kansas         |           |         |
| 304,000                             | Montana        | 55 L           | 3,587 K | 4,786 L       | 43,493     | 2,922                         | 46,005      | 769                  | 6,939   | 11,413                | 126,723     | -                           | -           | 3,762 I,L                    | 44,992 K  | 226                     | 1,300   | -                            | -       | 31 S                   | 4,657 K | 6/                         | 8    | 1,475              | 47 S  | 682 K              | -    | -                     | 28,019  | 280,053      | Montana        |           |         |
| 12,000                              | Nebraska       | -              | -       | NOS           | 118        | 2 S                           | 413         | -                    | 6 T     | 902 S                 | 9,065       | -                           | -           | NOS                          | 1,616     | 40                      | 331 T   | -                            | -       | -                      | -       | -                          | -    | -                  | -     | -                  | -    | -                     | 944     | 11,549       | Nebraska       |           |         |
| 100,000                             | Nevada         | -              | -       | 50            | 500        | -                             | -           | -                    | 25      | MPU                   | MPU         | -                           | -           | NOS                          | 3,500     | -                       | -       | -                            | -       | -                      | -       | -                          | -    | -                  | MPU   | -                  | -    | -                     | 50      | 4,005        | Nevada         |           |         |
| 167,000                             | New Mexico     | -              | -       | 154 S         | 5,000      | 450 S                         | 19,000      | 400 I,S              | 3,500   | 11,000 I,S            | 102,000     | -                           | -           | 660 S                        | 23,000    | 50                      | 150     | NOS                          | 800     | -                      | -       | -                          | -    | 15                 | -     | 300                | -    | 12,714                | 153,795 | New Mexico   |                |           |         |
| 20,000                              | North Dakota   | -              | -       | NOS           | 50 T       | NOS                           | 17,000 P    | -                    | -       | NOS                   | 1,500       | -                           | -           | NOS                          | 1,575 P   | 7                       | 22 T    | -                            | -       | -                      | -       | -                          | -    | -                  | -     | -                  | -    | -                     | 7       | 20,147       | North Dakota   |           |         |
| 11,700                              | Oklahoma       | -              | -       | NOS           | 350 P      | 759 S                         | 9,500 P     | -                    | -       | -                     | -           | -                           | -           | NOS                          | 30        | 86                      | 616     | -                            | -       | -                      | -       | -                          | -    | -                  | -     | -                  | -    | -                     | 845     | 10,496       | Oklahoma       |           |         |
| 434,000                             | Oregon         | -              | -       | 9,910 L       | 30,000 P   | 75                            | 1,200 P     | 500                  | 9,000   | 37,355 L              | 210,000 P   | 21,279 S                    | 100,000 P   | 586 L                        | 14,000 P  | -                       | -       | -                            | -       | NOS                    | 5 T     | -                          | -    | -                  | -     | -                  | -    | -                     | 69,705  | 364,205      | Oregon         |           |         |
| 97,000                              | South Dakota   | -              | -       | 338 L         | 2,450 K,T  | 7,375 L                       | 57,000 K    | -                    | -       | 2,458 L               | 19,000 K    | -                           | -           | NOS                          | 7,000 E,T | -                       | 1,400 T | -                            | -       | NOS                    | 300 P   | NOS                        | 30 T | -                  | -     | -                  | -    | -                     | 20,171  | 87,160       | South Dakota   |           |         |
| 662,000                             | Texas          | -              | -       | NOS           | 500        | 38,720                        | 500,000     | 10                   | 200     | 300                   | 7,500       | -                           | -           | NOS                          | 9,000 P   | -                       | 300     | 5,000                        | 100,000 | -                      | -       | -                          | -    | 25 P               | -     | -                  | -    | 44,080                | 617,585 | Texas        |                |           |         |
| 368,000                             | Utah           | 3/             | NOS     | 3 T           | 717 L      | 4,500 P,K                     | -           | -                    | 400     | 60,478 I,L            | 300,000     | -                           | -           | 43 L                         | 1,000 P   | -                       | 50 P    | -                            | -       | -                      | -       | -                          | -    | -                  | -     | -                  | -    | -                     | 61,239  | 306,353      | Utah           |           |         |
| 540,000                             | Washington     | -              | -       | 9,000 I       | 26,000     | 5,000 I                       | 60,000      | 5,000 I              | 30,000  | 32,080 I              | 150,000     | 28,000 I                    | 190,000     | NOS                          | 150       | -                       | -       | -                            | -       | -                      | -       | -                          | -    | -                  | -     | -                  | -    | -                     | 79,082  | 461,225      | Washington     |           |         |
| 239,000                             | Wyoming        | 377 S          | 3,212 P | 8,559 S       | 35,095 P   | 1,198 S                       | 5,700 P     | 361 S                | 2,012   | 16,918 S              | 75,512 P    | -                           | -           | 11,310                       | 76,856 T  | -                       | 1/      | 1,348 T                      | -       | -                      | -       | -                          | -    | -                  | -     | -                  | -    | -                     | 38,809  | 201,762      | Wyoming        |           |         |
| 30,000                              | Alabama        | -              | -       | -             | -          | 2,250 S                       | 28,000 K    | -                    | 160     | -                     | -           | -                           | -           | -                            | -         | -                       | -       | -                            | -       | -                      | -       | -                          | -    | -                  | -     | -                  | -    | -                     | 2,250   | 28,160       | Alabama        |           |         |
| 63,000                              | Arkansas       | -              | -       | NOS           | 240        | 3,075 L                       | 60,000      | -                    | 90      | -                     | -           | -                           | -           | -                            | -         | -                       | -       | -                            | -       | -                      | -       | -                          | -    | -                  | -     | -                  | -    | -                     | 3,075   | 60,330       | Arkansas       |           |         |
| 8,000                               | Connecticut    | -              | -       | -             | -          | 531 L                         | 7,500 K     | -                    | -       | -                     | -           | -                           | -           | -                            | -         | -                       | -       | -                            | -       | -                      | -       | -                          | -    | -                  | -     | -                  | -    | -                     | 531     | 7,500        | Connecticut    |           |         |
| 600                                 | Delaware       | -              | -       | -             | -          | 100                           | 500         | -                    | -       | -                     | -           | -                           | -           | -                            | -         | -                       | -       | -                            | -       | -                      | -       | -                          | -    | -                  | -     | -                  | -    | -                     | 100     | 500          | Delaware       |           |         |
| 42,000                              | Florida        | -              | -       | -             | -          | -                             | 41,000 K    | -                    | 700     | -                     | -           | -                           | -           | -                            | -         | -                       | -       | -                            | -       | -                      | -       | -                          | -    | -                  | -     | -                  | -    | -                     | -       | 41,700       | Florida        |           |         |
| 30,000                              | Georgia        | -              | -       | -             | -          | 5,000                         | 24,000      | 25                   | 500     | -                     | -           | -                           | -           | -                            | -         | -                       | -       | -                            | -       | -                      | -       | -                          | -    | -                  | -     | -                  | -    | -                     | 5,005   | 24,500       | Georgia        |           |         |
| 6,000                               | Illinois       | -              | -       | -             | -          | -                             | 6,000       | -                    | -       | -                     | -           | -                           | -           | -                            | -         | -                       | -       | -                            | -       | -                      | -       | -                          | -    | -                  | -     | -                  | -    | -                     | 6,000   | Illinois     |                |           |         |
| 2,300                               | Indiana        | -              | -       | -             | -          | -                             | 2,300 P     | -                    | -       | -                     | -           | -                           | -           | -                            | -         | -                       | -       | -                            | -       | -                      | -       | -                          | -    | -                  | -     | -                  | -    | -                     | 2,300   | Indiana      |                |           |         |
| 4,500                               | Iowa           | -              | -       | -             | -          | -                             | 4,530 P     | -                    | -       | -                     | -           | -                           | -           | -                            | -         | -                       | -       | -                            | -       | -                      | -       | -                          | -    | -                  | -     | -                  | -    | -                     | 4,530   | Iowa         |                |           |         |
| 3,500                               | Kentucky       | -              | -       | -             | -          | NOS                           | 3,500       | NOS                  | 25      | -                     | -           | -                           | -           | -                            | -         | -                       | -       | -                            | -       | -                      | -       | -                          | -    | -                  | -     | -                  | -    | -                     | 3,515   | Kentucky     |                |           |         |
| 71,000                              | Louisiana      | -              | -       | -             | -          | 6,000 C,K,I                   | 65,000 K    | MPU                  | 40      | -                     | -           | -                           | -           | -                            | -         | -                       | -       | -                            | -       | -                      | -       | -                          | -    | -                  | -     | -                  | -    | -                     | 6,000   | 65,040       | Louisiana      |           |         |
| 360,000                             | Maine          | NOS            | 3,000   | -             | -          | 35,051 S                      | 300,000     | 1,600                | 20,000  | -                     | -           | -                           | -           | -                            | -         | -                       | -       | -                            | -       | -                      | -       | -                          | -    | -                  | -     | -                  | -    | -                     | 36,651  | 303,000      | Maine          |           |         |
| 18,000                              | Maryland       | -              | -       | -             | -          | 973 S                         | 17,000      | -                    | -       | -                     | -           | -                           | -           | -                            | -         | -                       | -       | -                            | -       | -                      | -       | -                          | -    | -                  | -     | -                  | -    | -                     | 973     | 17,000       | Maryland       |           |         |
| 24,000                              | Massachusetts  | -              | -       | -             | -          | 4,386 S,L                     | 20,000 K    | -                    | -       | -                     | -           | -                           | -           | -                            | -         | -                       | -       | -                            | -       | -                      | -       | -                          | -    | -                  | -     | -                  | -    | -                     | 4,386   | 20,000       | Massachusetts  |           |         |
| 1,115,000                           | Michigan       | NOS            | 3/      | 625           | -          | 105,500 L                     | 1,000,000 K | 716 S                | 7,500 K | -                     | -           | -                           | -           | -                            | -         | -                       | -       | -                            | -       | -                      | -       | -                          | -    | -                  | -     | -                  | -    | -                     | 106,216 | 1,008,375    | Michigan       |           |         |
| 595,000                             | Minnesota      | -              | -       | NOS           | 108        | 49,920 L                      | 539,772 P,K | 2,155                | 4,065   | -                     | -           | -                           | -           | -                            | -         | -                       | -       | -                            | -       | -                      | -       | -                          | -    | -                  | -     | -                  | -    | -                     | -       | 52,075       | 543,845        | Minnesota |         |
| 45,000                              | Mississippi    | -              | -       | -             | -          | 3,600                         | 43,860      | -                    | 40      | -                     | -           | -                           | -           | -                            | -         | -                       | -       | -                            | -       | -                      | -       | -                          | -    | -                  | -     | -                  | -    | -                     | 3,600   | 43,900       | Mississippi    |           |         |
| 36,000                              | Missouri       | -              | -       | -             | -          | 1,400 L                       | 32,500      | -                    | -       | -                     | -           | -                           | -           | -                            | -         | -                       | -       | -                            | -       | -                      | -       | -                          | -    | -                  | -     | -                  | -    | -                     | 1,400   | 32,500       | Missouri       |           |         |
| 67,000                              | New Hampshire  | NOS            | 40      | NOS           | 25         | 10,245 L                      | 55,000      | 180 E,B              | 1,300   | -                     | -           | -                           | -           | -                            | -         | -                       | -       | -                            | -       | -                      | -       | -                          | -    | -                  | -     | -                  | -    | -                     | 10,425  | 56,365       | New Hampshire  |           |         |
| 42,000                              | New Jersey     | -              | -       | -             | -          | 3,790                         | 38,000      | 1 S                  | 8       | -                     | -           | -                           | -           | -                            | -         | -                       | -       | -                            | -       | -                      | -       | -                          | -    | -                  | -     | -                  | -    | -                     | 3,791   | 38,008       | New Jersey     |           |         |
| 321,000                             | New York       | -              | -       | NOS           | 200        | 19,755 L                      | 300,000     | 170 L                | 1,000   | -                     | -           | -                           | -           | -                            | -         | -                       | -       | -                            | -       | -                      | -       | -                          | -    | -                  | -     | -                  | -    | -                     | 19,925  | 301,300      | New York       |           |         |
| 69,000                              | North Carolina | -              | -       | NOS           | 6 T        | 6,875                         | 51,800      | 1,238                | 8,230   | -                     | -           | -                           | -           | -                            | -         | -                       | -       | -                            | -       | -                      | -       | -                          | -    | -                  | -     | -                  | -    | -                     | 8,113   | 60,036       | North Carolina |           |         |
| 12,000                              | Ohio           | -              | -       | -             | -          | NOS                           | 12,000      | NOS                  | 8       | -                     | -           | -                           | -           | -                            | -         | -                       | -       | -                            | -       | -                      | -       | -                          | -    | -                  | -     | -                  | -    | -                     | -       | 12,008       | Ohio           |           |         |
| 700,000                             | Pennsylvania   | -              | -       | NOS 2 S       | 28 E,K     | 130,723 L                     | 570,000 K   | 411 L                | 1,200 K | -                     | -           | -                           | -           | -                            | -         | -                       | -       | -                            | -       | -                      | -       | -                          | -    | -                  | -     | -                  | -    | -                     | 131,134 | 571,228      | Pennsylvania   |           |         |
| 400                                 | Rhode Island   | -              | -       | -             | -          | NOS                           | 400         | -                    | -       | -                     | -           | -                           | -           | -                            | -         | -                       | -       | -                            | -       | -                      | -       | -                          | -    | -                  | -     | -                  | -    | -                     | 400     | Rhode Island |                |           |         |
| 40,000                              | South Carolina | -              | -       | -             | -          | 5,000                         | 35,000      | 50                   | 220     | -                     | -           | -                           | -           | -                            | -         | -                       | -       | -                            | -       | -                      | -       | -                          | -    | -                  | -     | -                  | -    | -                     | 5,050   | 35,220       | South Carolina |           |         |
| 7,700                               | Tennessee      | -              | -       | -             | -          | 110 S                         | 7,210       | 10 S                 | 400     | -                     | -           | -                           | -           | -                            | -         | -                       | -       | -                            | -       | -                      | -       | -                          | -    | -                  | -     | -                  | -    | -                     | 120     | 7,610        | Tennessee      |           |         |
| 97,000                              | Vermont        | NOS            | 10      | -             | -          | 5,987 T                       | 90,000 K    | 300                  | 1,200   | -                     | -           | -                           | -           | -                            | -         | -                       | -       | -                            | -       | -                      | -       | -                          | -    | -                  | -     | -                  | -    | -                     | 6,287   | 91,210       | Vermont        |           |         |
| 55,000                              | Virginia       | -              | -       | NOS           | 180        | 7,021 S                       | 46,800 K    | 157 L                | 1,440 K | -                     | -           | -                           | -           | -                            | -         | -                       | -       | -                            | -       | -                      | -       | -                          | -    | -                  | -     | -                  | -    | -                     | 7,178   | 48,020       | Virginia       |           |         |
| 158,000                             | West Virginia  | -              | -       | -             | -          | 6,466 S                       | 150,000 K   | 400                  | 500     | -                     | -           | -                           | -           | -                            | -         | -                       | -       | -                            | -       | -                      | -       | -                          | -    | -                  | -     | -                  | -    | -                     | 6,866   | 150,500      | West Virginia  |           |         |
| 1,012,000                           | Wisconsin      | -              | -       | NOS</         |            |                               |             |                      |         |                       |             |                             |             |                              |           |                         |         |                              |         |                        |         |                            |      |                    |       |                    |      |                       |         |              |                |           |         |