

United States Department of the Interior  
Fish and Wildlife Service

Wildlife Leaflet 283

Chicago 54, Ill.

February 1946

BIG-GAME INVENTORY OF THE UNITED STATES, 1943.

Compiled in Biological Surveys  
Division of Wildlife Research

An inventory, tabulated by States, of 15 groups and races of big-game animals in the United States; has been compiled each year since 1937 by Biological Surveys, of the Fish and Wildlife Service, from data received from State and Federal agencies. The compilations have been published for 1937 in Wildlife Leaflet No. 122; for 1938, No. 142; for 1939, No. 175; for 1940, No. 207; and for 1941 was included in "Big-Game Resources of the United States, 1937-1942," Research Report 8. The compilation for 1942 was not published. Realizing the value of these inventories, most of the States now make diligent effort to furnish dependable data. Reports from military reservations are again included with State and private lands.

As in previous years, use has been made of statistics issued annually by the Forest Service, Department of Agriculture, and by the National Park Service, Department of the Interior. The Grazing and Indian Services, Department of the Interior, have cooperated fully in supplying information for their lands. On refuges of the Fish and Wildlife Service counts of important wildlife species are made annually by the Division of Wildlife Refuges. Statistics for State and private lands, and for Indian and military reservations have been supplied by each of the five regional offices of the Fish and Wildlife Service....

The estimated total of big-game animals in the United States in 1943 was 7,148,422, which is 400,000, or 5.9 percent, more than that in 1941. This numerical difference would indicate a slight increase in game populations over the two-year period, equivalent to about 3 percent per annum. Black-tailed and mule deer showed a slight decrease in numbers, which, however, is more than offset for deer as a whole by an increase in whitetails. Rocky Mountain bighorn showed a decrease of 10 percent. The few woodland caribou that wander from British Columbia into the national forests of northeastern Washington and northwestern Montana were not reported in 1943. During the two-year period there was no significant change in the numbers of elks, mountain goats, or grizzly bears. The numbers of other species indicate an uptrend, the most pronounced of which is in members of the pig tribe with the peccary showing an apparent increase of 106.5 percent and the European wild boar 97.7 percent. The desert bighorn shows an increase of 69.3 percent; black bear, 28.6 percent; moose, 25 percent; prong-horned antelope, 23.4 percent; and American bison, 21.5 percent. Of all big-game animals in the United States, 61.3 percent were on State and private lands; but of the grand total, 57.9 percent consisted of white-tailed deer, of which 88.7 percent were on such lands. The peccary was the only other numerous big-game animal found chiefly on State and private lands, where 88.1 percent of the individuals were recorded.

TABLE 1.—White-tailed deer (*Odocoileus virginianus*) and related groups

State	Service refuges	National forests	National parks and monuments	Indian reservations	Grazing districts	State and private lands	Total
Alabama .....		1,400				1/ 18,875	1/ 20,275
Arizona .....		23,000	500	2,040	2,300	2,000	29,840
Arkansas .....	3,000	7,800				22,035	38,835
Colorado .....						100	100
Connecticut .....						7,500	7,500
Delaware .....	4					80	84
Florida .....	200	10,000		90		17,961	28,251
Georgia .....	1,222	2,000				10,597	13,819
Idaho .....		19,000		400		2,500	21,900
Illinois .....		65				1,500	1,565
Indiana .....		35				900	935
Iowa .....						1,250	1,250
Kentucky .....	1,400	6				1,900	3,306
Louisiana .....	774	370				36,000	37,144
Maine .....	2,200	40	2,300			200,000	204,540
Maryland .....						5,000	5,000
Massachusetts .....	11					10,000	10,011
Michigan .....	300	150,000		50		575,000	725,650
Minnesota .....	1,425	105,000		4,500		500,000	610,925
Mississippi .....		820				12,010	12,830
Missouri .....		5,000				15,210	20,210
Montana .....	122	26,000	1,650	715	525	550	29,562
Nebraska .....	2					200	202
New Hampshire .....		1,860				27,000	28,860
New Jersey .....						25,500	25,500
New Mexico .....		12,000		500	150	12,050	24,700
New York .....	300					300,200	300,500
North Carolina .....	70	8,600				44,112	52,782
North Dakota .....	1,101			520		5,575	7,196
Ohio .....		30				4,370	4,400
Oklahoma .....	752	200				30,400	31,352
Oregon .....		110				600	710
Pennsylvania .....		9,000				1,091,000	1,100,000
Rhode Island .....						560	560
South Carolina .....	97	3,300				35,000	38,397
South Dakota .....	210	11,000		478		4,300	15,988
Tennessee .....	12	2,300	30			3,305	5,647
Texas .....	2,765	970				300,000	303,735
Vermont .....	3	5,000				30,000	35,008
Virginia .....		8,000	100			18,500	26,600
Washington .....	4,550	8,600		800		5,150	19,100
West Virginia .....		11,000				39,000	50,000
Wisconsin .....	2,280	103,000		3,550		191,170	300,000
Wyoming .....		4,600				370	4,970
Total .....	22,805	540,106	4,580	13,943	2,975	3,615,330	4,199,739

1/ Includes 300 fallow deer.

TABLE 2.--Mule deer (Odocoileus hemionus except columbianus)

State	Service refuges	National forests	National parks and monuments	Indian reservations	Grazing districts	State and private lands	Total
Arizona .....	360	39,000	735	775	940	18,965	60,775
California ..	412	245,000	19,150	.....	16,200	56,000	336,762
Colorado .....	.....	131,000	2,690	.....	37,155	18,683	189,528
Idaho .....	.....	98,000	40	225	35,360	6,000	139,625
Montana .....	2,009	71,000	1,380	755	6,900	4,400	86,444
Nebraska .....	10	900	.....	.....	.....	2,000	2,910
Nevada .....	5,500	62,000	.....	.....	40,450	9,000	116,950
New Mexico ..	1,563	56,000	549	1,080	10,150	26,488	95,830
North Dakota.	2	.....	.....	75	.....	806	883
Oregon .....	3,960	132,000	20	5,200	25,500	200,000	366,680
South Dakota.	.....	5,400	70	250	.....	500	6,220
Texas .....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	20,000	20,000
Utah .....	.....	150,000	1,360	.....	48,640	.....	200,000
Washington ..	100	55,000	12	3,000	.....	1,100	59,212
Wyoming .....	42	55,000	1,450	900	17,590	.....	74,982
Total...	13,958	1,100,300	27,456	12,260	238,885	363,942	1,756,801

TABLE 3.--Columbian black-tailed deer (Odocoileus hemionus columbianus)

State	Service refuges	National forests	National parks and monuments	Indian reservations	State and private lands	Total
California ....	.....	178,000	700	365	44,500	223,565
Oregon .....	.....	43,000	100	175	70,000	113,275
Washington ....	75	20,000	5,700	1,200	26,275	53,250
Total .....	75	241,000	6,500	1,740	140,775	390,090

TABLE 4.--Woodland caribou (Rangifer caribou)

State	State and private lands	Total
Minnesota .....	15	15
Total .....	15	15

TABLE 5.--Elk (*Cervus canadensis*)

State	Service refuges	National forests	National parks and monuments	Indian reservations	Grazing districts	State and private lands	Total
Arizona		4,100		360	200		4,660
Arkansas		90					90
California		620			450	300	1,370
Colorado		29,000	1,020		3,125	855	25,000
Florida						49	49
Idaho		27,300		25	1,240	100	28,365
Michigan						380	380
Minnesota						160	160
Montana	150	23,000	3,500	1,900	819		34,369
Nebraska	32					6	38
Nevada	40	290					330
New Hampshire						25	25
New Mexico		1,500				2,510	4,010
North Carolina		10					10
North Dakota	15					72	87
Oklahoma	218					153	371
Oregon	20	25,000		6	100	18,000	43,126
Pennsylvania						30	30
South Dakota		500	168	62		1,500	2,230
Texas						400	400
Utah		3,900	10		237		4,147
Virginia		26				175	201
Washington		15,000	4,535			4,055	23,590
Wisconsin				4		16	20
Wyoming	5,500	32,000	19,650	360	3,156		60,656
Total	5,975	158,636	28,883	2,707	9,327	28,786	233,714

TABLE 6.--Moose (*Alces americana*)

State	Service refuges	National forests	National parks and monuments	Indian reservations	Grazing districts	State and private lands	Total
Colorado						5	5
Idaho		1,500		5	55		1,560
Maine	6					2,500	2,506
Michigan		5	190			70	265
Minnesota	12	520		40		2,190	2,672
Montana	23	2,900	425	7	90		3,445
New Hampshire						45	45
Wyoming	30	2,900	820	30	525		4,305
Total	71	7,825	1,435	82	670	4,720	14,803

TABLE 7.--Prong-horned antelope (*Antilocapra americana*)

State	Service refuges	National forests	National parks and monuments	Indian reservations	Grazing districts	State and private lands	Total
Arizona .....	37	5,200	228	45	230	1,605	7,045
California ..	158	3,500	20	.....	5,000	3,870	12,548
Colorado .....	.....	1,500	.....	.....	2,820	1,680	6,000
Idaho .....	100	6,600	.....	.....	12,660	150	19,510
Montana .....	650	1,400	.....	22	11,920	3,300	17,292
Nebraska .....	85	.....	.....	.....	.....	800	885
Nevada .....	6,100	260	.....	.....	14,165	.....	20,525
New Mexico ..	20	2,400	6	838	12,350	20,242	35,856
North Dakota ..	.....	.....	.....	40	.....	1,250	1,290
Oklahoma.....	71	.....	.....	.....	.....	40	111
Oregon .....	2,360	2,100	.....	70	25,100	16,000	45,630
South Dakota ..	55	540	158	505	.....	10,700	11,958
Texas .....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	10,000	10,000
Utah .....	.....	300	.....	.....	1,890	.....	2,190
Washington ..	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	50	50
Wyoming .....	500	7,000	900	1,200	25,844	19,756	55,200
Total ..	10,136	30,800	1,312	2,720	111,979	89,143	246,090

TABLE 8.--Rocky Mountain bighorn (*Ovis canadensis canadensis* and *O. c. sierrae*)

State	Service refuges	National forests	National parks and monuments	Indian reservations	Grazing districts	State and private lands	Total
California ..	.....	210	.....	.....	.....	.....	210
Colorado .....	.....	1,800	124	.....	70	51	2,045
Idaho .....	.....	2,200	.....	.....	500	.....	2,700
Montana .....	9	950	180	20	.....	.....	1,159
Oregon .....	.....	20	.....	.....	.....	.....	20
South Dakota ..	.....	5	.....	.....	.....	18	23
Utah .....	.....	15	50	.....	50	.....	115
Washington ..	.....	20	.....	.....	.....	.....	20
Wyoming .....	.....	2,500	320	40	.....	.....	2,860
Total ..	9	7,720	674	60	620	69	9,152

TABLE 9.--Desert bighorn (*Ovis canadensis nelsoni*, *O. c. gallardi*, and *O. c. texianus*)

State	Service refuges	National forests	National parks and monuments	Indian reservations	Grazing districts	State and private lands	Total
Arizona .....	269	190	635	31	500	.....	1,625
California .....	.....	325	600	.....	630	700	2,315
Nevada .....	2,012	200	.....	.....	1,330	850	4,442
New Mexico .....	61	30	.....	.....	150	9	250
Texas .....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	100	100
Total .....	2,342	745	1,235	31	2,720	1,559	3,732

TABLE 10.--Mountain goat (*Oreamnos americanus*)

State	National forests	National parks and monuments	Indian reservations	Grazing districts	State and private lands	Total
Idaho .....	3,500	.....	.....	600	.....	4,200
Montana .....	4,000	900	350	.....	.....	5,250
South Dakota .....	250	.....	.....	.....	.....	250
Washington .....	5,700	500	.....	.....	200	6,400
Total .....	13,550	1,400	350	600	200	16,100

TABLE 11.--Peccary, or javelina (*Pecari angulatus*)

State	Service refuges	National forests	National parks and monuments	Indian reservations	Grazing districts	State and private lands	Total
Arizona .....	100	8,700	1,300	1,760	800	13,550	31,210
New Mexico .....	.....	500	.....	.....	.....	.....	500
Texas .....	75	.....	.....	.....	.....	80,000	80,075
Total .....	175	9,200	1,300	1,760	800	93,550	111,785

TABLE 12.--European wild boar (*Sus scrofa*)

	National forests	State and private lands	Total
California .....	120	545	665
North Carolina .....	300	620	920
Tennessee .....	500	251	751
Texas .....	.....	100	100
Total .....	920	1,515	2,435

TABLE 13.--Black bear (*Euarctos americanus*)

State	Service refuges	National forests	National parks and monuments	Indian reserva- tions	Grazing districts	State and private lands	Total
Alabama .....						135	135
Arizona .....	8	960	20	258			1,246
Arkansas .....	10	11				28	49
California ..	85	15,000	1,020	85		4,000	20,190
Colorado .....		4,000	51				4,051
Florida .....	30	250				786	1,066
Georgia .....	500	10				140	650
Idaho .....		6,400	3,400	21	140	1,500	11,461
Louisiana .....						750	750
Maine .....	30	30				19,940	20,000
Michigan .....	12	1,700		150		3,250	5,112
Minnesota .....	5	3,500		200		14,400	18,105
Mississippi ..						11	11
Montana .....	10	6,700	430	311		110	7,561
Nevada .....		35					35
New Hampshire ..		370				600	970
New Mexico ..		1,400	18	368		1,600	3,386
New York .....						1,000	1,000
North Carolina ..	6	860	150	30		7,684	8,730
Oklahoma .....		50					50
Oregon .....	95	6,600	30	95		8,000	14,820
Pennsylvania ..		250				2,250	4,500
South Carolina ..		2				202	204
South Dakota ..						15	15
Tennessee .....		250	150			246	646
Texas .....						400	400
Utah .....		470				50	520
Vermont .....		300				350	650
Virginia .....		740				400	1,140
Washington ..	40	10,000	190	250		5,820	16,300
West Virginia ..		900				500	1,400
Wisconsin .....	1	2,100		656		243	3,000
Wyoming .....		2,800	600	100			3,500
Total ..	832	65,688	6,059	2,524	140	76,410	151,653

TABLE 14.--Grizzly bear (*Ursus horribilis*)

State	National forests	National parks and monuments	Indian reservations	State and private lands	Total
Colorado .....	8	.....	.....	4	12
Idaho .....	42	.....	.....	.....	42
Montana .....	480	100	52	.....	632
Washington .....	7	.....	.....	.....	7
Wyoming .....	260	310	2	.....	572
Total .....	797	410	54	4	1,265

TABLE 15.--American bison, or buffalo (*Bison bison*)

State	Service refuges	National parks and monuments	Indian reservations	Grazing districts	State and private lands	Total
Arizona .....	.....	.....	.....	209	44	253
Colorado .....	.....	35	.....	.....	10	45
Montana .....	477	.....	1,400	.....	.....	1,877
Nebraska .....	120	.....	.....	.....	18	138
New Mexico .....	.....	.....	13	.....	.....	13
North Dakota .....	14	.....	.....	.....	13	27
Oklahoma .....	529	7	.....	.....	210	746
Pennsylvania .....	.....	.....	.....	.....	125	125
South Dakota .....	.....	173	284	.....	900	1,357
Texas .....	.....	.....	.....	.....	250	250
Utah .....	.....	.....	.....	38	30	68
Washington .....	.....	.....	.....	.....	40	40
Wyoming .....	.....	1,103	.....	.....	.....	1,103
Total .....	1,140	1,323	1,697	247	1,640	6,047

TABLE 16.--Big-game inventory according to land ownership or control

Species	Service refuges	National forests	National parks and monuments	Indian reservations	Grazing districts	State and private lands	Total
White-tailed deer.....	22,805	540,106	4,530	13,943	2,975	3,615,330	4,199,739
Mule deer.....	13,958	1,100,300	27,456	12,260	238,885	363,942	1,756,801
Columbian black-tailed deer	75	241,000	6,500	1,740	.....	140,775	390,090
Woodland caribou.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	15	15
Elk.....	5,975	158,036	28,883	2,707	9,327	28,786	233,714
Moose.....	71	7,825	1,435	82	670	4,720	14,803
Prong-horned antelope.....	10,136	30,200	1,312	2,720	111,979	89,143	246,090
Rocky Mountain bighorn.....	9	7,720	674	60	620	69	9,152
Desert bighorn.....	2,342	745	1,235	31	2,720	1,659	8,732
Mountain goat.....	.....	13,550	1,400	350	600	200	16,100
Peccary, or javelina.....	175	9,200	1,300	1,780	800	98,550	111,785
European wild boar.....	.....	920	.....	.....	.....	1,516	2,436
Black bear.....	832	65,688	6,059	2,524	140	76,410	151,653
Grizzly bear.....	.....	797	410	54	.....	4	1,265
American bison, or buffalo.	1,140	.....	1,323	1,697	247	1,640	6,047
Total.....	57,518	2,176,687	82,567	39,928	368,963	4,422,759	7,148,422

TABLE 18.--Big game kill by States, season 1943

127899

State	Deer	Elk	Moose	Prong-horned antelope	Bighorn	Mountain goat	Pecary, or javelina	European wild boar	Black bear	Grizzly bear	American bison or buffalo	Total
Alabama	1,471								3			1,474
Arizona	7,632	254		506	3		1,045		100		51	9,591
Arkansas	1,723											1,723
California	25,216	6,162		362					288	2		25,578
Colorado	30,072											36,524
Connecticut	394											394
Delaware	2/ 8											8
Florida	2,706								99			2,805
Georgia	484					41			22			506
Idaho	13,014	2,930	11	750					758			17,499
Iowa	67								1,500			25,908
Maine	24,408											25,908
Maryland	395											395
Massachusetts	2,422											2,422
Michigan	68,584								751			69,335
Minnesota	68,282		4						1,500			69,786
Mississippi	589											589
Montana	5,103	1,533	2/ 15	553	2	39			15	10		7,270
Nevada	5,350			10								5,360
New Hampshire	5,221								59			5,280
New Jersey	2,501											2,501
New Mexico	5,390	135		255			10		58		2	5,850
New York	22,354								81			22,435
North Carolina	5,235							31	762			6,028
North Dakota	3,065			20								3,085
Ohio	170											170
Oklahoma	25											25
Oregon	43,650	3,110		690					288			47,450
Pennsylvania	44,900											45,188
Rhode Island	2/ 40											40
South Carolina	1,155											1,162
South Dakota	1,965	65		1,000				23				3,030
Tennessee	36								16			75
Texas	38,000						25,000		35			63,035
Utah	55,708	548							15			56,271
Vermont	2,871											2,871
Virginia	1,379								84			1,463
Washington	25,000	3,800							2,000			30,800
West Virginia	1,827								200			2,027
Wisconsin	128,296	1							684			128,981
Wyoming	10,285	8,343	192	15,063	13				102			34,395
Total	656,993	26,881	222	19,209	18	80	26,055	54	9,422	12	3/ 450	739,336

2/ Illegally killed. 3/ Inasmuch as buffaloes killed are not usually reported as "game" animals, this estimate is probably low.