INFORMATION FOR THE PRESS

U. S. DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
OFFICE OF INFORMATION
PRESS SERVICE

Release - Immediate

WASHINGTON, D. C.

September 1, 1933.

NATIONAL FOREST GAME
ESTIMATES EXPLAINED

Because of some misunderstanding of the recently announced figures contained in the so-called national forest "game census," the U.S. Forest Service today issued the following explanatory statement:

"The estimates year by year of game animals on the National Forests are made by Forest officers on the ground who are familiar with local conditions, and are based upon the best available information. Actual game counts are made in some cases, but these by no means cover all National Forests nor all species.

"Marked increases or decreases indicated from one year to another in a given State, Territory, or Forest, may be due in some cases to more reliable information in regard to the number of animals, rather than to a substantial change in number of animals for that locality. This is especially true in connection with the estimates on grizzly bears in Alaska for the season of 1932. An actual count of bears on Admiralty Island convinced Forest officers that the estimated number of bears on other bear range in Alaska should be increased over the estimates made for previous years, and this accounts for the change from 3,000 to 4,500 on the National Forests of the Territory.

"Such revision of local estimates in a number of cases in recent years, however, would not materially affect the general showing of an increase of approximately 40 percent in game animals for the national forests as a whole, since 1926."

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For release Friday afternoon, September 8, 1933.
From the Smithsonian Institution.

There are now 16 recognized kinds of jaguars, 7 of them hitherto unknown to science.

Previously undescribed subspecies of these leopardlike mammals--the largest of the cat family extant in the New World--were found in an intensive study of the jaguar specimens in the collections of the Smithsonian Institution and of other American museums by Dr. Edward W. Nelson, associate in zoology in the U.S. National Museum, and Edward A. Goldman, senior biologist of the U.S. Biological Survey.

The animals were found to differ racially in size, color, and various anatomical details. Larger and smaller varieties of the big cats were found from geographical regions in close proximity to one another. Although all of the same species, each of the races appears to have gone its own way for many generations.

Although generally resembling the leopards, Nelson and Goldman point out in the report of their study published recently in the Journal of Mammalogy, the jaguars on the whole are larger with more massive heads and more robust forms than the Old World animals. But they are completely lacking in the ferocious aggressiveness sometimes shown by leopards in their encounters with man. They are feared by natives, but they attack man so seldom that reports of such occurrences are very difficult to verify.

Examination of the museum specimens, however, yielded interesting sidelights on the ferocity of the big cats in their attacks on other animals.

"It is doubtful", says the report, "whether any wild or domestic animal is safe from their onslaughts. Cattle, horses, and hogs are included in the known jaguar depredations, and many accounts indicate their special

fondness for the flesh of peccaries. The large herds of white-lipped peccaries that roam the tropical American forests are systematically followed and preyed upon.

"The great power and ferocity of their attack are indicated by the fact that in 6 out of 92 skulls examined one or more of the canine teeth had been broken. In one instance all the canines had been broken off short, and yet the animal, an adult male, had been able to subsist in spite of this handicap, as shown by the smoothly worn stubs."

The range of the jaguar extends from Arizona and the Rio Grande Valley south to south-central Argentina.

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