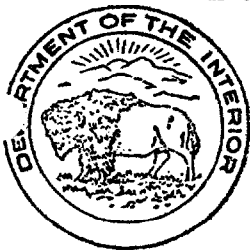


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DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

INFORMATION SERVICE

FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE

For AM's JUNE 8, 1949

1947 BIG-GAME CENSUS SHOWS $7\frac{1}{2}$ MILLION ANIMALS IN U.S.; SPORTSMEN KILL 891,200

The annual big-game inventory for 1947 listed 7,758,900 animals in the United States, the U. S. Fish and Wildlife Service of the Department of the Interior announced today. The Service also disclosed that the 1947 big-game animal kill totaled 891,200.

The figures are compilations made by the Service of estimated big-game populations and kills submitted by the state wildlife conservation agencies. Inventories of big-game animals on national forests, parks and wildlife refuges are included in the state estimates.

Deer greatly outnumber all other big-game animals in the 1947 inventory. White-tailed deer were estimated at 5,146,300; mule deer - 1,525,200; Columbia black-tailed deer - 427,700. Other species: elk - 194,600; prong-horned antelope - 181,200; black bear - 131,900; peccary or javelina - 100,700; moose - 17,900; mountain goat - 12,900; Rocky Mountain bighorn - 8,900; desert bighorn - 5,100; bison - 3,700; European wild boar - 2,000; grizzly bear - 811; and caribou - 25 (which straggled across the Canadian border into Montana and Idaho).

Wisconsin ranked first in the 1947 big-game populations, with 902,700 animals, nearly all white-tailed deer. Other leading states: Michigan - 881,000; Pennsylvania - 654,000; Texas - 617,500; California - 576,600; Maine - 331,500; Colorado - 308,600; and New York - 301,200.

Michigan ranked first in the legal big-game kill figures, with 116,200 animals. Other top states: Pennsylvania - 95,600; Minnesota - 74,400; Utah - 61,200; and Wisconsin - 54,300. Counts at checking stations, interviews or questionnaires, wardens' estimates, and license card returns produced the kill figures.

There were no significant changes in the 1947 big-game inventory and kill figures, as compared to the previous year, the Fish and Wildlife Service reported.

Complete big-game population statistics, by state and species, will be available in Wildlife Leaflet 321, Big-Game Inventory of the United States, 1947, which may be obtained soon from the Division of Information, U. S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Washington 25, D. C.

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