

Yellowstone National Park & Antelope Island State Park Trip Report
July 29th-31st

Yellowstone Species List

American Bison	Uinta Ground Squirrel
Pronghorn	Brown Bear
Elk	Black Bear
Mule Deer	Coyote



Before heading back to playing basketball in Europe, I had the chance to third wheel with two of Utah's newest residents and roadtrip up to Yellowstone NP. I was lucky enough to officiate the wedding between my dear friends Cooper and Mary earlier in May. The plan for a quick trip to Yellowstone had been in the works for awhile and finally we were able to pull it together. We spent a majority of our time in Lamar Valley and the northern portion of the park. The "American Serengeti" delivered. Our highlights of the trip include:

- Striking out on mammals during our first couple hours on the drive through the Tetons and into the southern entrance of Yellowstone and chatter in the car included the term “potential bust.” 90 minutes later we had left a herd of elk and were in the middle of Lamar Valley watching a coyote trot through a herd of bison. Spoke too soon.



- Two sets of Brown Bears with cubs in 45 minutes was enough to give me shaky hands.





-We got up at 4:30am Sunday morning to get into the park early and maximize our time to see the large carnivores of the park. Unfortunately, we missed out on the wolves there despite a false alarm through a set of binoculars. Mary was a good sport about getting up early and after an hour she requested we wake her up if we see anything good. Not too long after, we saw a Black Bear foraging for berries a couple feet off the side the road. Thankfully our excited half-shout, half-whisper was enough to get Mary back to mammalwatching. Nothing says good morning like a Black Bear outside your car window.



Antelope Island Species List

American Bison	Pronghorn
Mule Deer	Coyote

Before my flight out of SLC, we spent a couple hours at Antelope Island State Park that's on the Great Salt Lake. For being so close to the city, the park hosted an abundance of wildlife and was easy to navigate. Unfortunately, we missed on the Big Horn Sheep.



“Is that a wolf?” It wasn’t.