

Analyzing Mammal Life in the Greater Yellowstone Ecosystem After Non-Native Human Settlement

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Background

Why study this?

Focus on mammals

Hypothesis



Image: <http://www.jessstryker.com/national-parks/yellowstone/>

Methods

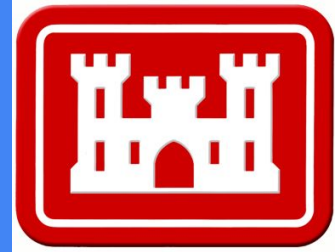
Research

Limited to 4 Mammals



Image: <http://www.backpacker.com/trips/wyoming/yellowstone-national-park/yellowstone-national-park-nez-perce-creek/#bp=0/img1>

Results: Park Ownership History



**US Army Corps
of Engineers®**

17th-18 Century: First non-Native interaction,
very minimal so far

1860's: several expeditions into the park,
resulting in the declaration of the park

1886: U.S. Army COE takes control of park

1916: Nat'l Park Service Organic Act passed

1918: Nat'l Park Service officially takes over park management



Results: Wolves

Originally Inhabited much of North America

Westward Movement of Agriculture

1926: Last wolf pack killed

1974: Gray wolf listed as endangered

1991: Congress appropriates money for an EIS

1995-96: 31 Wolves transported

Today



Image:<http://alumni.psu.edu/travel/2017/the-wolves-of-yellowstone/leadImage>

Bison

Ancient Times: Ubiquitous throughout North America

US Army Reign: Hunted nearly to extinction

Fear of overgrazing

Image:

<http://d1njyp8tsu122i.cloudfront.net/wp-content/uploads/yellowstone-photo-guide-wildlife-bison.jpg>



Moose

Image:http://www.stevemetildi.com/galleries/156_TTG%20GALLERY%20YELLOWSTONE/photos/sm_20101006_Moose_Yellowstone_0002.jpg

Scarce until latter half of 19th century

Rise in population

Massive Decrease



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Mountain Goats

Non-native

1990s: Begin to settle in park boundaries

Potential Impact

Image:<https://www.nps.gov/features/yell/slidefile/mammals/mountaingoat/Images/15401.jpg>



Conclusions

Human Impact/Unexpected Impact

State of imbalance

Population fluctuations likely disproportionately drastic for the amount of time

Image:<http://d1njyp8tsu122i.cloudfront.net/wp-content/uploads/Yellowstone-Wildlife-Buffalo-79.jpg>



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