

Wyoming...of the 7 states I turkey hunt in the spring, Lyle's place is the most beautiful. It is located in the NE Wyoming Black Hills. The mountains aren't as steep as in South Dakota, the canyons are deep and green. I was born and raised in the Midwest, so just getting to watch close-up a Merriam's hen casually feed, under tall pines, on a steep mountain side, is worth the trip west. Several other first time experiences for me occurred during the hunt this season.

I watched a combination of five mule deer does and fawns feed through less than 10 steps from me at the bottom of a canyon. This year I saw more mule deer than ever before.

Hearing the chatter of the ever present always scurrying about little red squirrels every time brought a smile to my mind.

I was fortunate to watch through my binoculars a big buck antelope with tall tops, large cutters, and thick bases cross a green field.

I got a glimpse of three elk disappear down into a canyon from a green field. That was very cool. Never before have I got to see elk while turkey hunting. Lyle tells me these are new to his place. They are very excited about their presence.

I also saw coyotes, a raccoon, and a porcupine.

Now, I don't know if you've ever had an encounter with a bull snake. I hadn't until now. I stopped and was getting my gear from the back of Lyle's UTV when there he was all stretched out in the grass almost as long as the utility vehicle. Immediately, he drew back and flattened his neck. He appeared to have a very poor attitude about me being there. I didn't know at the time what kind of snake he was. When Lyle told me later I can see why they are named after a "bull." The large snake even made a low rumbling grumbling sound like a bull makes when he's getting ready to charge! I can understand why they have a poor attitude. They have to be pretty tough to kill rattlesnakes. LOL.

This was the first time I didn't get a turkey at Lyle's do to some strange weather patterns and conditions, but I came away with a lot this trip and by God's grace hope to return.

Oh yes, the Devil's tower is always there on my way home. That is one strange oddity. God has to smile when we smile at that creation!

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