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GILA MONSTER HABITAT MODELING
2019-UNR-1997C

The work for the above reference project has been completed. Below is a summary of project related information.

The purpose of the above referenced project was:

Gila monsters (*Heloderma suspectum*) are among the rarest and most secretive animals in Nevada. As a result, there is a lack of basic information available to assess the current status of the species, and how it may be affected by changes in habitat (i.e. development, degradation, fragmentation) and climate. Gila monsters are known to occupy much of eastern Clark County and southern Lincoln County in Nevada, but due to their rarity our knowledge of the extent of this species within this area is likely incomplete. This project focuses on determining the habitat requirements and predicted suitability for Gila monsters across southern Nevada (Clark County) and assessing how connectivity among populations may influence potential for species persistence.

The major accomplishments or findings of this project include:

- Identified key environmental layers likely to be useful in habitat modeling by using a conceptual model of habitat needs
- Established study area encompassing Clark County, and developed all layers for the area at the desired resolution
- Expanded Gila Monster locality data set, adding additional localities from field studies, and online collections for use in habitat modeling
- Completed a draft habitat model, and subsequent updates incorporating new localities as they are available
- Completed movement models using data from two sites where intensive telemetry studies were being conducted.
- Completed Gila monster habitat suitability model.

For more information about this project and/or for other Project Reports or Symposium Reports, please visit our [website](#)

If you have any questions about this project please contact DCP Project Manager John Ellis at (702) 455-3964.