CAMERA AND LIVE-TRAPPING STUDIES

2010 Results

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California State University Stanislaus

STUDY OBJECTIVES

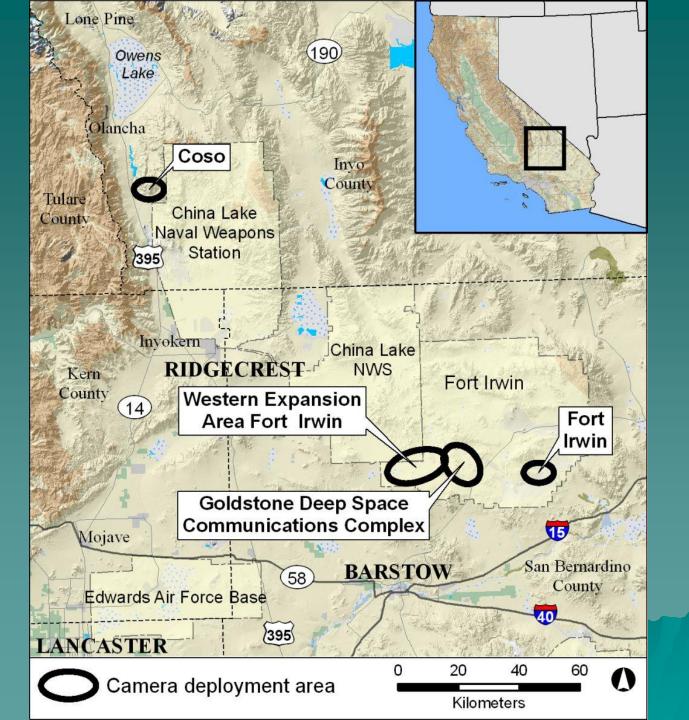
Compare the effectiveness of MGS detection methods:

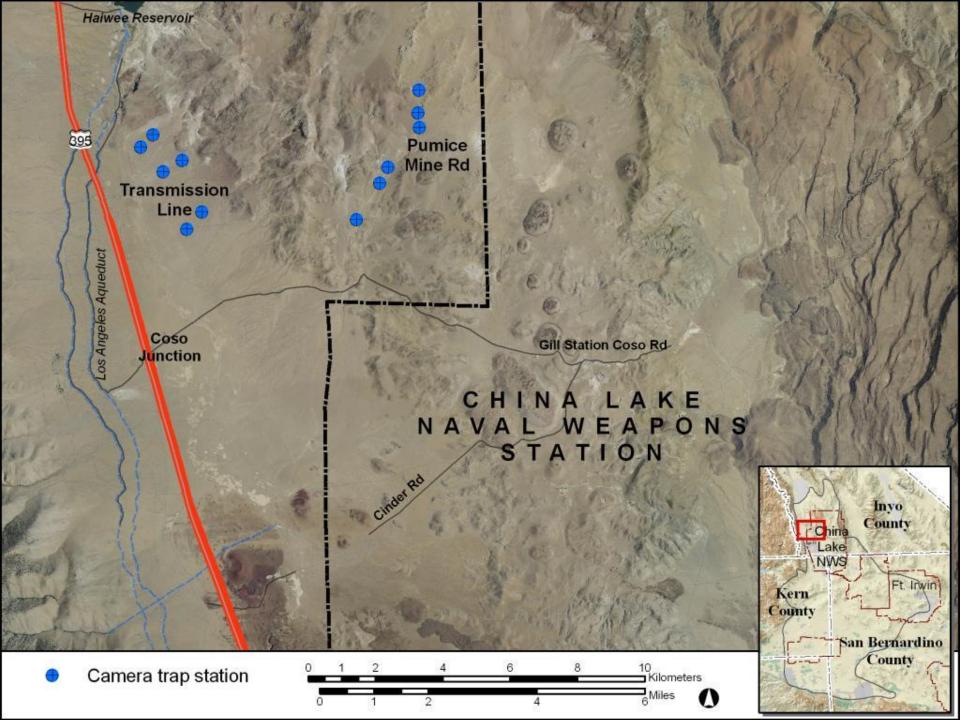
Live-trapping

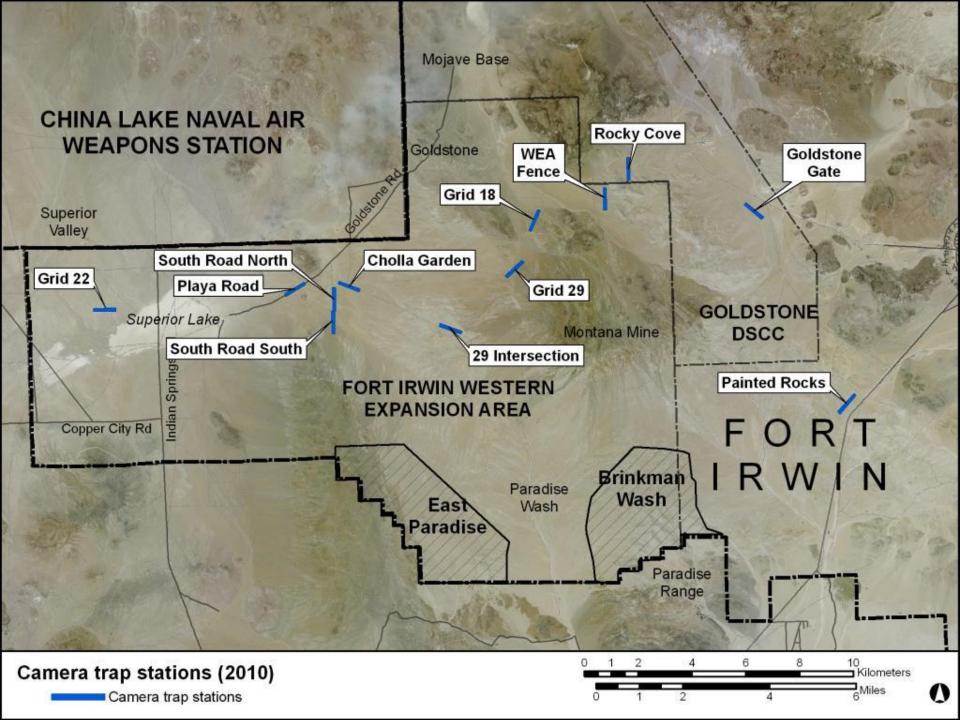
Trail cameras

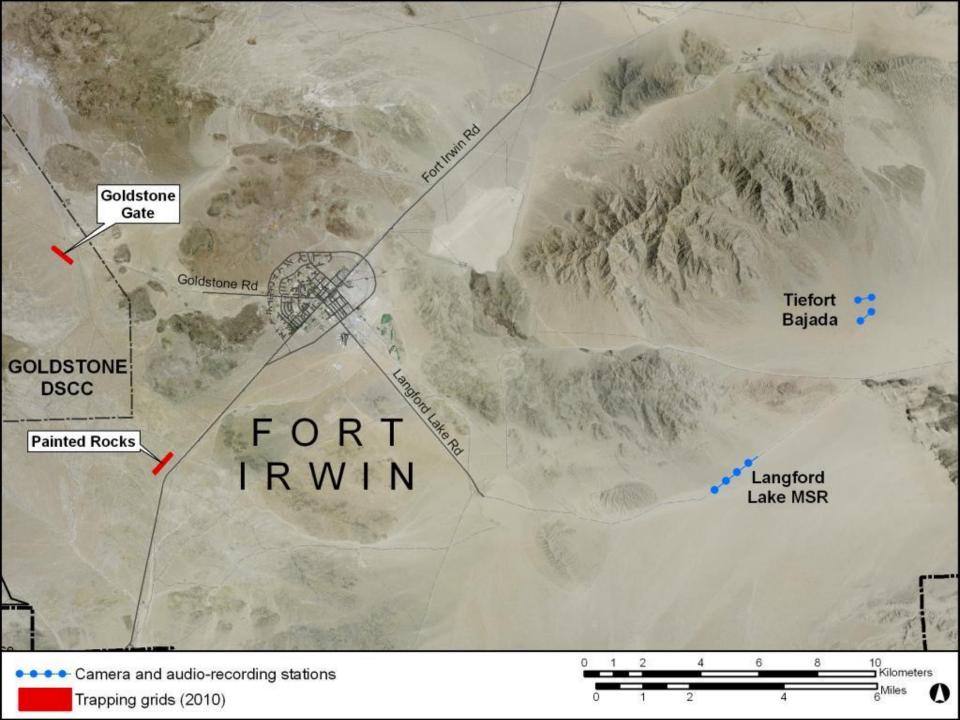
Recording of vocalization

Can MGS and round-tailed ground squirrels be distinguished by cameras and vocalizations?









RESULTS

- Coso no MGS detections at camera stations
- Ft Irwin WEA MGS camera detections at five of eight study sites
- Goldstone DSCC no MGS camera detections
- Ft Irwin proper RTGS detections in both study sites

FT IRWIN WEA

- ◆ Traps used at 4 grids first Apr 2-7
- Pre-baiting for 2 days, then trapping conducted for 5 days
- Captured MGS were individually marked by shaving fur to produce unique patterns
- Cameras used at same 4 grids Apr 8-14
- Cameras were operated for 5 days also























Traps vs. Cameras

Grid Name	Trap Detections	Camera Detections
	(individuals)	(min.no.individua ls)
Grid 29	2 F	3 F
Playa Road	1 F, 1 M	2 F, 1 M
S Road North	4 F, 4 M	5 F, 4 M
Cholla Garden	2 F	3 F, 1 M

Detection Rates

- Cameras with detections = 28/56
- Camera-days with detections = 76/280
- ◆ Total camera visits per grid (14 cameras over 5 days) = 95, 14, 174, 157

- Traps with captures= 20/400
- Trap-days with captures = 24/2000

Camera Advantages

- Detect MGS if they are present, with roughly the same or greater effectiveness as traps
- Operators do not require special qualifications or experience
- Can be used in hot or cold weather with no danger to animals
- Document activity patterns during the day and behavioral interactions

Trapping Advantages

- Collect definitive demographic data: sex, age, reproductive condition
- By marking animals, gain an indication of abundance
- Trapping is essential to obtain tissue samples for genetic work or to radiotag individuals
- It all depends on your objectives