

Mohave Ground Squirrel Technical Advisory Group Meeting  
Wednesday March 5, 2014  
BLM, Ridgecrest

### **Presentation of new results from 2013 field season and plans for 2014**

Darren- 6 grids in Mohave, no MGS

Phil- Coso trapping continues; number of adults corresponds to rainfall

- Camera trapping continues; MGS detected on DFW lands – Fremont Valley ER near Columbia Road
- Volunteer trapping effort continues... LA county getting attention
- RTGS detected 8 mi E of Kramer Junction (incursion into MGS range)- volunteer trap area
- MGS habitat suitability study at Energy Commission website
- Little Dixie Wash/Coso last holdouts of MGS according to Energy Commission document

Steve- possible trapping at Fort Irwin

Delaney- work at Fort Irwin, Cal City/Mojave

### **Volunteer trapping effort**

- concerns about stressed animals due to poor condition resulting from drought
- recommend trapping earlier this year (last year done in late May/June)
- concerns with trapping LA county in drought year... developers think it shows absence
  - Working on permits to trap 6 LA county parks (not trapped since 1991)

### **RTGS and Climate Change**

- monitoring effort to document RTGS westward movement into MGS range
- RTGS have increased heat tolerance/activity period and no/reduced dormancy period
- Solar pv temp inside plant increase in approx. 20F, no data on surrounding areas

### **MGS and DRECP (Amy Fesnock)**

- document that incorporates BLMS, CDFW, USFWS docs
- covers Mojave and Colorado desert regions
  - 6 natural communities and 50 spp covered; also includes 27 spp but not considered 'covered'.... Imperial, Inyo, Kern, LA, Riverside, San Bernadino, San Diego
  - did connectivity analysis/maps... corridors
- CEC estimates that by 2040, 200,000-500,000 acres need to go into energy production (20,000-22,000 mw)
- Draft coming Spring 2014
- Websites: [www.drecp.org](http://www.drecp.org)  
[databasin.org/galleries](http://databasin.org/galleries)

### **MGS and Genetic Diversity (Marjorie Matocq)**

- Southern range is more stable, longer occupancy
- historic processes (Owens lake when full) stamped on genetics of MGS
- 3 genetic analysis of dispersal of alleles closely matches telemetry studies on juvenile dispersal
  - Genetics = 1.1 km; telemetry = 1.7 km average
- Climate change models- drastic decline/collapse of MGS pop. By 2080

- genetic diversity is almost eliminated by 2080
- Long term monitoring sites needed

### **Landscape Connectivity (Tom Dilts)**

- compared climate change and renewable energy development on connectivity
- drastic habitat losses by 2080; range moves North (into Owens Valley) by 2080 (as shown by previous talks)
- talking about putting a solar plant in Owens Valley???

### **Wind energy in Little Dixie Wash (LaPrey)**

- 2 projects proposed... Laurel Mtn. and Freeman Junction
- 5,000 acres
- problems with corporation status, anemometers, project name

### **Reporting trapping results and BIOS (Osborn)**

- report results in Excel
- sci aids input into BIOS

### **MGS conservation strategy (Mantor, Logsdon)**

- original branch that was putting strategy together has been de-staffed
  - hopefully Hab Con will take over
  - draft expected out 2015

### **Conservation priorities (Osborn)**

- maintain functional habitat connections
- protect core areas
- ID development areas with minimal impact of MGS
- conduct research on distribution and status of MGS
- Research methods to improve detection rates
- no translocation or captive breeding
  - discussion of bringing translocation back to suggested strategy in future
- suggestion to abandon this doc. And focus on Conservation Strategy

### **Effects of drought and protocol trapping (Leitner)**

- maybe should be based on localized rainfall
- discussion about only trapping in good rainfall years