Geographic Patterns and Possibility of Predation

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Introduction

- Conducted in St. George, Utah
- The urban site was on Bluff Street and the rural site was at Big Hollow
- Cameras used to monitor animal activity, focus on cats and lizards
- Different locations selected based on prior university research
- Two cameras in each location used a distance from each other to allow for monitoring broad spectrum of activity
- Cameras deployed in May 2015 and removed in October 2015
- Focus was to determine if lizards and feral cats inhabit the same areas

Results

- Rural
  - Very few cats were found in the rural areas.
  - No lizards were spotted with the cameras, but it is well documented that they are in the area
- Urban
  - Many cats and lizards were spotted in the urban areas, four different cats were discernable due to frequency
  - Cats are fed twice daily by local woman

Methods

- Onsite Visual
  - Research group went out twice during summer 2015 to conduct population research
  - Lizard population estimates are available for each site
  - Understood that lizards live in each area in large numbers
- Camera Visual
  - Over 70,000 photos between all four cameras
  - Cameras triggered by animals and adverse weather.
  - Yielded almost 2,000 lines of data.

Additional Research Proposed

- Work with Catch Neuter and Release programs to catch feral cats to collect and catalog feces or intestinal samples
- Test samples for Lizard DNA to determine if feral cats use lizards as a food source
- Collect additional data from feline owner surveys to determine if domestic cats use lizards as a food source

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Urban Site: Road Runner and Rock Squirrel