

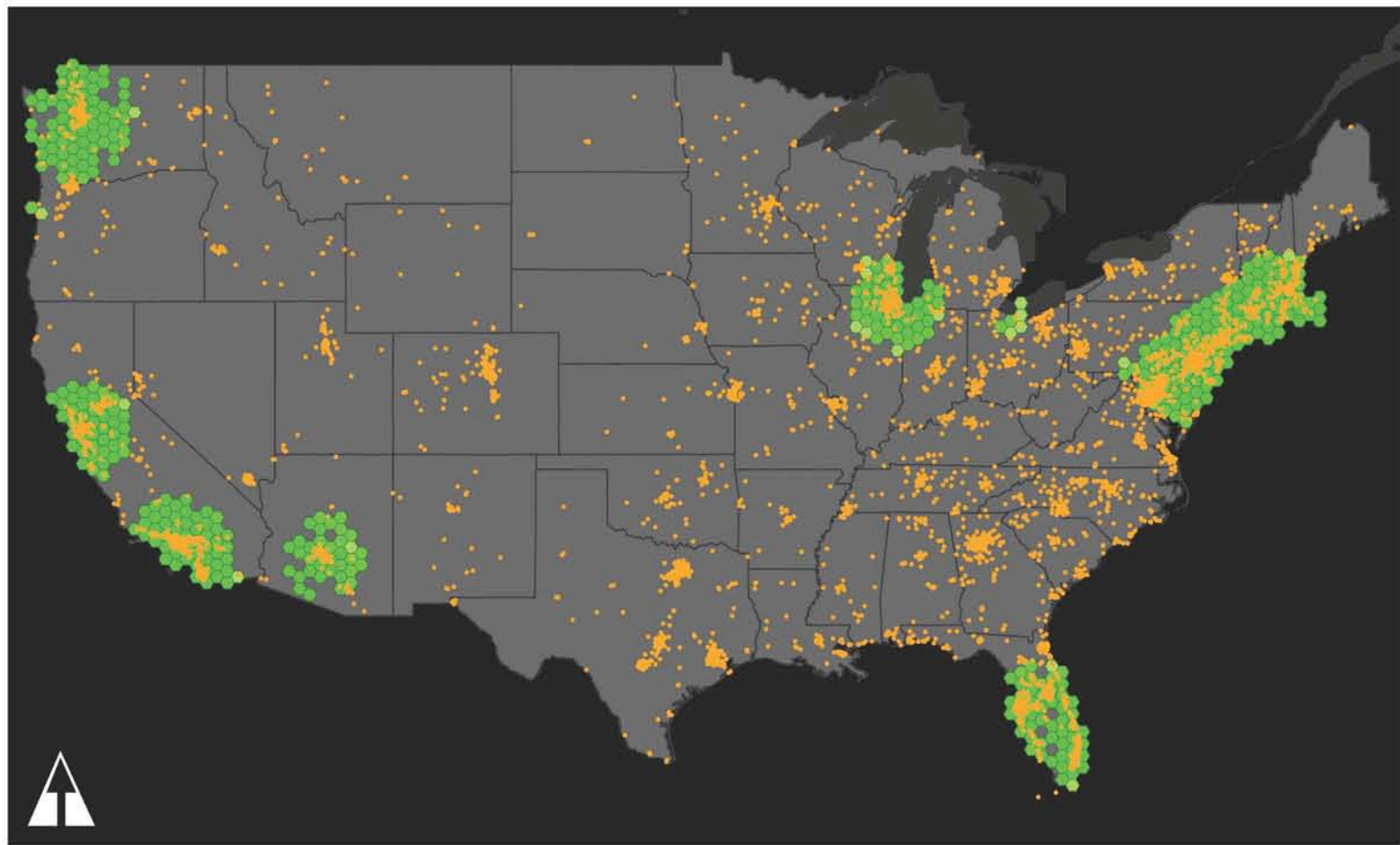
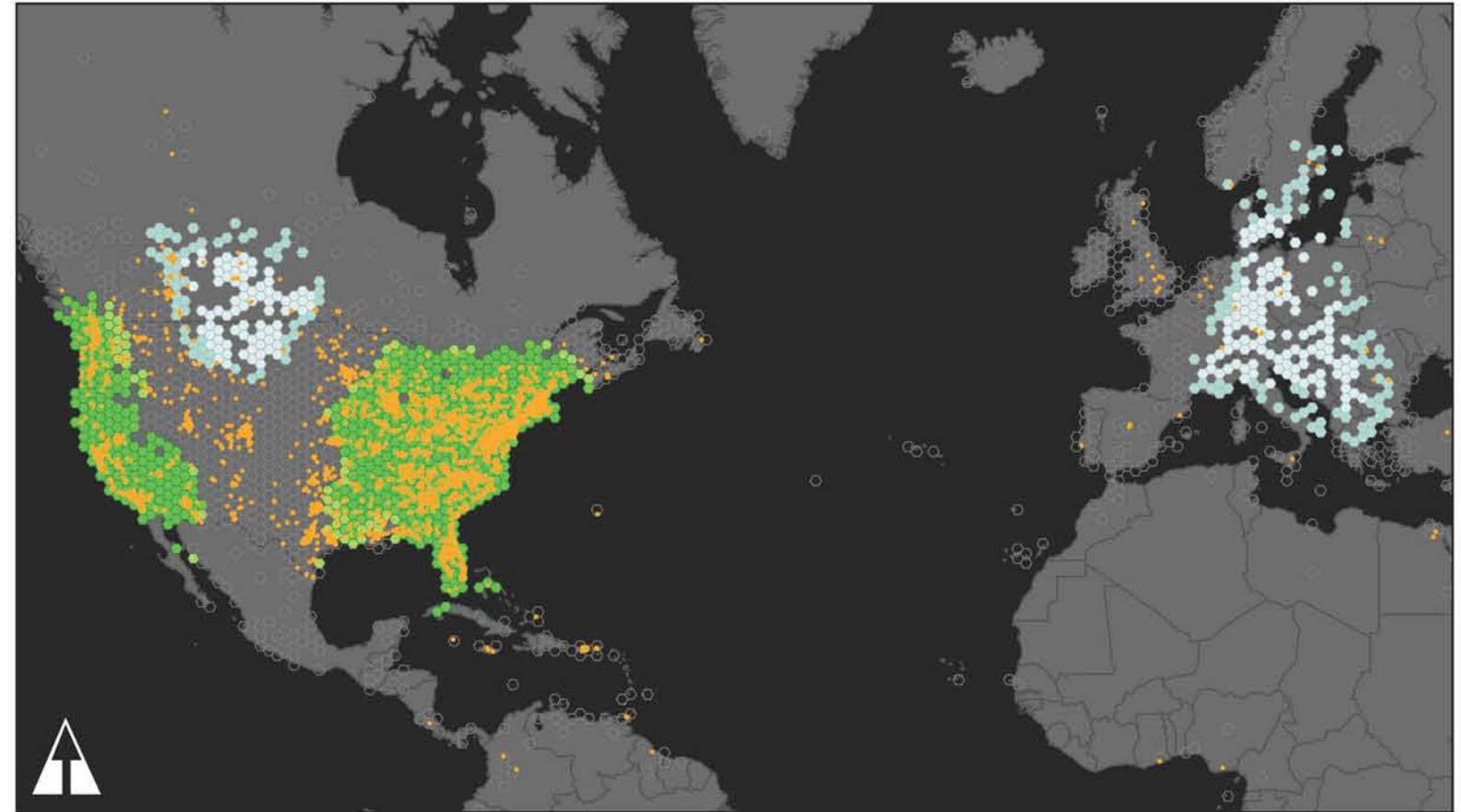
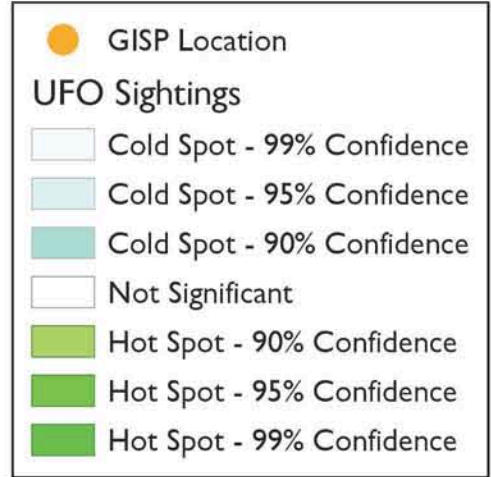
GISP Risk Assessment for Alien Abduction

Doubters and skeptics of the GISP community, take heed! Based on this highly scientific study's findings, you may need to take precautionary steps now to prevent being abducted by aliens.

For this shocking geographic risk analysis, I ran a worldwide database of more than 80,000 UFO sightings through an optimized hot spot analysis in ArcGIS Pro. As shown in the map to the right, there are two extremely large hot spots for UFO sightings in the United States. When the 99% confidence zones are spatially intersected with the current GISP registry, they engulf a whopping 70.4% of GIS professionals! These hot spots are clearly the parts of the world that extraterrestrials are studying intensively, so it's only a matter of time before the rate of abductions skyrockets. (Or has it already begun and we just don't remember?)

Notably, there are also two large cold spots in the

world: one straddling the US-Canada border in the middle of North America and one in Western Europe. Cold spots are areas that aliens are methodically sampling at this time, but not actively studying. Once their research is complete in the current hot spots, the aliens are likely to move on to these heavily sampled areas for the next phase in their project. GISPs living in these areas should proceed with caution.



With such large swaths of the United States covered by UFO sighting hot spots, I felt a moral imperative to refine the analysis further. I queried the UFO sightings to just those in the the lower 48 states and reran the optimized hot spot analysis to see where the areas of highest activity were. The results can be seen in the map to the left.

Significant hotspots in the US cluster near major metropolitan areas. These "supercharged" hot spots for UFO sightings also are home to 27.3% of GISPs living or working in this part of the world.

People living in those areas are advised to review the tips to the right and take steps now to protect themselves and their loved ones. The truth is out there. Don't wait until it's too late!

Tips for Avoiding Alien Abduction*

1. Buy a home in a location where UFO sightings are not prevalent.
2. Avoid dark areas such as forests, wheat fields, and remote mountain areas, as aliens seem to prefer to kidnap from these locations.
3. Show no fear. Aliens target people who appear terrified and actively try to avoid capture.
4. Make yourself difficult to probe. Aliens obviously want to perform experiments on their captives, so abductees who actively thwart these attempts may be more hassle than they are worth.

* Adapted from "This Guide Will Dramatically Increase Your Chances of Having a 'Close Encounter!'" from Disclose.tv. (<https://www.disclose.tv/this-guide-will-dramatically-increase-your-chances-of-having-a-close-encounter-313810>)

Disclaimer: In case the tone of my writing doesn't come through loud and clear, this entire project is for entertainment purposes. It is not intended to incite fear or worry, nor should it be used as evidence in an argument with a significant other who is attempting to persuade someone to move to or avoid any particular part of the world. Given the significant data quality issues with the original UFO sightings database, the spatial analyses and resulting interpretations are questionable at best. I hope that the maps and prose amuse a few people, but perhaps my sense of humor is as questionable as my analyses. Such is life. On a more serious note, I embarked on this project as a way to learn ArcGIS Pro without any tight deadlines or constraints. Mission accomplished. (Map copyright 2019 by Amy Roust, GISP, Douglas County, KS GIS Division.)

Sources: GISP Registry courtesy of the GIS Certification Institute (GISCI). Downloaded January 29, 2019 from <https://www.gisci.org/Recertification/GISPRegistry.aspx>; UFO Sighting Data courtesy of the National UFO Reporting Center (NUFORC), with significant data cleanup and standardization by Sigmond Axel. The original NUFORC database contains more than 80,000 observations, but was reduced to 77,215 for my analysis because the remaining records had incomplete location information. As noted in the metadata, "The NUFORC data is considered by some to be obfuscated on purpose, regardless it is some of the most badly formatted data I personally have ever seen." Downloaded January 29, 2019 from <https://www.kaggle.com/NUFORC/ufo-sightings/home>; Country (2015), US States (2016), and waterbodies (2018) shapefiles for basemaps courtesy of Esri. Alien abduction graphic courtesy of Erik Castillo Castro on The Noun Project (thenounproject.com). Optimized hot spot analysis was completed in ArcGIS Pro version 2.2, using the "count incidents within hexagon grid" setting. The projection used during the analysis was WGS84. The final maps are projected on the fly using Web Mercator for aesthetic purposes.