



COLLABORATIVE CONSERVATION AND ADAPTATION STRATEGY TOOLBOX

CCAST: An Online Library of Conservation Case Studies

Conservation partners in the western US and northern Mexico identified the need to create an inventory of case studies on management actions, partnership and collaboration, monitoring, and adaptive management. Sharing lessons learned will increase communication across the conservation community. The Southwest Climate Hub, US Fish and Wildlife Service, Bureau of Reclamation, and Forest Service are working together to share these case studies on CCAST, an online “management toolbox.”

WHAT IS A CASE STUDY?

A case study is an example of an on-the-ground conservation project, monitoring and adaptive management program, collaborative conservation effort, or resource assessment project. Case study narratives focus on lessons learned and provide project resources and other useful references (such as presentations and protocols) for projects implemented in western North America. Most importantly, case studies increase communication between resource managers and the scientific community throughout the region by sharing stories that are not otherwise readily accessible.

The Collaborative Conservation and Adaptation Strategy Toolbox (CCAST) serves as the online Case Study platform. CCAST allows users to navigate to case study content through galleries, tag-based searches, and an interactive map. View CCAST at: desertlcc.org/resource/CCAST

The CCAST team and contributors co-author case study content. Typically, the needed information has been previously developed for plans, reports, and presentations, and we simply adapt text for the case study. We request additional project resources including photos, links to online reports, and presentations. A draft is then sent to a technical review team. Technical review comments are addressed, and the final content is used to develop a 2-page handout formatted for printing or email distribution, along with an online version for CCAST.

WHAT PARTNERS ARE SAYING

“I think it is an important resource to showcase work being done...I like the fact that different agencies and partners are working together to improve conservation outcomes or provide decision-making tools.” Case study contributor

“I am always looking for new ideas to guide us in our restoration and resource management responsibilities. Narratives like these offer real-life examples of the challenges we all face and provide solutions.” Jeff Bennett, National Park Service

“It is a nice report, well-written, accurate, noteworthy, and useful across the larger landscape.” -Bill Radke, US Fish and Wildlife Service, regarding a case study on bullfrog removal

HOW CAN YOU CONTRIBUTE?

If you would like to share your project with other conservation professionals through CCAST and help build this community of practice, please contact Matt Grabau, Science Coordinator: matthew_grabau@fws.gov