“Driving the Bumpy (Dirt) Road to Recovery: Chiricahua Leopard Frog Conservation in Arizona”

Date and Time: Tuesday, June 23rd, 2020 at 10AM (PDT)

Presenter: Audrey Owens, Ranid Frogs Project Coordinator, Arizona Game and Fish Department, Phoenix, Arizona

June Webinar: The federally threatened Chiricahua leopard frog (CLF) had declined by as much as 80% range-wide at the time of listing in 2002 due to predation by non-native species, die-offs caused by the fungal disease chytridiomycosis, and habitat degradation/loss. The 2007 Recovery Plan outlines a multi-pronged recovery approach which has helped CLF recovery partners reach significant benchmarks since 2007, including a more than 400% increase in number of occupied sites, the presence of functioning metapopulations in several recovery units, and the control of bullfrogs in some key areas in southern Arizona. However, CLF recovery in Arizona will require intensive work to manage threats, an occupancy-based monitoring program, and a genetic management plan that will prevent further genetic drift in small, isolated populations. This CCAST Webinar will discuss project successes with conserving this species and the challenges that remain.

About the Speaker: Audrey Owens coordinates the Ranid Frogs Project at the Arizona Game and Fish Department, where she has worked in amphibian and reptile conservation since 2007. The Ranid Frogs Project manages and supports Chiricahua leopard frog and other native ranid conservation through a partnership community that includes the US Fish and Wildlife Service and other federal, state, university, and private organizations and individuals.

Webinar Access with Zoom: Follow this link https://arizona.zoom.us/j/99626631761

CCAST Website:
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CCAST Webinar Series:
This is the third webinar in a series on non-native aquatic species. Non-native aquatic species have been introduced throughout freshwater systems, and can present obstacles to achieving numerous management objectives. This webinar series is one way the CCAST partnership and emerging Non-Native Aquatics Community of Practice is increasing communication among the conservation community to improve our ability to address shared conservation challenges.

HOW CAN YOU CONTRIBUTE?
If you would like to share your project on aquatic non-native species through CCAST and help build this community of practice, please contact Matt Grabau, USFWS: matthew_grabau@fws.gov or Alex Koeberle, UArizona: acoeberele@arizona.edu