

Case studies as the foundation of a collaborative toolbox for ecological conservation and restoration

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BUREAU OF RECLAMATION



What is CCAST?

- Collaborative Conservation and Adaptation Strategy Toolbox (CCAST)
- An online platform to share case studies that provide useful information and lessons learned from on-the-ground science, conservation, and restoration
- Improves communication among practitioners, researchers, and managers working to address natural resources challenges
- Multi-organization partnership



The CCAST Team

- 2 Federal Coordinators (USFWS and Reclamation)
- 2 Web Developers/Data Managers (Reclamation)
- Case Study Authors:
 - 2 University Staff (University of Arizona)
 - 1 Program Analyst (Reclamation)
 - 2 Undergraduate Students (University of Arizona)
 - 3 Undergraduate Interns (N. Arizona University)
- Working Group: 100+ partners from across the West

The CCAST Process

1) Practitioners provide material, 2) CCAST staff develop draft, 3) Internal/contributor review, 4) External CCAST working group review, and 5) Online publication

CCAST Products

Online Case Study:

Restoring Leopard Frog Habitat in Cienega Creek, Arizona
 A Case Study on Restoration

Introduction | Key Issues and Goals | Project Highlights | Lessons Learned | Next Steps | Resources

Key Issues Addressed
 In arid regions around the world, wetlands and the aquatic vertebrates they support are among the most globally threatened ecological assemblages due to water extraction, drought, habitat modification, and invasive species. The American bullfrog is an invasive species that was introduced to the Cienega Creek watershed in about 1986. It is strongly associated with local extinctions of the federally listed, threatened Chiricahua leopard frog due primarily to predation and disease transmission—bullfrogs carry but are not strongly affected by chytridiomycosis, a fungal pathogen causing global amphibian declines. Additionally, northern crayfish and several non-native fishes exist in areas adjacent to Cienega Creek. Potential invasion by these

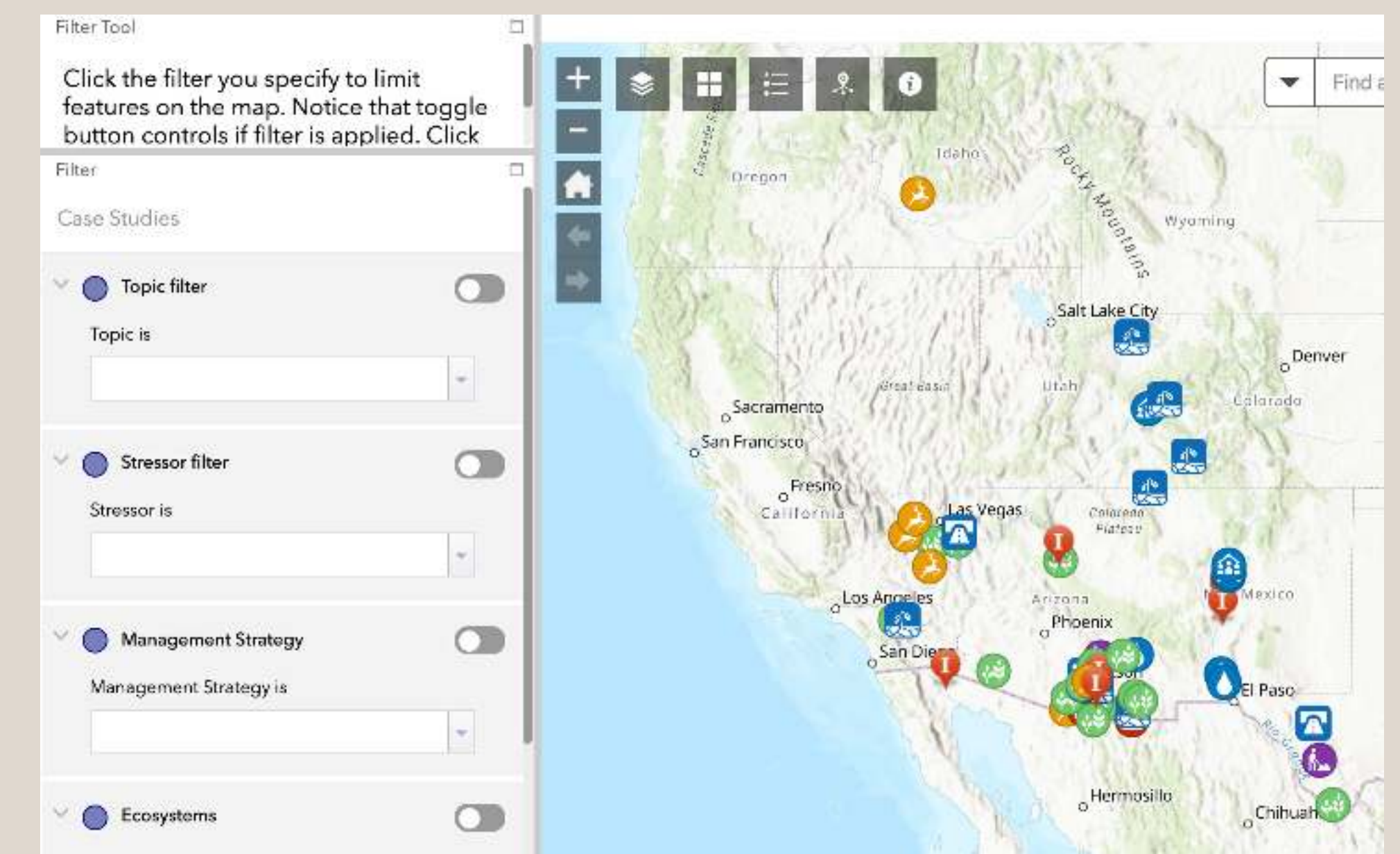
Case Study Contributors

- A diverse network has produced case studies on: Water resources, connectivity, collaboration and community engagement, fish and wildlife, restoration, working lands, socioeconomics, landscape/watershed-level management, and actionable science



CCAST Accessibility

Interactive map from CCAST website:



Future Work

- Expand opportunities for undergraduate students to produce case studies in their areas of interest
- Develop topic-based narratives and synthesis products
- Focal area (2020): aquatic invasive species management

Why Use CCAST?

- The CCAST staff is a resource to help promote your restoration work to a widespread audience
- Learn practical lessons from implemented projects
- Connect with practitioners across a diverse geography through an easy to use online platform
- Provide insight for students and professionals interested in conservation, writing, and a professional network

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