



BUREAU OF
RECLAMATION



COLLABORATIVE CONSERVATION AND ADAPTATION STRATEGY TOOLBOX 2020 Webinar Series: Non-Native Aquatic Species

“Successful Green Sunfish Eradication in Aravaipa and Bonita Creeks, Arizona”



Horse Camp Canyon, Arizona/BLM

Date and Time: Tuesday, May 19th, 2020 at 10AM (PDT)

Presenter: Heidi Blasius, Fisheries Biologist, Bureau of Land Management, Safford Field Office, Arizona

May Webinar: Aravaipa and Bonita Creeks in southern Arizona are unique aquatic systems that still support intact or nearly intact native fish assemblages. However, both have been invaded by several non-native fish species that have established self-sustaining populations, including Green Sunfish, which are highly piscivorous, widely abundant, and deemed by fish biologists as the most significant non-native aquatic species threat to native fishes in these creeks. Biologists have conducted long-term monitoring and mechanical removal of Green Sunfish to conserve Aravaipa and Bonita Creek's unique native fish assemblages. With intensive effort and using a variety of techniques, biologists have successfully removed Green Sunfish from both Bonita Creek and Horse Camp Canyon, a tributary and source site to Aravaipa Creek. This webinar will share project highlights as well as key lessons learned for CCAST viewers who are interested in non-native fish control and native species conservation.



About the Speaker: Heidi Blasius received a BS Degree in Environmental Resources with an emphasis in habitat management and a MS Degree in Zoology with an emphasis in native fish conservation and management from Arizona State University (ASU). Her passion and love for native fish developed and was fostered by her professor Dr. WL Minckley while she was a student at ASU. Heidi considers it a privilege to be able to work with Arizona's desert fish and believes it is her duty to educate the public to their plight and to speak out on their behalf.

Webinar Access with Zoom: Follow this link <https://arizona.zoom.us/j/91107139951>

CCAST Website:

Scan this QR code to visit CCAST and view additional Case Studies



CCAST Webinar Series:

This is the second 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: akoeberle@arizona.edu