Sonoran Desert Inventory & Monitoring Network

National Park Service
U.S. Department of the Interior

Bullfrog Control and Native Aquatic Animal Recovery in Southwestern National Parks

Project funded by the Inflation Reduction Act: Invasive Species Grant



American bullfrogs are one of the greatest threats to aquatic animals in the sensitive wetlands of the southwestern US. Called "the Great White Shark of the Southwest," bullfrogs are nonnative, voracious predators and carry disease.

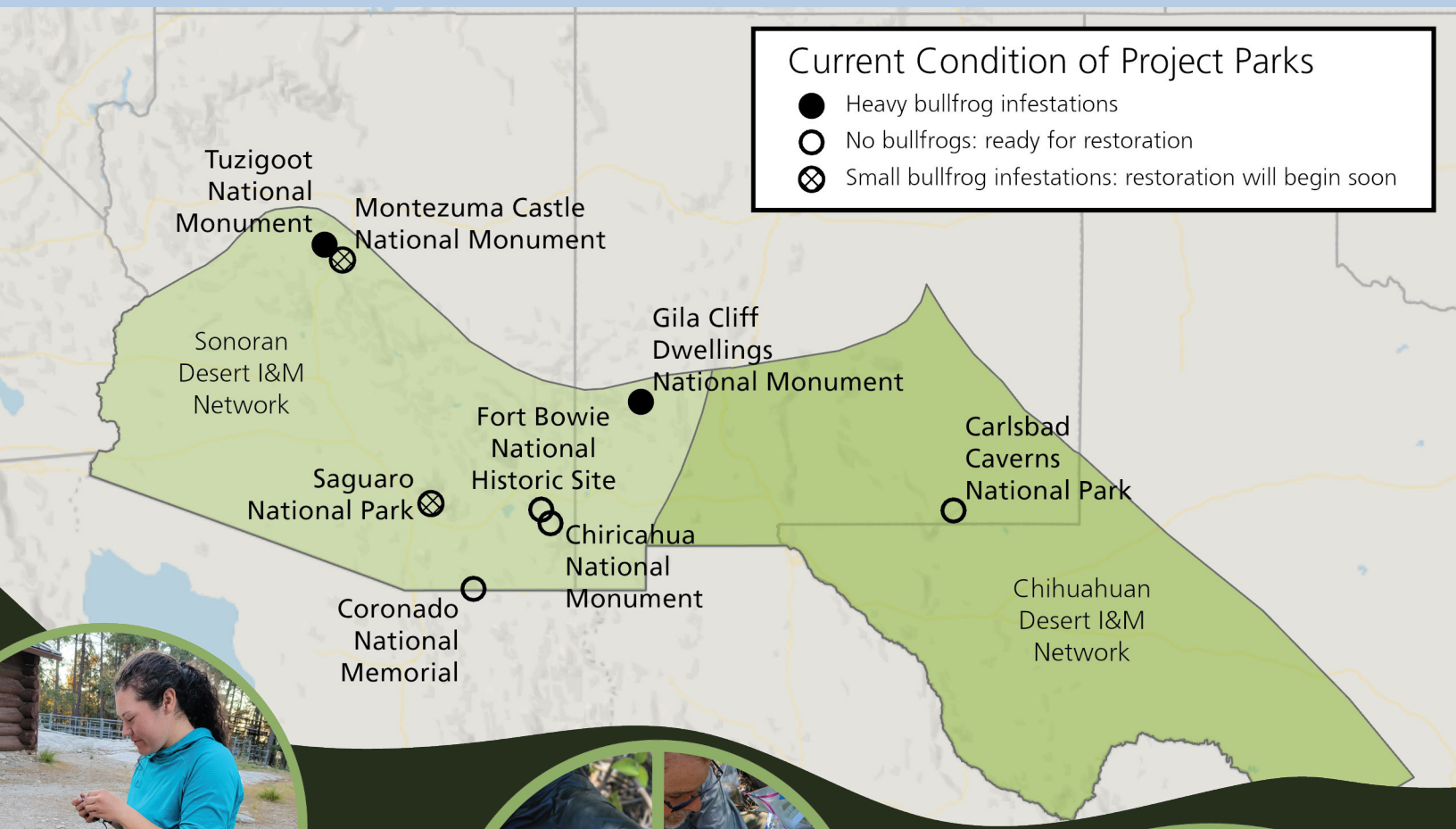
To restore native aquatic animals in eight parks impacted by bullfrogs, we are focusing on three management actions:

1. American bullfrog control.
2. Native aquatic animal recovery and reintroduction.
3. Bullfrog early detection and rapid response protocol development.



Read more: www.nps.gov/articles/000/swnc-aquatic-animal-recovery-project.htm

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The Science

To monitor how effective our management actions are, we will collect environmental DNA (eDNA) water samples, conduct aquatic animal acoustic monitoring and visual surveys, and assess aquatic habitats, water quality, and water chemistry.

Target Species in eDNA Analysis

- American bullfrog
- Disease: ranavirus and chytrid fungus
- Native frogs, toads, and aquatic garter snakes

Partners

- Tucson Audubon Society
- University of Arizona - Arizona Frog Team
- Arizona Game and Fish Department
- New Mexico Department of Game and Fish
- US Fish and Wildlife Service
- US Geological Survey
- Washington State University
- Park neighbors

