



INFLATION REDUCTION ACT

# Preparing Arizona Parks for the Future

Photo: American Bullfrog

National parks are experiencing more record-setting floods, fires, droughts and disease each year. Irreplaceable objects of cultural significance are at risk of disappearing, and the natural world, which draws millions of visitors who contribute significantly to local economies, is changing.

Work has begun to help parks prepare for the impacts from climate change they cannot avoid. The Inflation Reduction Act is one important source of funding that helps parks plan for hotter temperatures and extreme storms. Currently 100% of the park service's IRA funds have been planned, scheduled and announced across 78 projects. However, nearly twice as many projects were proposed than could be funded with the park service's IRA funding.

These investments support parks and secure the natural heritage of these treasured landscapes for future park visitors. They leverage collaborative approaches through partnerships with youth, conservation organizations and Indigenous communities and work to foster community engagement while ensuring these resources exist for future generations.

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## Control Bullfrogs and Restore Native Amphibians to Protect Imperiled Wetlands of Southwestern Parks

**AZ NPS Sites:** Chiricahua National Monument, Coronado National Memorial, Fort Bowie National Historic Site, Montezuma Castle National Monument, Saguaro National Park, Tuzigoot National Monument

**Project Type:** Restoration-Invasive Species

**Investment:** \$996,449

Across the globe, amphibians and aquatic reptiles are the most threatened taxonomic group on earth due to habitat decline, invasive species, and water extraction exacerbated by climate change. The invasive American bullfrog particularly threatens the Southwest landscape. American bullfrogs carry fungus and diseases linked to population declines in native aquatic species, including several already endangered and threatened ones, such as the lowland leopard frog, Chiricahua leopard frog, and the Mexican garter snake. With funding from the Inflation Reduction Act and in collaboration with the Southwest Network Collaboration, this project combats and address the increasingly invasive American bullfrog and restore and protect native aquatic animals. Through restoring native wetlands, experts seek to revitalize state and federally threatened and endangered species while developing early detection and rapid response systems to prevent bullfrogs from reinvading.

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## Implement Invasive Plant Management in Priority Landscapes to Increase Ecosystem Resiliency & Health

**AZ NPS Sites:** Canyon de Chelly National Monument, Petrified Forest National Park, Tumacacori National Historic Park

**Project Type:** Restoration-Invasive Species

**Investment:** \$9.9M

Invasive species pose a significant national threat, and the problem continues to be exacerbated by climate change. Increased wildfires and extreme weather events create favorable conditions for spreading invasive plants, disrupting, and forever changing delicate ecosystems forever. Without invasive plant management, these treasured places could be overgrown and recreation in these regions could change forever. This project plans to leverage the National Park Service's Invasive Plant Management Team to focus on site preparations to combat invasive species when climate change impacts occur. This includes creating early detection and rapid response strategies, invasive plant treatments, and ecosystem restoration projects. This project addresses the escalating threat of invasive species by reducing infested areas, eradicating new infestations, and treating priority landscapes.

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## Restore Native Plants and Reduce the Vulnerability to Climate Change Across the Arid Southwest

**AZ NPS Sites:** Canyon de Chelly National Monument, Petrified Forest National Park, Tonto National Monument, Tumacacori National Historic Park, Wupatki National Monument

**Project Type:** Resilience-Enhance Resiliency of NPS Ecosystems

**Investment:** \$4.1M

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