Strengthening ties between observations and user communities with the USGS Community for Data Integration (CDI)

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USGS data and the Community for Data Integration (CDI)

The U.S. Geological Survey (USGS) supplies timely, relevant, and useful information about the Earth to users that include decision makers, research scientists, and the general public. This information is built on observations from a wide range of topics including water, climate and land use change, energy, minerals, environmental health, hazards, and ecosystems.

The USGS Community for Data Integration (CDI) plays a role in making connections from USGS data to diverse user communities with its virtual and in-person events, working group activities, and funded projects.

Join us

- Want to present your observational resource to the USGS CDI community of practice?

- Want to host a joint Hackathon with the CDI?

- Want to join a working group on Citizen Science, Data Management, Tech Stack, Semantic Web, or Mobile App Development?

- Have an idea for connecting or leveraging your community with the CDI?

Contact the CDI Coordinators:
Leslie Hsu and Madison Langseth at cdi@usgs.gov

@USGS_CDI

## Four ways to connect observations and user communities:

Give your data to hackers at a Hackathon

The CDI and ESIP held a joint Hackathon in April 2016 where participants worked on small teams to solve challenges with USGS data and services from Critical Minerals, OBIS USA, and ScienceBase. **Offering your observational data as a hackathon challenge connects you with new viewpoints and multiplies your solving power.**

Promote crowdsourcing and citizen science projects

The USGS is one of the leaders in sponsoring federally-funded crowdsourcing and citizen science projects, with 42 projects listed in the catalog at citizenscience.gov. The CDI informs the community about opportunities and resources for implementing crowdsourcing, citizen science, and civic hacking projects. **These projects both collect and connect observations with users in the general public, academia, and government.**
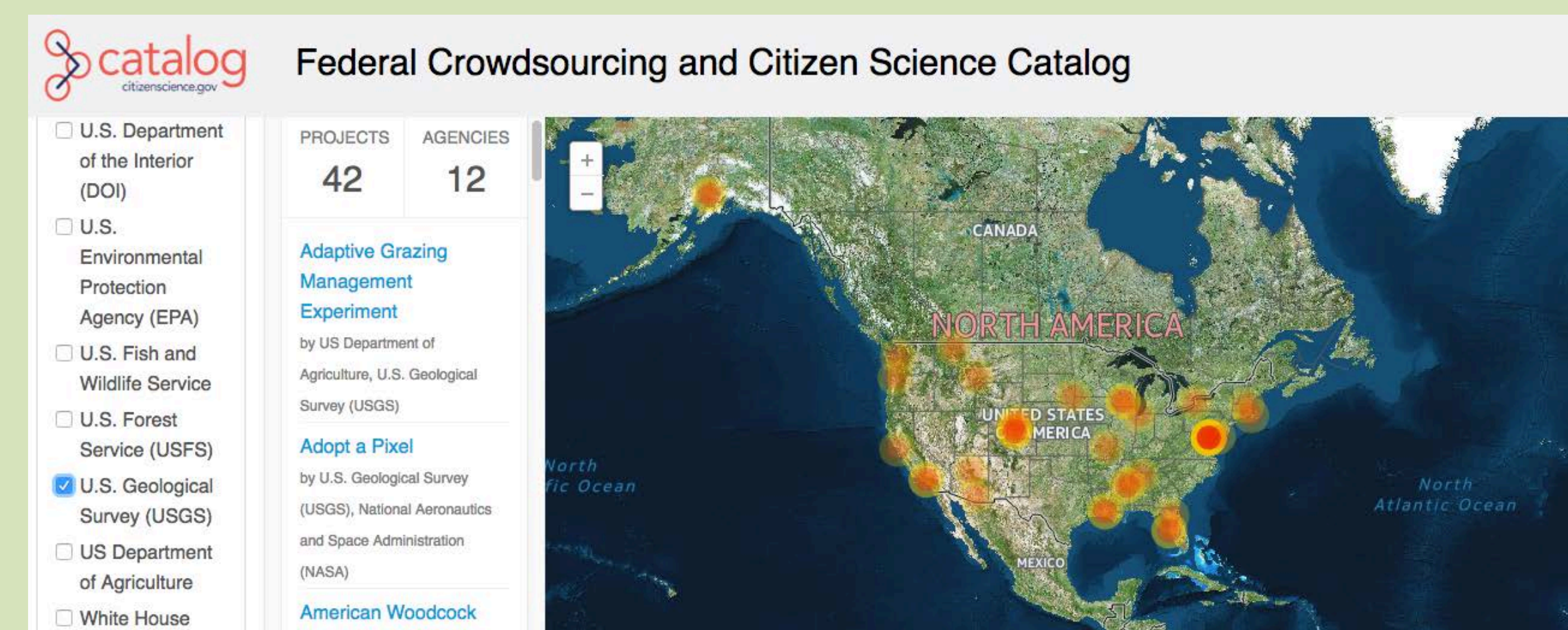
Ask users to help design mobile apps for data collection

Mobile field data collection apps help to connect users more efficiently to their observations, and **getting users involved in the app design is key for user buy-in and future use.** USGS and the Bureau of Reclamation are hosting a design challenge for a field data collection app, and asked for user feedback on the app design during a CDI virtual monthly meeting. bit.ly/bor-usgs-data-app
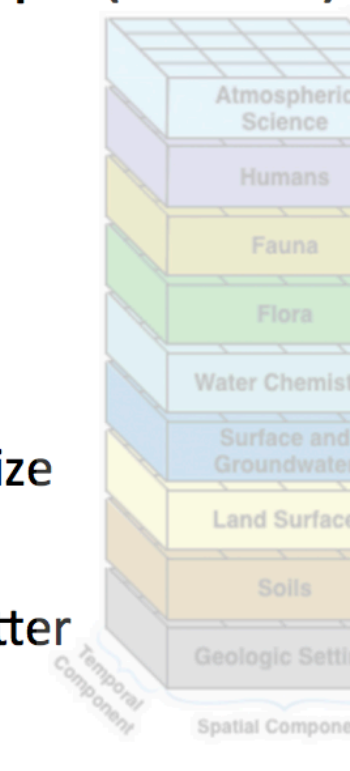

Facilitate working groups that share resources across traditional boundaries

The CDI provides communities of practice that cross geographical and organizational boundaries, where resources can be shared widely. Users post questions and requests on group forums and gain knowledge and access to observational information and resources that were previously unknown. The CDI Earth Science Themes working group (formerly Data Theme Focus Groups) was formed to **bring data producers into more direct and regular contact with research scientist users.**