



Climate Change Response Program Newsletter

Q1|2017



SCIENCE • ADAPTATION • MITIGATION • COMMUNICATION

Welcome to Our Second Century

The National Park Service (NPS) enjoyed a banner year in 2016, with many national parks shattering annual visitation records. Our visitors had memorable and inspiring experiences during their time in the parks. And with luck, families and friends had much to discuss after their adventures.

As our centennial celebration becomes a memory, we too have much to talk about. Our next hundred years will be an eventful journey through an unprecedented era of continuous change. The challenges will be significant, and the need for communication and collaboration greater than ever. The NPS Centennial Act better positions our organization to meet those challenges on behalf of the American public.

Of particular note, the act recognizes interpretation and education as key tenets of our agency mission, and directs that our efforts to forge intellectual and emotional connections with our audiences are to reflect “current scientific and academic research, content, methods, and audience analysis.” The legislation furthermore prompts us to engage audiences on

their terms, explore innovative methods of learning, make those opportunities accessible to all, and evaluate our efforts. And these transformative experiences are to be learner-centered—guided by the interests and voices of our audiences.

Over the years, many of our visitors have expressed concerns about climate change, as science continues to reveal the complex influence of a warming world on our national parks and surrounding communities. Incumbent in our mission to preserve our shared heritage “unimpaired” is a responsibility to understand the nature of change, explore reasonable management actions, and involve the owners of our national parks in those conversations.

We’re excited to embark on this second century of stewardship with you. Together, we will continue our work to understand the effects of climate change on parks, protect resources, and discuss this important topic with our visitors.

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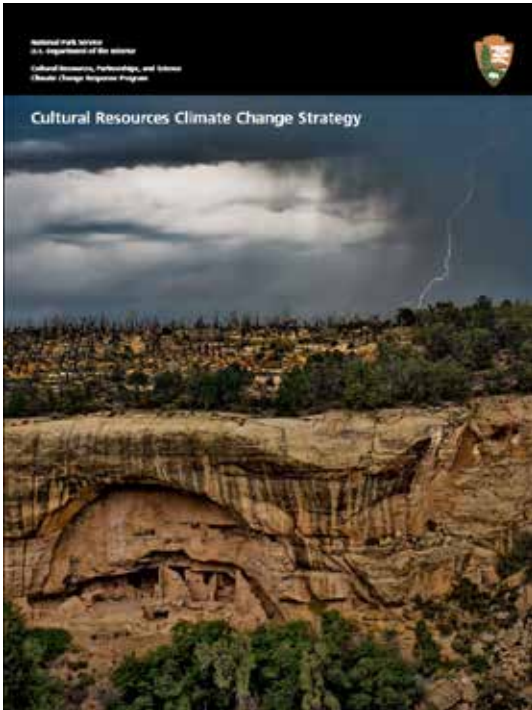
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Recent Publications



Cultural Resources Climate Change Strategy



Taos Pueblo threatened by the 2003 Encebadito Fire (US Forest Service Photo)

Cultural Resources Climate Change Strategy

In January, the NPS released a strategy that connects cultural resources and climate change. The *Cultural Resources Climate Change Strategy* (CRCC Strategy) is a landmark statement for the NPS and its historic preservation partners about how to anticipate, plan for, and respond to the effects of climate change on cultural resources.

From the cliff dwellings of Mesa Verde to the steps of Ellis Island, the National Park System protects a suite of cultural resources—archeological sites, historic structures, museum collections—that provide valuable insight into the experiences of past generations. Additionally, parks support the traditions and lifeways of many indigenous cultures. The collective record preserved within parks of the National Park System provides important evidence about how past generations fared during earlier instances of global change.

Today, rising sea levels and storm surge threaten some coastal fortifications, historic cemeteries, and prehistoric shell middens like those at Everglades National Park. In the American West, increased flooding scours important landscapes and damages historic buildings, including adobe structures at Tumacácori National Historical Park. And in higher latitudes, delicate tools of wood and bone are exposed to air and rapid decay as snow and ice fields melt in places like Gates of the Arctic National Park and Preserve.

Specifically, the CRCC Strategy connects cultural resources to the four pillars of climate change response identified in the 2010 NPS Climate Change Response Strategy: science, adaptation, mitigation, and communication. Approaches and methods from other NPS guidance documents, tools and supporting information, and many park- and partner-based case studies are incorporated throughout.

The CRCC Strategy presents four major goals:

- **Connect Impacts and Information:** managing cultural resources under climate change requires assessing both effects of climate change on cultural resources and the stories and meaning that cultural resources hold about long-term human interactions with our environment
- **Understand the Scope:** additional work is needed to understand the range and thresholds of climate change impacts on cultural resources
- **Integrate Practice:** climate data and related information and approaches (such as scenario planning) should be adapted for the specific needs of cultural resources, and ongoing cultural resources management should incorporate climate data and related information and approaches
- **Learn and Share:** NPS has unique approaches to share, and collaboration with partners nationally and internationally is essential to meet the urgent threats of climate change and preserve global human heritage

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Staff Updates

Cat Hawkins Hoffman Selected as Chief of NPS Climate Change Response Program

Cat Hawkins Hoffman was recently selected as the new Chief of the NPS Climate Change Response Program, and began her new role in January. “Cat’s proven ability to work collaboratively with the public, stakeholders, and other agencies will serve her well as the Climate Change Response Program Chief,” said Ray Sauvajot, Associate Director, Natural Resource Stewardship and Science.

Cat served in an acting capacity in this position since July, 2015, and previously was the National Climate Change Adaptation Coordinator. Her appointment to the NPS Climate Change Response Program in 2010 was her first assignment to a central office position after almost 30 years serving parks in the field. Cat spent the majority of her career at Olympic National Park, where she served as the Chief of Natural Resources Management and as Management Assistant. During her career, she worked at Mount Rainier National Park, Everglades National Park, Cape Lookout National Seashore, as well as detail and special project assignments at Lewis and Clark National Historical Park, Great Smoky Mountains National Park, Katmai National Park and Preserve, and Aniakchak National Monument and Preserve.

“I care deeply about our national parks – what they mean to me, and what they mean to the public and our national heritage,” Cat said, “so I feel personally responsible to do all I can to help parks meet our mission in the context of a rapidly changing environment. There are many challenges on this path, but the NPS and our partners are up to it, and I’m fortunate to have the opportunity to be part of this important work.”

The Climate Change Response Program focuses on supporting national park managers and programs in understanding vulnerabilities to climate change, adapting to a changing environment in all facets of park operations, and supporting collaboration and adaptation approaches among NPS and partners at larger landscape scales.



Cat Hawkins Hoffman

Welcome to Michael Dozier and David Lawrence

We are very pleased to welcome Michael Dozier and Dave Lawrence as the newest members of the Climate Change Response Program.

Michael joins the team as our new Administrative Assistant. Michael’s most recent assignment was at Fort Bowie National Historic Site in Southeastern Arizona where he worked as the sole interpretive ranger. He began his NPS career almost 3 years ago at the Natchez Trace Parkway as a Pathways Interpretive intern. Since then he has helped to support over 700 students in the National Park Service as the chair, and now co-chair, of the Student Engagement Committee, a part of the Innovative Leadership Network (a WASO supported Employee Resource Group). Michael graduated from the University of Mississippi in 2016. He is excited to be part of both CCRP and IMD and to support the staff of both divisions.

Dave Lawrence is an aquatic ecologist by training with a particular focus on climate science and conservation planning at national, regional, and local scales. Prior to his appointment with the NPS, he served as Director of Aquatic Conservation at the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation. In this role, Dave designed and managed a variety of initiatives aimed at enhancing the integrity of aquatic ecosystems across the United States.

Dave completed his Ph.D. at the University of Washington in 2013, where he was a Northwest Climate Science Center fellow. His doctoral research investigated the interactive effects of climate change, land-use alteration, and invasive species on Pacific salmon in rivers of the Northwest. In another component of his PhD, Dave conducted a vulnerability assessment of freshwater resources in 147 NPS units given future predictions of climate change, land use change, and the potential for aquatic invasive species range expansions into parks. Dave also worked as a staff scientist at the University of Washington and the Louisiana Universities Marine Consortium, and as a consultant at Marine Research, Inc., based in Woods Hole, Massachusetts. His fieldwork has taken him to the high seas in Alaska, coastal rivers in the Northeast, the marshes of the Gulf coast, and high desert rivers in the Pacific Northwest.



Michael Dozier



Dave Lawrence

Training Updates



Climate Change Response Program Natural Resource Stewardship and Science

This quarterly newsletter celebrates the latest initiatives and accomplishments by National Park Service sites and programs in response to climate change.

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Social Media



Upcoming ACCO Climate Fundamentals Academy Workshops

Through a standing agreement between the Climate Change Response Program and the Association of Climate Change Officers (ACCO) NPS employees are invited to attend upcoming Climate Fundamental Academy workshops FREE OF CHARGE. The Climate Fundamentals Academy is a three-part series of 2-day training workshops presented by the ACCO that explores climate science and variability, climate hazards and vulnerability assessments, greenhouse gas accounting, the food-water-energy nexus, and fundamental governance and stakeholder engagement strategies.

Upcoming Climate Fundamentals Academies are currently scheduled for:

*National Capital Workshop #3:
May 17-18*

*Northern California Workshop #2:
June 1-2*

*South Florida Workshop #3:
June 26-27*

Full details and registration instructions can be found at the links above. Available seats will be awarded on a first-come, first-serve basis, so early registration is highly encouraged. Supervisory approval is required, and any associated travel will be paid by the benefiting account. Additional workshops will be announced shortly for New England and Southern California. For additional information, please contact Larry Perez at larry_perez@nps.gov

FREE for NPS Employees: One Year of Unlimited ACCO Online Training

The CCRP invites interested NPS employees, partners, and volunteers to enjoy unlimited access to the ACCO library of on-demand and live online training FREE for one full year. This opportunity affords participants unparalleled flexibility to customize training according to their needs and work around busy schedules.

Availability is limited and will be awarded strictly on a first-come, first-serve basis. For instructions on how to register for this opportunity, please contact Larry Perez at larry_perez@nps.gov

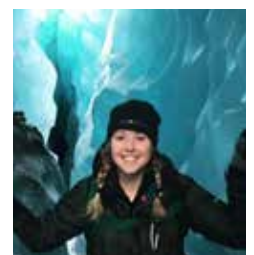
Monthly Webinar Series

Join CCRP for presentations by leading climate change scientists and communicators on the second Tuesday of every month from 2:00 to 3:00 pm EST.

May 11| Every Kid in a Park: Climate Change Program. Join, Ryan Stubblebine, NPS, and Mariah Nelson, No Barriers Youth, as they discuss the inaugural Every Kid in a Park: Climate Change Program at Indiana Dunes National Lakeshore and Cape Cod National Seashore.



Ryan Stubblebine



Mariah Nelson

[Register Here](#)