



National Park Service

August 2022: How's YOUR summer going?

National Park Service sent this bulletin at 08/01/2022 03:50 PM EDT

Having trouble viewing this email? [View it as a Web page.](#)

Climate Re:sponse

Climate Change Response Program
National Park Service
U.S. Department of the Interior



August 2022



Our Thoughts are with Yellowstone. And Yosemite.

And Sunset Crater. And Voyageurs. And Lake Mead. And...

There's no denying parks like Yellowstone and Yosemite hold near-mythical status in the imaginations of many. So when bad things befall such spectacular places, people pay close attention. In June, unprecedented floodwaters brought [catastrophic devastation to areas of Yellowstone](#). Weeks later, the Washburn Fire [threatened to scorch Mariposa Grove in Yosemite](#). These dramatic events garnered a LOT of media attention, with most coverage exploring the role of climate change.

Without rigorous analysis, it's hard to pinpoint the relative influence of climate change on discrete events. But the realities unfolding in our parks are entirely consistent with expected conditions in a rapidly warming world. The thumbprint of climate change is indelible not just in recent disasters at Yellowstone and Yosemite, but in similar events across the National Park System. In the past four months alone, fires burned across [Sunset Crater Volcano](#) and [Bent's Old Fort](#) almost entirely. Flooding impacted infrastructure at [Glacier](#) and [Voyageurs](#). Reservoir levels dropped to historic lows at [Glen Canyon](#) and [Lake Mead](#), while homes at [Cape Hatteras](#) collapsed into the surf.

To all parks working through the aftermath of recent events: we wish you a speedy, climate-informed recovery that helps adapt to future events. If a silver lining is to be found in our hardship, it's this: the high-profile events this summer bring [heightened media awareness of climate impacts](#)—and possible solutions—in national parks. Major outlets published broad-ranging stories about effects across the National Park System. And several pieces explored climate-smart management efforts by the NPS.

The current wave of interest provides valuable opportunities for meaningful public engagement on the issue. This month, we share several resources to get you better acquainted with your site-specific climate stories. Fostering proactive, open dialogue about climate-related challenges is a critical step toward collaborative action that can better safeguard both parks and people.

-The NPS Climate Change Response Program

Climate Change Subject Site on NPS.gov



The servicewide [2010 NPS Climate Change Response Strategy](#) identifies four areas of focus: science, adaptation, mitigation, and communication. These priorities remain as relevant as ever, and the NPS has made progress over the past decade.

The [Climate Change subject site on NPS.gov](#) provides an overview of servicewide efforts under each focus area. The subject site provides great context in which to couch local climate-related issues and your own park-based efforts.

Find Park-specific Climate Science

There's likely a lot more relevant climate science for your park than you may realize. The NPS [Integrated Resource Management Applications \(IRMA\) Data Store](#) is a searchable repository of park science. Enter "climate change" in the search text, and filter results by the unit of your choice. You might be surprised how much you find!

[This page](#) on the NPS.gov Climate Change subject site, provides useful curated collections of climate-related IRMA records for a subset of NPS units. Curated collections for more units will be added in the near future.

[Isle Royale National Park](#)

[Joshua Tree National Park](#)

[Katmai National Park](#)

Upcoming Webinars

Got History?

Have you ever wondered how to link your site to the climate crisis in ways that will connect with visitors and aid climate action? A new toolkit for NPS interpreters expands how we communicate with people about climate change through historical narratives and human agency. Learn about “History and Hope: Interpreting the Roots of Our Climate Emergency and Inspiring Action” via a live webinar on Wednesday, August 10th, 3 pm EST.



[Register here](#)

Speakers: Elizabeth Villano, Lead Ranger Muir Woods National Park; Nichole McHenry, Relevancy, Diversity, and Inclusion Program Manager/Interior Regions 3, 4, 5; Donna Graves, Independent Public Historian.

For Further Reading...

Telling the Full Story

It's easy to get mired in the issues created by climate change. But focusing only on problems can send our audiences bailing faster than D.B. Cooper! [Here's a quick read](#) on the importance of discussing solutions to inspire hope and action. And speaking of solutions, [here are some ideas](#) for encouraging personal, climate-smart actions through an NPS lens.



Not yet subscribed?

Hit the button below to receive climate-related monthly updates from around the National Park Service.

[SUBSCRIBE](#)

View the [archive of past newsletters](#).

If you experience any difficulty accessing the information in this message, please [contact us](#). We will try to assist you as best we can. This may include providing the information to you in an alternate format.

Third-party publications, articles, and products, shared or discussed in this newsletter are provided for informational purposes only and do not necessarily reflect views and policies of the National Park Service or the U.S. Department of the Interior. Mention of trade names or commercial entities does not constitute endorsement or recommendation for use by the U.S. Government.

National Park Service Climate Change Response Program
1201 Oak Ridge Drive, Suite 200, Fort Collins, CO 80525
climate_change@nps.gov

Powered by



[Privacy Policy](#) | [Cookie Statement](#) | [Help](#)