



UNDERSTAND

ADAPT

MITIGATE

COMMUNICATE



NEW NATIONAL PARK SERVICE POLICY MEMORANDUM: MANAGING NATIONAL PARKS IN AN ERA OF CLIMATE CHANGE

On August 19, National Park Service Director Chuck Sams issued [Policy Memorandum 24-03](#), entitled *Managing National Parks in an Era of Climate Change*.

PM 24-03 clarifies direction and responsibilities for managing national park units as climate change alters resources and ecosystems and affects infrastructure and visitor experiences. In particular, it empowers park and program managers to take action, including:

- implementing climate change adaptation actions;
- incorporating climate change response as a key element in planning documents;
- engaging in relevant dialogue about the impact of climate change and how the NPS is responding; and
- engaging in and supporting external planning efforts led by others, such as State and local governments, Tribes, or community partners, that will affect NPS resources.

A supporting [internal \(NPS only\) site](#) has been developed to assist park managers with implementation. The site contains additional information and links to tools, case studies, and training modules.

Guidance provided in PM 24-03 supplements that already found in Policy Memoranda [12-02](#), [14-02](#), and [15-01](#).

The National Park Service (NPS) [Climate Change Response Strategy](#) provides a servicewide blueprint for meeting the challenge of climate change. This monthly newsletter captures notable developments, publications, and successes to inform and inspire similar action across the National Park System and beyond.



This newsletter is published by the NPS Climate Change Response Program. If you experience any difficulty accessing the information in this newsletter, please contact us at:

climate_change@nps.gov

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.

Above: Climate change is rapidly reshaping the most popular inland destination of Kenai Fjords National Park. In response, park managers are proactively [updating the frontcountry management plan](#) to account for present and future change. NPS Image.

IN PRINT AND ONLINE

The [2023 Climate Change in National Parks brochure](#) provides a servicewide overview of park impacts and how the NPS is responding to the challenge. It is an easy way to engage curious visitors on this priority management topic.

The NPS Climate Change Response Program has a limited supply of brochures available for distribution. Interested parks can request a box at climate_change@nps.gov. In your request, please provide a preferred address for FedEx delivery (no P.O. boxes please).



More than one-third of NPS units [currently use their websites](#) to interpret the site-specific relevance of climate change. This month, we're shining a spotlight on **Amistad National Recreation Area**. The park team recently published [this page](#) exploring the implications of climate change on recreational opportunities and archeological resources on the reservoir. The park joins [a steadily growing list of units](#) with dedicated climate change web pages.

Left: A kayaker enjoys a beautiful day on the Amistad Reservoir. NPS Photo.

CLIMATE-RELATED NEWS OF INTEREST

NPS employees prepare to protect people, assets, and infrastructure from climate-related disasters. But [a new article by Reas et al.](#) asks, "What about when it comes to their own well-being?"

It's been yet another summer of record-warm temperatures, particularly at **Death Valley National Park**, where [extreme temperatures](#) resulted in a rash of visitor heat-related incidents.

Extreme weather events like nor'easters may be unavoidable and challenging. But according to [this recent article in Park Science](#), learning effective ways to share information about their impacts can have far-reaching benefits.

New articles published last month compare historical climate patterns at **Capitol Reef** and **Rocky Mountain National Parks** to the range of conditions anticipated for the late 21st century.

NPS museum collections—like those at **Denali National Park and Preserve** and **Klondike Gold Rush and Sitka National Historical Parks**—are protected in perpetuity. But it's nearly guaranteed that there will be a variety of minor and major climate-related disasters in the life of a collection. Funding from the Inflation Reduction Act [is helping parks be proactive](#).

Right: Wildland firefighters in Yosemite National Park. NPS Photo by Jonathan Shafer.



ALL ZION SHUTTLES NOW ZERO-EMISSIONS

On September 4, **Zion National Park** [unveiled a new zero-emission, fully electric fleet of visitor shuttles](#). The new fleet is the culmination of a multi-year partnership with federal, state, local, and non-profit organizations, including \$33 million grant from the U.S. Department of Transportation.

While Zion is the first site in the National Park System to transition to a fully electric transit fleet, the NPS is actively working to transition large bus fleets like those at **Grand Canyon, Acadia, Yosemite, Bryce Canyon National Parks, and Harpers Ferry National Historical Park**.



CALL FOR PAPERS: YOUTH ENGAGEMENT IN CLIMATE CHANGE EDUCATION THROUGH PARK-BASED LEARNING

An upcoming special issue of the open-access journal [Parks Stewardship Forum](#) (PSF) will explore the variety of ways youth can be engaged in climate action through park-based learning. The issue is a continuation of work featured in a previous PSF special issue (May 2020) entitled [America's Largest Classroom: Expanding the Role of Education in our Parks](#).

Researchers, educators, managers, and partners are invited to share case studies, research notes, activity guides, and other inspiring ideas to engage the next generation in transformative and empowering learning experiences.

Editors are also open to creative endeavors (e.g., video, photo, other formats) that represent youth engagement in climate change issues at parks and reflect a wide range of cultural and natural resource issues, applications of social science, and multidisciplinary and multi-agency approaches to climate change action.

See [the full call for papers](#) for submission details. Please note: **the deadline to submit an abstract is November 1!**

Right: A park ranger greets a group of students on a bus as they arrive for a visit to Everglades National Park. NPS image.



GOT CLIMATE-RELATED NEWS?

Do you have a climate-related project, publication, or update you'd like to share? Email your suggestions to climate_change@nps.gov.

Submissions received by the 15th of each month may be published the following month, or held for future newsletters as necessary to meet our editorial calendar. Submissions may be edited to meet length requirements or adhere to editorial style.

This newsletter is distributed primarily—but not exclusively—to employees, volunteers, and partners of the National Park Service.

