



# Climate Change Response Program News

## September 2009



**Mitigation**



**Adaptation**



**Communication**

### Monthly Climate Change Webinar Series

Beginning August 2008, the NPS has been holding monthly web-based seminars on research, mitigation, adaptation, and communication strategies relating to climate change and national parks.

#### Next Webinar October 8, 2:00 pm

Dr. Rebecca Shaw, Director of Conservation for the California Chapter of the Nature Conservancy will address impacts of climate change to America's National Parks. Dr. Shaw will draw from the testimony she gave to the House Subcommittee on Natural Resources, Parks, and Public Lands, Committee on Natural Resources in Joshua Tree National Park, April 7, 2009.

#### View Previous Webinars

Thirteen webinars have been recorded from previous sessions and are available for viewing at: <http://nrpcsharepoint/climatechange/communication/Web%20Seminars/Forms/AllItems.aspx>

### Secretary Salazar Signs New Order on Climate Change

Secretary of Interior, Ken Salazar, launched a department-wide initiative for "Addressing the Impacts of Climate Change on America's Water, Land, and Other Natural and Cultural Resources" on Monday, September 14. Secretarial Order No. 3289 calls for bureaus to collaborate on science and resource management strategies. It replaces Secretarial Order No. 3226, Amendment No. 1, issued January 16, 2009, and reinstates provisions of Secretarial Order No. 3226, issued January 19, 2001.



Secretary Salazar, joined by Deputy Secretary David Hayes and Science Advisor Kit Batten, signs a secretarial order launching the Department of the Interior's coordinated strategy to address climate change.

Major components of the Order include establishing a Climate Change Response Council to be chaired by the Secretary that will include the Assistant Secretaries, Bureau Directors, and the Solicitor; creation of eight "Regional Climate Change Response Centers" that provide impact data and analysis to support climate change adaptation responses; and development of a network of collaborative "Landscape Conservation Cooperatives" to promote implementation of on-the-ground strategies. The Order reemphasizes requirements set forth in Secretarial Orders 3226, to address climate change in planning documents, and 3285, to prioritize development of renewable energy on public lands. In addition, the new Secretarial Order establishes two projects to support climate change mitigation: the Carbon Storage Project, which is aimed at developing carbon sequestration methodologies, and the Carbon Footprint Project, which will develop a unified greenhouse gas emission reduction program. The Order also includes a commitment by the Department to support participation by Native American tribes in deliberations on climate change related initiatives.

The signed Secretarial Order No. 3289 can be downloaded at:  
<http://www.doi.gov/climatechange/index.html>





Senators Mark Udall, D-Colo. And John McCain, R-Ariz. discuss with Ben Bobowski, Chief of Resource Stewardship at Rocky Mountain National Park, how climate change is a factor in the pine beetle epidemic.

## Senate Holds Field Hearing on Climate Change and National Parks

A field hearing of the Subcommittee on National Parks of the Senate Committee on Energy and Natural Resources was held in Estes Park Monday, August 24 at 12:00 p.m. Subcommittee Chair, Sen. Mark Udall of Colorado was joined by Sen. John McCain of Arizona to hear testimony from a panel of four witnesses. Bert Frost, Associate Director for Natural Resource Stewardship and Science testified for the Department of the Interior. Other witnesses were Dr. David Schimel, Senior Scientist, National Center for Atmospheric Research and Chief Executive Officer, National Ecological Observatory Network; Stephen Saunders, President of the Rocky Mountain Climate Organization; and Alice Madden, Climate Change Coordinator for Colorado Governor Bill Ritter. Senators Udall and McCain toured Rocky Mountain National Park prior to the hearing, witnessing firsthand how global warming is impacting the park system. Testimonies can be viewed at: [http://energy.senate.gov/public/index.cfm?FuseAction=Hearings.Hearing&Hearing\\_ID=f137053b-01c2-9600-daa0-120c519d6b24](http://energy.senate.gov/public/index.cfm?FuseAction=Hearings.Hearing&Hearing_ID=f137053b-01c2-9600-daa0-120c519d6b24).



Pikas are one of the species at risk from climate change as temperatures warm in high elevations.

## Wilderness and Climate Change Dialog

The Interagency Wilderness Policy Council convened a one-day dialogue in Washington, D.C., between government and non-governmental professionals to discuss the role of wilderness in understanding the impacts, challenges, and opportunities presented by climate change. The meeting focused on impacts to wilderness, identification of policy issues, opportunities for collaboration, and priority research needs. Over 70 delegates were in attendance. Agency representation included NPS, BLM, FWS, USFS, and USGS, as well as the Aldo Leopold Wilderness Research Institute. Non-governmental participants included Defenders of Wildlife, The Wilderness Society, Alaska Wilderness League, The Nature Conservancy, Wilderness Watch, and the California Academy of Sciences. Presentations are available at: <http://inside.nps.gov/waso/custommenu.cfm?lv=3&prg=813&id=8584>

Contact [Garry Oye@nps.gov](mailto:Garry.Oye@nps.gov).

## Climate Change and Coastal Resources

Geologic and Water Resources Divisions hosted an Oceans and Coastal Park workshop in Boulder, CO August 25-27, 2009. The 55 workshop participants from across the NPS identified climate change as a significant cross-cutting issue for five other key priority areas: (1) fisheries management, (2) invasive species, (3) water quality and watershed management, (4) sediment management and coastal infrastructure, and (5) habitat and ecosystem restoration. Recommendations from the meeting include potential areas of collaboration for NPS Oceans and Climate Change programs. For more information please contact Jeff Cross, Chief, Ocean and Coastal Resources Branch ([jeffrey\\_cross@nps.gov](mailto:jeffrey_cross@nps.gov)).

## Upcoming Workshops & Meetings

“Climate Change in the Southern Appalachians” Southern Appalachian Man and the Biosphere (SAMAB) Workshop, Nov 17-19, 2009, Ashville, NC, <http://www.samab.org/>.

“Predicting the Climate of the Coming Decades” South Floridian Caribbean CESU, Jan. 11-15, 2010, Miami, FL  
[http://www.clivar.org/organization/decadal/rsmas\\_decadal.php](http://www.clivar.org/organization/decadal/rsmas_decadal.php)

AGU Fall meeting, Dec. 14-18, San Francisco, <http://www.agu.org/meetings/fm09/>

“Mid-Atlantic Climate Change Workshop”  
NER, March 23-25, Cambridge, MA,  
[Holly\\_Salazar@nps.gov](mailto:Holly_Salazar@nps.gov);  
[David\\_W\\_Reynolds@nps.gov](mailto:David_W_Reynolds@nps.gov)

Climate Friendly Parks Workshops

- Grand Canyon—October 14-15;  
[Kathryn\\_Parker@nps.gov](mailto:Kathryn_Parker@nps.gov)
- San Francisco Bay Network—Oct 27-28;  
[Judy\\_Rocchio@nps.gov](mailto:Judy_Rocchio@nps.gov)
- Mojave Network—December 1-2;  
[Judy\\_Rocchio@nps.gov](mailto:Judy_Rocchio@nps.gov)

## Using Climate Change Scenarios in Park Planning

Patrick Malone, DSC-Planning, presented a talk on August 7th at the Ecological Society of America's (ESA) annual conference in Albuquerque, NM. The talk was entitled *Using Scenarios to Plan for Climate Change in the National Park Service* and was part of a symposium on ecological change and resilience. The talk provided an overview of scenario planning and presented the results of two case study parks, Assateague Island National Seashore and Wind Cave National Park, both of which were part of a recently completed pilot project. The talk and the conference were both well attended. Scenario planning for climate change is being discussed, debated, utilized, and studied by conservation planners and managers throughout academia, government agencies, and the nonprofit sector.

Contact: [Patrick\\_Malone@nps.gov](mailto:Patrick_Malone@nps.gov).

## Applying Models of Global Climate Change to Natural Resource Management

Scientists and managers met at the Geophysical Fluids Dynamics Laboratory modeling center in Princeton, NJ on August 17<sup>th</sup> to explore management information needs of USDA and DOI related to Global Circulation Model (GCM) output and subsequent model downscaling.

Shawn Carter presented NPS approaches for using model outputs in climate change scenario planning processes. Meeting participants identified the need for greater interdepartmental coordination to improve the link between climate modeling and product development. Meeting results will be used to inform the fifth Assessment Report (AR5) of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC). The first draft of the AR5 is due in 2011. A larger, more technical follow-up meeting on modeling will be held in Aspen, CO the week of September 21st, which Leigh Welling will attend for NPS. Contacts: [Shawn\\_Carter@nps.gov](mailto:Shawn_Carter@nps.gov) or [Leigh\\_Welling@nps.gov](mailto:Leigh_Welling@nps.gov).

## The Pacific Island Network Global Climate Change Workshop

The Pacific West Region's Honolulu Office hosted a Global Climate Change workshop in the Pacific Island Network on August 26-27 in Honolulu. The workshop focused on climate change adaptation for resource managers and cultural practitioners. Participants included NPS, FWS, the State of Hawaii, The Nature Conservancy, NOAA, Native Hawaiian organizations, and others. Chris Shaver, ARD Chief and Dave Graber, PWR Chief Scientist, were among panel presenters. The diverse participants discussed a range of topics from how organizations are reinterpreting their goals in light of climate change to current management tools. Lively discussions ensued on incorporating native voices into western science-dominated climate change decision-making. Recommendations and cross-organizational collaboration opportunities will be discussed in September by the Hawaii Conservation Alliance, a local conservation consortium. Contact [Darcy\\_Hu@nps.gov](mailto:Darcy_Hu@nps.gov).

### More Information

This monthly newsletter provides updates on events, projects, and products relating to NPS efforts to manage our parks in a changing climate. Please submit entries COB Friday, first week of the month.

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### Comments, Suggestions, Submissions, Subscriptions

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Climate Change Intern

## Steering Committee Updates

- The Steering Committee is currently drafting the outline for a strategic framework for an NPS response to the challenge of climate change. The draft outline is expected to be presented to the National Leadership Council's November meeting. Contact: Leigh\_Welling@nps.gov.
- The Mitigation Working Group met in Golden, CO August 26-27, concurrently with the Sustainability Working Group for Park Planning, Facilities and Lands. Operations and Climate Change Division. The Mitigation Working Group is developing a list of actions and commitments that, after vetting by the Steering Committee, will be recommended to the new NPS Director for promoting leadership by example within NPS. Contact: Bob\_Krumenaker@nps.gov.

## Regional News

### Northeast Region

- Northeast Region funded a new strategy to improve the ability to assess the risk of coastal parks to sea level rise and storm surge by improving the accuracy of elevation data. Contact Nigel\_Shaw@nps.gov
- A multi agency group including the NPS, FWS and NOAA met recently to focus on developing an ocean stewardship messaging literacy strategy. The final product should be available by October. Contact Rick\_Harris@nps.gov.

### Pacific West Region

- Point Reyes National Seashore has integrated climate change planning into their Resource Stewardship Strategy (RSS), choosing to highlight scenario and adaptation planning as the top priorities. Most importantly for the near term, "hedging" or "no regrets" strategies, which increase the resilience of ecological systems to withstand change, will be ranked highest on the priority list of management activities. Contact Natalie\_Gates@nps.gov.
- Point Reyes initiated public scoping on September 1, 2009 for a sea level rise adaptation project. The Park will evaluate conceptual alternatives to adapt the footprint, elevation, and operation of a parking area and access trails to anticipated changes in sea level. A parking lot constructed in the 1960s is regularly impacted by flooding. Contact Natalie\_Gates@nps.gov.



Point Reyes parking lot and visitor access may be impacted by sea level rise.