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## MANAGING AMIDST CONTINUOUS CHANGE: SHARING, LEARNING, AND WORKING ACROSS BORDERS

Protected areas around the world differ in mission, organization, and function. But—to varying degrees and in varying ways—they are universally impacted by our rapidly warming world. As our global landscapes respond to novel conditions, global efforts become increasingly important.

Among other actions, Goal 12 of the NPS [Climate Change Response Strategy](#) calls upon our employees to “share our successes and the lessons we learn to support and inspire climate-informed action beyond our borders” both nationally and abroad. To that end, the NPS continues a long tradition of international cooperation to address climate-related management challenges.

Over the years, the NPS has collaborated with [Parks Canada](#), [South African National Parks](#), and [Parks Victoria](#), among others. These efforts yielded the publication of important climate science, the delivery of applied scenario planning workshops, and the development of guidance to support climate-smart management.

This summer, NPS staff participated in several new collaborations with international colleagues. These included climate-smart management training for Thai protected area managers, learning exchanges with Peruvian park professionals, and site visits by Scandinavian land managers. These efforts have already unearthed new insights and opportunities to advance the respective missions of our organizations in the face of climate change.

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](mailto:climate_change@nps.gov)

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Above: Protected area managers from Finland, Norway, and Sweden recently participated in a week-long learning exchange on climate change with the NPS, which included visits to Rocky Mountain, Grand Teton, and Yellowstone National Parks. NPS Image.

# YOU DOWN WITH GPP? (AND CFP?)

The NPS is working hard to improve sustainability throughout its operations and is excited to share the internal release of the [Green Parks Plan \(GPP\) Dashboard](#) (internal DOI access only). The dashboard outlines a robust update of progress made towards achieving the goals and objectives outlined in [the third edition of the GPP](#).

The GPP Dashboard is designed for a wide range of internal NPS users, including parks, regions, and support offices. The dashboard provides a way to measure, manage, and communicate sustainability performance servicewide.

The GPP Dashboard supports the sharing and development of a sustainability culture with the NPS workforce. Should you have questions about the GPP Dashboard, please check out the [Sustainable Operations and Maintenance Branch \(SOMB\) SharePoint site](#) (DOI only) or reach out to the SOMB Program Manager, Shawn Norton ([shawn\\_norton@nps.gov](mailto:shawn_norton@nps.gov)).

Congratulations to **St. Croix National Scenic Riverway** for becoming [the latest Climate Friendly Park in the NPS!](#) As part of the process, staff at St. Croix first conducted a greenhouse gas emissions inventory of park operations. Using the results, they created [a three-part climate action plan](#) to reduce emissions, expand communications, and adapt to changing conditions.

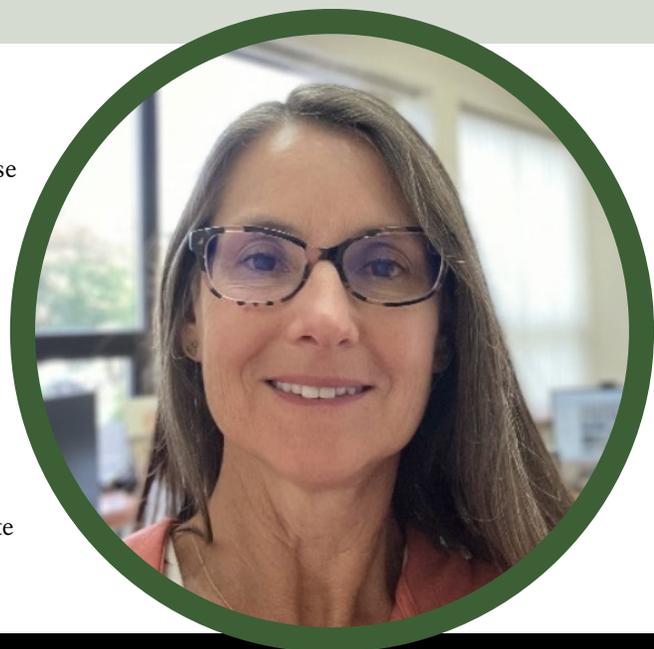
To date, over 150 units have received recognition as a Climate Friendly Park (CFP). The CFP Program supports the [NPS Green Parks Plan](#) by providing tools and resources to address climate change and improve the sustainability of park operations. For more about how to get involved or reengage with the program, visit the [NPS Sustainable Operations and Maintenance Branch \(SOMB\) SharePoint Site](#) (DOI only).



## INTRODUCING KARIN GRANTHAM!

Karin Grantham recently joined the Cultural Resources Climate Change team as the Climate Change Archeologist. In this role, she will work closely with Cultural Resources, Partnerships, and Science directorate staff, the Climate Change Response Program, and others to develop resources, establish programs, and steward special projects that respond to climate impacts on archeological sites and resources.

Karin was most recently the Program Manager for Resource Management and Science at Redwood National and State Parks. Throughout her career at Redwood NP, she acted as a liaison between the park and several federally recognized Tribes comprised of Yurok, Tolowa, and Chilula people whose ancestral lands are now in the parks. She has direct experience in co-stewarding a variety of cultural resources impacted by climate change alongside Tribal partners. “I am especially interested in how best to support parks regarding impacts of climate change on cultural resources through science, partnerships, collaborations, and co-stewardship, and also in information sharing far beyond the NPS.”



# CLIMATE-RELATED NEWS OF INTEREST

In places like **Wrangell-St. Elias** and **Lake Clark National Parks and Preserves**, warming temperatures are quickly melting snow and ice packs. As they recede, [NPS archeologists are on the hunt](#) to save sensitive artifacts from exposure and rapid decay.

The NPS manages numerous water supplies of critical importance for people and ecosystems. [Two projects recently funded under the Inflation Reduction Act](#) will help evaluate and protect these resources against climate change impacts and other stressors.

A new [USGS fact sheet](#) explores how relative sea level rise and high tide flooding could impact the shores of **San Juan National Historic Site**.

Are muskoxen found in **Gates of the Arctic National Park and Preserve** and **Bering Land Bridge National Preserve** the beneficiaries of “inadvertent climate refugia”? Perhaps, according to [this new paper by Hayes and Berger](#).

The NPS is working with scientists and land managers to [support salt marsh conservation in the face of climate change](#) and other impacts across nine parks, including **Fire Island** and **Assateague Island National Seashores**.

Climate-related disasters can be worsened by the introduction or spread of invasive species during recovery operations. [A new white paper](#) by the **National Invasive Species Council** explores possible management strategies to reduce the risk.

Climate impacts increasingly challenge the traditional management of Marine Protected Areas (MPAs), such as those at **Dry Tortugas** and **Channel Islands National Parks**. Cannizzo et al. provide [five key recommendations](#) for the climate-smart management of MPAs.

What does climate change mean for the management of sagebrush ecosystems in national parks and wildlife refuges? [A new paper by Sparklin et al.](#) suggests prioritizing protection in areas of future climate suitability could be successful.

*Right: An ice patch located in the Nutzotin Mountains of Wrangell-St. Elias National Park & Preserve. NPS Photo.*



## 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](mailto: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.

