



# Climate Change Response Program News November 2009



**MITIGATION**



**ADAPTATION**



**COMMUNICATION**

## Monthly Climate Change Webinar Series

Join colleagues and friends for our monthly web-based seminars on climate change and national parks.

2<sup>nd</sup> Thursday of every month  
2:00 pm - 3:30 pm EST

### Next Webinar: Dec 10, 2009

This will be a presentation from the U.S. Geological Survey's Nathaniel Plant, Saint Petersburg Science Center & Rob Theiler, Coastal and Marine Geology Program. Their presentation will be based on answering questions they received from the field about sea level rise.

Fourteen webinars have been recorded from previous sessions and are available for viewing at:

<http://nrpcsharepoint/climatechange/communication/Web%20Seminars/Forms/AllItems.aspx>

## Parks Climate Challenge — a Success in 2009

Parks Climate Challenge, a program sponsored by the National Park Foundation, trains high school aged leaders in the science and effects of climate change through an immersion experience in national parks. These young leaders take what they learn in the parks and apply it to their own communities, beginning a ripple effect of learning and enthusiasm for the health of our resources. In its inaugural year, twenty high school youth from five cities – Chicago, Denver, San Francisco, Seattle and Washington, D.C. – traveled to North Cascades National Park in Washington State to participate in a one-month experiential education program conducted by the North Cascades Institute in partnership with the park. The students completed service learning projects in order to heighten the experience and develop their sense of appreciation for our nation's natural heritage.

A month after leaving North Cascades, these students traveled to Washington, D.C. to learn from experts in climate change like community organizers and leaders of federal agencies involved in addressing climate change, primarily the National Park Service. These meetings solidified their experience at North Cascades and allowed them time to develop a solid plan for a service project addressing climate change in their home community. Finally, the twenty leaders hosted a service project on the National Mall for high school and elementary aged youth from Washington, D.C. Upon returning to their homes across the nation, these students will visit regularly with an elementary school class to share their experience and teach them about climate change, energy conservation, and national parks. For more information about the Parks Climate Challenge check out the website at:

<http://www.nationalparks.org/npf-at-work/parks-climate-challenge/>



Students participating in the Parks Climate Challenge in Washington D.C. Photo by Benjamin Drummond and Sara Steele, 2009.



## Upcoming Workshops & Meetings

"Climate Change in the Southern Appalachians," Southern Appalachian Man and the Biosphere (SAMAB) Workshop, in Ashville, NC on November 17-19, 2009.

<http://www.samab.org>

Intermountain Regional Office hosts a Sustainability Workshop in Lakewood, CO on December 1-3, 2009.

Inventory and Monitoring Advisory Council Meeting at Biscayne National Park in Miami, FL on December 7-10, 2009.

<http://www1.nrintra.nps.gov/im/imac>

PWR Climate Friendly Parks Workshop Mojave Network at Lake Mead, NV on December 1-2, 2009.

[Judy\\_Rocchio@nps.gov](mailto:Judy_Rocchio@nps.gov)

"Predicting the Climate of the Coming Decades," South Floridian Caribbean CESU, in Miami, FL on January 11-15, 2010.

[http://www.clivar.org/organization/decadal/rsmas\\_decadal.php](http://www.clivar.org/organization/decadal/rsmas_decadal.php)

Earth to Sky hosts the fourth annual workshop on Communicating Climate Change, at Mather Training Center in WV on February 1-5, 2010.

[John\\_Morris@nps.gov](mailto:John_Morris@nps.gov)

"Mid-Atlantic Climate Change Workshop" NER, in Cambridge, MD on March 23-25, 2010. **Please note location correction to Maryland.**

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## Climate Change Adaptation Listening Session

The Climate Change Adaptation Interagency Committee is organizing a series of listening sessions to gain broad input from across the nation on climate change adaptation strategies in the effort to develop a national framework. Sponsoring agencies will invite representatives from several different sectors to a variety of sessions. These session will engage representatives from development assistance and humanitarian relief organizations, local, state and tribal governments, energy and industrial organizations, utility companies, environmental and coastal organizations, national security organizations, private sector businesses, private sector agriculture and forestry, private sector transportation and energy organizations. Shawn Carter and Leigh Welling took the lead for DOI as the sponsoring agency for a listening session focused on state and tribal government input held November 15<sup>th</sup> and 16<sup>th</sup>. Contact: [Shawn\\_Carter@nps.gov](mailto:Shawn_Carter@nps.gov)

## Native Peoples, Native Homelands Climate Change Workshop

Indigenous Peoples, whose cultural identity and livelihoods are tied to the well being of their homelands, are particularly vulnerable to adverse climate change impacts. At the NASA-sponsored "Native Peoples, Native Homelands Climate Change Workshop" on November 18<sup>th</sup> -21<sup>st</sup> in Minneapolis, MN, Indigenous organizations from every region of the United States, as well as representatives from NASA, NOAA, USGS, USDA, and NPS, gathered to coordinate a response to climate change. They developed strategies to build healthy local economies through renewable energy development, the improvement of sustainable housing, food production and transportation, and the education and empowerment of Native youth. Notable leaders in climate change and Indigenous cultural preservation attended, including Dr. Daniel Wildcat and Winona LaDuke, as well as NPS representatives Keola Awong, Hawaii Volcanos NP; Jenny Coffman, War in the Pacific NP; and Melanie Graham, Climate Change Response. The NPS can play an important role in collaborating with Indigenous Peoples to mitigate and adapt to the impacts of climate change in a way that is culturally appropriate, environmentally just, and benefits all stakeholders. A result of the workshop is "The Mystic Lake Declaration," a document which incorporates the many perspectives and solutions of attendees to climate change on tribal lands. To view this document, and for more information, go to: <http://www.nativepeoplesnativehomelands.org/>  
Contact: [Melanie\\_Graham@contractor.nps.gov](mailto:Melanie_Graham@contractor.nps.gov)



Drafters working on the Mystic Lake Declaration at the Native Peoples, Native Homelands Climate Change Workshop 2009. Photo by Dick Bancroft

### Climate Related Links:

NPS Climate Change Response

<http://nrpcsharepoint/climatechange>

National Parks Conservation Association fact sheets on the economic value to park-area communities of natural resource restoration. [www.npca.org/climatechange/economic\\_benefits](http://www.npca.org/climatechange/economic_benefits)

Greater Yellowstone Area Science Agenda, addressing climate change, invasive species, and land use change. <http://www.greateryellowstonescience.org/gyascienceworkshop>

Climate Assessment in the Southwest (CLIMAS)

<http://inpniscsmoss:3000/sites/NPS2/KLMNGIS/default.aspx>

U.S Global Change Research Program, integrating federal research on climate and global change.

<http://globalchange.gov>

## Klamath Network GIS Standards Project

Analyzing and predicting threats to cultural resources from climate change requires datasets and analytical capability beyond what the National Park Service currently employs. At present, parks use different methods of documenting the spatial aspects of cultural resources which makes it difficult to conduct analysis at a scale beyond an individual park. Responding to climate change also requires input from professionals with many different skill sets, including GIS analysts, fire archaeologists, and local cultural resource specialists. The goal of the Klamath Network GIS Standards Project is to standardize, collect data, and create a framework to enable us to assess impacts using analytical GIS models that cross-cut park boundaries and allow collaboration and data sharing between specialists.

Project web site: <http://inpniscsmoss:3000/sites/NPS2/KLMNGIS/default.aspx>

Contact: [Jay\\_Flaming@nps.gov](mailto:Jay_Flaming@nps.gov)

## Science for Nature Symposium

The World Wildlife Fund hosted the 2009 Science for Nature Symposium, "Securing Water for Nature and People in a Changing Climate," at the Smithsonian National Museum of Natural History in Washington, D.C., November 3<sup>rd</sup>-4<sup>th</sup>. Shawn Carter attended the symposium which provided a state-of-the-science review of climate impacts on freshwater systems, challenges to freshwater ecosystem conservation, the role of adaptation in water management, and a platform for the development of an adaptation based conservation agenda. For more information, go to:

<http://www.worldwildlife.org/science/fellowships/fuller/fuller-symposium-2009.html>

Contact: [Shawn\\_Carter@nps.gov](mailto:Shawn_Carter@nps.gov)

## Wild 9 Conference

The 9<sup>th</sup> World Wilderness Congress (Wild 9) was held on November 3<sup>rd</sup> - 14<sup>th</sup> in Merida, Mexico. This results-oriented conservation effort focused on wilderness areas and the ecosystem services they provide in the context of climate change and other transboundary issues. Eight individuals represented NPS at the Congress, including Director Jarvis who participated in the signing ceremony on Saturday, Nov 7<sup>th</sup>, for an MOU on "Cooperation for Wilderness Conservation between Mexico, Canada and the United States." For more information, go to: [www.wild09.org](http://www.wild09.org)

## Great Lakes Restoration Initiative

The National Park Service and Pictured Rocks National Lakeshore have been awarded a portion of the "Great Lakes Restoration Initiative" funded by Environmental Protection Agency. A "community climate change outreach and sustainable lifestyle" program will be developed this fiscal year within Great Lakes Gateway Communities. The project will focus on ways residents can reduce their carbon footprint by modifying their habits and retrofitting their homes and businesses. A matching grant program through a non-profit organization will enable the public to influence real change in their energy consumption behavior that effects climate change impacts and response in National Parks. For more information, go to: <http://www.epa.gov/glnpo/glri>. Contact: [Gregg\\_Bruff@nps.gov](mailto:Gregg_Bruff@nps.gov)



Pictured Rocks National Lakeshore,  
Munising, MI.

### More Information

This newsletter is a monthly forum to share the latest news relating to NPS efforts to manage our parks in a changing climate.

#### Climate Change Response Program

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#### Comments, Submissions

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## Climate Friendly Parks Update

The Climate Friendly Parks (CFP) program is a joint partnership between the Sustainable Operations and Climate Change (SOCC) Branch of the Facility Management Division and the Air Resources Division. This program is currently working with close to 100 parks, which are in varying stages of the membership process, to become CFP Member Parks. In October and November, Grand Canyon NP, New River Gorge NR and the San Francisco Area Network parks each held a CFP workshop to aid in the development of Climate Action Plans for their parks to demonstrate leadership in environmental stewardship, sustainability and climate change response. These action plans will build on existing sustainability initiatives within the park, create new actions that will engage park staff and the surrounding communities, and demonstrate simple and innovative ways to reduce waste and energy consumption. The parks will develop their action plans over the next five months and, once finalized, will become CFP Member Parks. In the near future, three other Pacific West Region parks (LAME, CRLA and HALE) will host regional workshops and several parks in the National Capitol Region are also beginning the process of becoming CFP Member Parks.

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### Climate Friendly Parks workshop at New River Gorge NR

On November 4<sup>th</sup> -5<sup>th</sup>, New River Gorge National River conducted a Climate Friendly Parks workshop, which brought together over 50 participants, including park staff, community members, NGOs and other stakeholders. It served to educate participants about climate change and mitigation options, and to develop a draft Climate Action Plan for the park. During the two day event, the park hosted speakers from I&M, local school systems and Great Smoky Mountain NP, among others, to talk about the impacts of climate change and best practices for reducing energy use. On the second day of the event, participants broke into working groups to brainstorm specific actions the park can take to reduce greenhouse gas emissions and integrate local community stakeholders. These ideas will be incorporated into the action plan that the park will implement once it becomes a CFP Member Park.

Contact: [Julie\\_Thomas\\_McNamee@nps.gov](mailto:Julie_Thomas_McNamee@nps.gov)

### Climate Friendly Parks workshop at San Francisco Maritime NHP

From October 27<sup>th</sup> - 29<sup>th</sup>, San Francisco Maritime hosted a CFP workshop for several parks, including the Presidio, Devils Postpile NM, Point Reyes NS, John Muir/Eugene O'Neil/Rosie the Riveter, and Pinnacles NM. Using this regional model, staff from these six parks in the Pacific West Region attended and individually drafted Climate Action Plans for their park. San Francisco Maritime also hosted regional representatives and staff from alumni CFP Member Parks and USGS, who gave background presentations about pertinent topics including lessons learned, best practices, and the impacts of climate change in the region. These six parks comprised the first of several regional or "cluster" workshops that will take place in the Pacific West Region over the next six months in order to achieve its ambitious goal to have all parks in the region become CFP Member Parks by the end of 2010.

Contact: [Judy\\_Rocchio@nps.gov](mailto:Judy_Rocchio@nps.gov)

### Advisory Groups

Several advisory groups have been established to help the CCRP address climate change agency wide.

#### Climate Change Response Steering Committee:

The monthly call was held Tuesday, November 24, 2009, at 12 pm MST. For more information about the committee and call notes, go to:

<http://nrpcsharepoint/climatechange/CCR%20Steering%20Committee/Forms/AllItems.aspx>

#### Working Groups:

Policy, Planning, Science, Mitigation, Communication & Adaptation.

For more information about the steering committee or work groups contact:

[Melanie\\_Graham@contractor.nps.gov](mailto:Melanie_Graham@contractor.nps.gov)