The Sea Doesn’t Preserve Unimpaired: The US National Park Service Program and Vision for Cultural Heritage and Climate Change

Keeping History Above Water
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“...there is hereby created in the Department of the Interior a service to be called the National Park Service...

which purpose is to conserve the scenery and the natural and historic objects and the wild life therein and to provide for the enjoyment of the same in such manner and by such means as will leave them unimpaired for the enjoyment of future generations.”
NPS Climate Change Response Strategy

**Science**
*Working w. data, trends, observations:*
- Climate Projections/Modeling
- Inventory/Monitoring

**Adaptation**
*What to do with data – decisions, planning:*
- Natural Resources & Cultural Resources Management
- Scenario Planning
- Facilities Management

**Mitigation**
*Reducing NPS environmental footprint:*
- Reducing C Emissions
- Improving Sustainability

**Communication**
*Sharing, learning, and engaging NPS and public w. Science, Adaptation, and Mitigation:*
- Interpreter Training
- New Exhibits
- Intern & Fellowship Programs
"One of the most precious values of the national parks is their ability to teach us about ourselves and how we relate to the natural world. This important role may prove invaluable in the near future as we strive to understand and adapt to a changing climate."

— NPS Director Jon Jarvis, October 28, 2009
“NPS cultural resource management must keep in mind that (1) cultural resources are primary sources of data regarding human interactions with environmental change; and (2) changing climates affect the preservation and maintenance of cultural resources.”
for Climate Change-Cult. Heritage

human-environment history contained within resources

Communication

• Cult. resources climate change (CR-CC) literacy
• Dialogue between impacts and information in all pillars
• Links between CR-CC managers-researchers (local-international)
• CR-CC links to public
February 2016 global temperature sets new record for highest monthly departure from average
Thank you

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