

Unnatural Disaster:

Global Warming and Our National Parks

It's not too late to save our national parks from the worst effects of climate change. See the Action Center on page 45 for things we can do now to protect our national parks for future generations.



GATES OF THE ARCTIC (AK)
YUKON-CHARLEY (AK)
GLACIER BAY (AK)

Caribou ranges and population size may become less predictable, affecting the diet and culture of native Alaskans who rely on them.

KATMAI (AK)

Ocean warming may drive salmon out of southern Alaska and warmer rivers may increase parasites that make salmon unusable.

WRANGELL-ST. ELIAS (AK)

Thawing permafrost will damage infrastructure and reduce the size and location of ponds on which waterfowl depend.

NORTH CASCADES (WA)

Seventy to 90 percent of the snow pack could disappear by the end of this century, threatening winter sports and water supplies.

OLYMPIC (WA)

Warmer winters and more extreme precipitation events could increase winter flood risk.

LEWIS AND CLARK (OR)

Earlier snowmelts and spring flooding can decimate already-stressed salmon populations.

YOSEMITE (CA)

Warming and drought have made wildfire season longer and more damaging, and increased insect damage.

SEQUOIA and KINGS CANYON (CA)

Warmer temperatures will worsen ground-level ozone problems. Increasing wildfires will contribute more smoke and airborne particulates.

APPALACHIAN NATIONAL SCENIC TRAIL (ME-NH-VT-MA-CT-NY-NJ-PA-MD-VA-WV-NC-TN-GA)

More floods can lead to higher landslide risk, threatening portions of the high elevation trail, and communities that lie below.

CHESAPEAKE BAY (DC-MD-DE-NY-PA-VA-WV)

Warmer water is likely to increase outbreaks of two dangerous oyster diseases.

HISTORIC JAMESTOWNE (VA)

Jamestown celebrated its 400th anniversary in 2007, but much of the park could be under water before its 500th anniversary.

SHENANDOAH (VA)

More droughts, floods, and warmer streams can diminish native trout populations.

BLUE RIDGE PARKWAY (VA-NC-TN)

Warmer summers can produce more ozone pollution and more "code red" air quality days, increasing health risks for visitors.

GREAT SMOKY MOUNTAINS (TN-NC)

Rare and ancient forests may be threatened by increasing ground-level ozone and insect pests unleashed by warming.

FORT RALEIGH (NC)

CAPE HATTERAS (NC)

WRIGHT BROTHERS NATIONAL MONUMENT (NC)

FORT SUMTER (SC)

DRY TORTUGAS (FL)

FORT PULASKI (GA)

GULF ISLANDS NATIONAL SEASHORE (MS-FL)

Sea level rise, increasing storm strength, and flooding threaten low-lying historic areas and historical structures that tell the story of our nation from its earliest days.

EVERGLADES (FL)

More powerful hurricanes combined with sea level rise could destroy park buildings and roads, increasingly cutting-off visitor access.

BISCAYNE (FL)

DRY TORTUGAS (FL)

Rising, warming, and acidifying seas threaten coral reefs and sport fishing. Toxic or unusual algal blooms may threaten wildlife and tourism.

