

# CLEAN AIR 4 PARKS

## CLEAN POWER PLAN



## Forward, Not Backward

Climate change is the greatest threat facing our national parks and people across the world. But the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) is taking strident measures to strip the U.S. of necessary rules to curb climate pollution.

Day by day, climate change tears away at the fabric of national park ecosystems. Glacier, Joshua Tree and Saguaro risk losing their namesake features. Warming water threatens the existence of species like Shenandoah's native brook trout. Record-breaking wildfires are devastating forested parks like Rocky Mountain and Yosemite. Everglades and other coastal parks are losing shoreline and critical protection against storms.

Outdated coal power plants are a main source of carbon dioxide pollution that drives these dangerous changes. The Clean Power Plan (CPP) sets common sense, necessary limits on this otherwise unchecked pollution.

Unfortunately, EPA is taking steps to repeal the CPP, removing one of the parks' best hopes for the future. Join NPCA in urging EPA to reduce climate pollution—not to roll back the plan to do so.

"The speed, severity and extent of climate related change in Glacier National Park is incredible in my short 50-year observational period... It's happening too fast for many species to adapt."

— Jack Potter

Retired National Park Service Chief of Science and Resource Management, Glacier National Park; member of Coalition to Protect America's National Parks

Top: Joshua Tree National Park  
Above: Navajo Generating Station  
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## A Critical Plan to Cut Pollution

2015

Adopted in 2015, the Clean Power Plan is built on sound science and established law. It includes extensive input from industry, states, public health professionals, the conservation community, and many others. Repeal would undo the plan while sacrificing significant economic, public health and environmental benefits by 2030.



According to the EPA, if the Clean Power Plan were left in place it could prevent **90,000 asthma attacks** each year and deliver net economic benefits of **\$26-45 billion**.<sup>1</sup> Keeping the CPP would also reduce unhealthy pollution that forms haze in national parks by **45%** and avoid **4,500 premature deaths**.<sup>2</sup>

2030

1. EPA 2015 Overview of the Clean Power Plan, [bit.ly/EPA\\_CPP\\_Overview](http://bit.ly/EPA_CPP_Overview)  
2. EPA 2017 Regulatory Impact Analysis, [bit.ly/EPA\\_CPP\\_RIA](http://bit.ly/EPA_CPP_RIA)

# Unchecked Climate Pollution = Unparalleled Consequences

Until policies to reduce carbon dioxide pollution are implemented, power plant emissions will continue to exacerbate the already alarming consequences that national parks and people are experiencing. Here are some of the ways climate change is harming parks.

## WASHED AWAY

Visitor centers, campgrounds, bathrooms, roads and bridges are essential to the functioning of national parks. This infrastructure is also often vulnerable to extreme weather magnified by climate-disrupting pollution.

In 2017, stunningly powerful hurricanes of unprecedented size, strength and speed devastated coastal national parks like the Virgin Islands, Everglades and Biscayne.

Hurricanes Harvey, Irma and Maria left behind enormous wreckage that will require costly, extensive repairs to national park sites in nine states and territories.

Extreme weather is harming national parks all over the country, not just along hurricane alley. In the spring of 2017, in a theoretically rare (but ever more common) 1-in-1,000 year rain event, Ozark National Scenic Riverways lost an estimated 25% of the park's facilities—campgrounds and other visitor services—along the rivers.

The park supports local businesses bringing in over \$53 million annually to nearby communities. They are still recovering from the flooding; some parts of the park remain totally closed. Damages are estimated at \$9 billion.



Top and bottom left: Damage in Everglades National Park ©John Adornado III; Top right: Campground closure in Ozark National Scenic Riverways ©Chris Goepfert Above: Pika ©Alan D. Wilson



## WILDLIFE AT RISK

Climate changes are also taking a toll on park wildlife. Rising temperatures in Yellowstone, for example, are killing whitebark pine trees—a critical source of nutrition for grizzly bears.

At Isle Royale National Park on Lake Superior, ice bridges have historically let new wolves reach the park, providing crucial genetic diversity. But in a warmer world, the lake doesn't freeze over as frequently. Just two wolves are left on the island, and the absence of the park's top predator is changing the whole ecosystem. A natural recovery is unlikely, so the park service is introducing more wolves.

In Yosemite, Glacier and other parks with alpine zones, the endearing pika, a small mouse-like creature, is literally running out of places to go. As hotter temperatures shrink its natural habitat and food supply, the sensitive pika's ability to survive is stressed. It faces extinction within decades.

## SPEAK UP!

Join us in the fight to save the Clean Power Plan. To learn more, visit: [npca.org/advocacy/77-fighting-to-keep-the-clean-power-plan](http://npca.org/advocacy/77-fighting-to-keep-the-clean-power-plan)

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