



NATIONAL *fish, wildlife & plants*
CLIMATE ADAPTATION STRATEGY

Project Title: Training developed for front-line interpreters and educators to effectively communicate about climate change

Headline Title (2-5 words): Interpreting Climate Change Competency

Brief Summary (Abstract): The NPS provides training to interpretive staff who work in parks in order to build capacity and create a cohesive and consistent approach to agency climate change communication messages. The role of NPS interpreters and communication professionals with regard to climate change is a critical one. Engaging with staff and park visitors about the science of climate change, climate change effects on park resources, and what the NPS is doing to mitigate and adapt to the changes helps to increase knowledge of this issue, shape agency direction, accelerate public awareness and understanding, and maximize protection of park resources.

Project Location: Nationwide

Partners: NPS Climate Change Response Program and Mather Training Center

Project Goals: To give the front line interpreter or communicator tools to effectively engage audiences in communication about climate change. To train staff in understanding the NPS orientation to the issue, site-specific climate impacts, and audience perspectives and values on the topic, as well as utilize a number of appropriate techniques for engaging with audiences on climate change.

Strategy Goals Implemented: Goal 6, strategy 6.2, actions 6.2.8: Develop strategy to assess effectiveness of communication efforts and modify as appropriate.

Climate Impacts Addressed: all

Status of Project Implementation (Timeline, Milestones, Next Steps):

- A 4-day virtual course is currently offered twice per year and is open to any communicator / interpreter in the NPS or partner agencies
- The curriculum and course content is available online as a self-study course for those who cannot attend the 4-day virtual course.
- Past course participants are part of a community practice through an active forum on Facebook.
- To date roughly 120 participants have attend one of the virtual courses.

Funding Sources: National Park Service

Website: <http://idp.eppley.org/competencies/specialist/interpreting-climate-change>