

Global Change Update

The Service's Global Change Research Program has approved 14 new research projects in 8 biogeographic areas to complement the 14 projects commenced in FY 1991. 4 new biogeographic areas (Central Grasslands, Gulf Coast, Sonoran Desert, and South Florida) and a new thematic initiative (coral reefs) join the 6 areas with ongoing work (Colorado Rockies, Glacier NP Area, Olympic Peninsula, Ozark Highlands, Southern and Central Sierra Nevada, and Western Great Lakes) to enhance the list of areas with approved proposals.

Specific projects slated to begin this year include research on holocene paleoenvironments in Western Great Lakes parks, effects of global change on Colorado Rockies vegetation, projecting climate and vegetation change for the Central Grasslands, and dynamics of the Southwest Florida mangrove/marsh fringe belt.

The Global Change Research Program has progressed greatly toward its goal of being a complete, well-integrated program. The newly approved projects fill many geographical and topical gaps in the initiative. As program funding increases, we will commence research in more of the 20 included biogeographic areas, further increasing our understanding of global change, and enhancing our ability to generate results useful for resource management.

The program's new booklet, "Global Change Research in U.S. National Parks," provides an overview of the Service's program, as well as thumbnail sketches of the areas in which we're currently pursuing, or planning to pursue, research. To obtain a copy, contact Dr. Peter L. Comanor, Global Change Program Coordinator, WASO Wildlife and Vegetation Division, P.O. Box 37127, Washington, DC 20013-7127.