



George Melendez Wright Initiative for Young Leaders in Climate Change 2015 Final Internship Report

The Climate Change Response Program (CCRP) successfully conducted the first year of the George Melendez Wright Initiative for Young Leaders in Climate Change (YLCC). The YLCC is a competitive internship program in which high-achieving undergraduate and graduate students conduct innovative climate change projects in parks and program offices. This new initiative builds upon the previous success of the George Melendez Wright Climate Change Youth Initiative, which placed 67 interns and 57 fellows in national parks between 2010 and 2013.

Twelve students participated in the YLCC in 2015. The broad range of projects included modeling snow patch disappearance in Gates of the Arctic NP, development of an online climate change communications toolkit in the Pacific West Region, and recommendations for converting an abandoned historic building in Gateway NRA into a model of sustainable design and architecture.

The YLCC is an approved Direct Hire Authority Internship Initiative (Personnel Bulletin No. 12-15), so that interns who successfully complete the YLCC become eligible for noncompetitive hiring into federal service. Career mentorship and professional development are core elements of the YLCC experience. The summer culminated in a Professional Development Symposium held in Washington, DC. The symposium exposed interns to leaders in their chosen fields and provided them with useful tools and knowledge to launch federal careers. Already one of the participants accepted a permanent job to monitor ocean acidification and intertidal biodiversity at Cabrillo NM.

The initiative is administered by the CCRP in partnership with the University of Washington. The CCRP and Natural Resource Stewardship and Science Directorate provided \$184,531 in FY 2014 to administer the initiative in 2015, with additional funding included to support a second year in 2016.

More information about the projects is available at the program website, parksclimateinterns.org. Final reports for all twelve internship projects are available by contacting Melanie_Wood@nps.gov.



2015 YLCC Intern Jonathan Jones studies the effects of ocean acidification to resources in Olympic NP.

Summary of 2015 Young Leaders in Climate Change positions by park and region

Region	#	Park	Project Title
AKR	1	GAAR	Modeling Climate Change: Snow Patch Archaeology in the Brooks Range
IMR	1	SAGU	Plant Community Shifts and Diversity Changes in Response to Soil Moisture Changes
MWR	2	INDU HOSP	Valuation of National Park Service Landscapes for Climate Change Resilience and Adaptation Analyzing Precipitation and Spring Flow Variation due to Climate Change in Hot Springs National Park
NER	2	BOHA GATE	Develop Coastal Vulnerability Information in Order to Improve Resilience to Climate Change Impacts The Rehabilitation of a Historic Structure as a Model for Resilient Design
PWR	4	CRLA OLYM PORE YELL	Assessing Interannual Snowfall Variability Impacts on Vegetation Phenology and Forest Health using Remote Sensing Characterizing Ocean Acidification and Vulnerability Risk to Marine Organisms Climate Change Action Toolkit Development Internship Yellowstone Climate Change Impacts Archeological Project
SER	1	CONG	Creating a web-based template for climate action outreach
WASO	1	CRPS	Mapping Climate Change Effects on Archeology Sites with ASMIS Legacy Data
TOTAL	12		

Appendix A – Intern Information

2015 YLCC Final Internship Report Appendix A - Intern Information
Completed November 18, 2015

Park	Project Title	Intern	Park Mentor	University	Major/Program of Study	Academic Status Jan 2015
Boston Harbor Islands NS	<u>Develop Coastal Vulnerability Information in Order to Improve Resilience to Climate Change Impacts</u>	Michael Endicott	Marc Albert	Rutgers, The State University of New Jersey	Geography Environmental Policy and Natural Resource Management	Senior
Congaree NP	<u>Creating a Web-Based Template for Climate Outreach</u>	Monica Gregory	David Shelley	Indiana University - Bloomington		Graduate Student
Crater Lake NP	<u>Assessing Interannual Snowfall and its Impacts on Vegetation Phenology and Forest Health Using Remote Sensing</u>	Donal O'Leary	Chris Wayne	Western Washington University	Geography	Graduate Student
Cultural Resource Archeology Program	<u>Mapping Climate Change Effects on Archeology Sites with ASMIS Legacy Data</u>	Lindsey Cochran	David Gadsby	The University of Tennessee - Knoxville	Anthropology Civil Engineering - Snow Hydrology & Hydroclimatology	Graduate Student
Gates of the Arctic NP	<u>Frozen in Time: Snow Patch Modeling and Human Prehistory in the Central Brooks Range, Alaska</u>	Molly Tedesche	Adam Freeburg	University of Alaska Fairbanks		Graduate Student
Gateway NP	<u>The Rehabilitation of a Historic Structure as a Model for Resilient Design</u>	Halley Ramos	Marilou Ehrler	University of New Mexico	Environmental Planning and Design	Senior
Hot Springs NP	<u>Analyzing Precipitation, Spring Flow Variation, and Fuel Loads due to Climate Change in Hot Springs National Park</u>	Amanda Webb	Shelley Todd	University of Arizona	Natural resources and conservation	Graduate Student
Indiana Dunes NL	<u>Valuation of National Park Service Landscapes for Climate Change Sensitivity and Adaptation</u>	Adam Griffith	Joy Marburger	University of North Carolina at Charlotte	Geography	Graduate Student
Olympic NP	<u>Characterizing Ocean Acidification and Vulnerability Risk to Marine Organisms</u>	Jonathan Jones	Steven Fradkin	University of California - Santa Barbara	Marine sciences	Graduate Student
Point Reyes NS / Pacific West RO	<u>Climate Change Action Toolkit Development</u>	Natasha Way	Ben Becker	McGill University	Environmental health	Junior
Saguaro NP	<u>Plant Community Shifts and Diversity Changes in Response to Soil Moisture Changes</u>	Daniel Winkler	Don Swann	University of California - Irvine	Ecology & Evolutionary Biology	Graduate Student
Yellowstone NP	<u>Yellowstone Climate Change Impacts Archaeological Project</u>	Laura Cannon	Staffan Peterson	University of Wyoming	Anthropology	Graduate Student