2015 Initiative for Young Leaders in Climate Change

Twelve parks and programs hosted interns in 2015:

Yellowstone NP	**Yellowstone Climate Change Impacts Archaeological Project** Engage with a multidisciplinary science team at Yellowstone National Park to identify the impacts of climate change on archeological resources in high risk areas and inform the development of management options for vulnerable archeological resources.
Cultural Resources Directorate (DC)	**Mapping Climate Change Effects on Archeology Sites with ASMIS Legacy Data** Enable cultural resource managers to harness and apply the power of an existing archeology inventory system (ASMIS) for cultural resource climate change adaptation. Analyze the usability of this system through a series of pilot efforts to examine impacts to archeological sites in five national parks.
Boston Harbor Islands NRA	**Develop Coastal Vulnerability Information in Order to Improve Resilience to Climate Change Impacts** Work closely with a team of coastal geologists and park managers to study the effects of sea level rise on the shorelines of Boston Harbor Islands. Results will provide baseline information to a multi-year project designed to improve the resilience of the islands' most important resources and facilities.
Congaree NP	**Creating a Web-Based Template for Climate Outreach** Inform and inspire the public to become climate stewards through the development of climate change communication web pages. Work with park staff in Congaree National Park and throughout the Southeast to provide staff training, hone web page design and leadership skills, and gain a big picture understanding of climate change communication in national parks.
Indiana Dunes NL	**Valuation of National Park Service Landscapes for Climate Change Sensitivity and Adaptation** Work as part of a management team in Indiana Dunes National Lakeshore to assess the productivity and sensitivity of park landscapes to climate change through the analysis of satellite imagery and development of a measure of climate change resilience in five Great Lakes national parks.
Olympic NP	**Characterizing Ocean Acidification and Vulnerability Risk to Marine Organisms** Manage information from intertidal instruments designed to measure pH levels and the effects of ocean acidification in the Pacific Northwest as part of a management team working to monitor intertidal biological communities in Olympic National Park.

Crater Lake NP	**Assessing Interannual Snowfall and its Impacts on Vegetation Phenology and Forest Health Using Remote Sensing** Work as part of a management team to a better understanding of the implications of changes in species phenology happening now in the montane ecosystems of Crater Lake National Park through the use of remote sensing data.
Gateway NRA	**The Rehabilitation of a Historic Structure as a Model for Resilient Design** In the wake of Hurricane Sandy, re-define storm recovery on the Atlantic seaboard through sustainable and storm preparedness designs in the rehabilitation of historic structures at Gateway Natural Recreation Area, New York.
Gates of the Arctic NPP	**Frozen in Time: Snow Patch Modeling and Human Prehistory in the Central Brooks Range, Alaska** Inform our understanding of past cultures through the development of a predictive model of snow patches with high potential for archaeological and paleoecological discoveries from receding snow and ice patches in the central Brooks Range in Gates of the Arctic National Park.
Pt. Reyes NS	**Climate Change Action Toolkit Development** Connect and foster collaboration with park staff across the Pacific West Region through a new web portal designed to increase climate change literacy and access to current climate change information, and act as a venue to share successes and lessons learned across parks and programs.
Hot Springs NP	**Analyzing Precipitation, Spring Flow Variation, and Fuel Loads due to Climate Change in Hot Springs National Park** Inform management practices and public awareness through the analysis of precipitation patterns and flow rates of the hot springs in Hot Springs National Park to better predict the springs' future flow rates under a changing climate.
Saguaro NP	**Plant Community Shifts and Diversity Changes in Response to Soil Moisture Changes** Survey and analyze vegetation data in high elevation sites of Saguaro National Park to help park biologists better understand current and future biological changes in response to altered precipitation regimes and increased temperatures due to climate change.