

Project Summary
Rocky Mountains Cooperative Ecosystem Studies Unit

Project Title: Providing Sea Level Change and Storm Surge Projections for All Coastal Parks

Discipline: Natural Resources
Type of Project: Technical Assistance
Funding Agency: National Park Service
Other Partners/Cooperators: University of Colorado at Boulder
Student Participation: Yes, two graduate research assistants
Effective Dates: 8/1/2013 - 8/27/2015
Funding Amount: \$496,898 [FY14: \$127,000; FY14: \$170,000; FY13: 199,898]

Investigators and Agency Representative:

NPS Contact: Rebecca Beavers, Coastal Geologist, National Park Service, WASO, NRSS, Geologic Resources Division, 7333 W. Jefferson Avenue, Lakewood, CO 80235; (303) 987-6945; rebecca_beavers@nps.gov

Investigator: Maria Caffrey, Research Associate, Geological Sciences, University of Colorado Boulder, Boulder, CO 80309; (303) 969-2097; maria.caffrey@colorado.edu

Project Abstract: The purpose of this project is to create sea level and storm surge change projections that will enable CU faculty and students, NPS staff, as well as other researchers, educators, and the public sector to better understand the potential impact of climate change in the coastal zone in our national parks. Information and data will be collected, stored, archived, analyzed, and disseminated to help foster temporal and spatial analysis at a variety of scales and will be made readily available to the public via wayside exhibits and a University of Colorado website. First, a document showing projected rates of sea level and storm surge change will be developed. This data will be shared within the NPS to help guide park planners and managers in 105 coastal parks. Second, the data will be condensed into a web-based graphical display package that will be made available to the public. Lastly, further educational outreach and engagement will be in the form of wayside exhibits. Wayside exhibits will be designed and developed in collaboration with NPS staff. The location of wayside exhibits will be decided by the NPS after sea level and storm surge change data has been collected for 105 coastal parks.

Outcomes with Completion Dates: March 31, 2017

Keywords: sea level, storm surges, coastal parks, National Park Service-WASO-Geologic Resources Division, University of Colorado at Boulder