



Photos by Scott Strazzante / The Chronicle

Point Reyes National Seashore's Chimney Rock Trail may one day be at risk as sea levels rise.

Climate change hits national parks hard

Wildland temperatures rising twice as fast as elsewhere

By Kurtis Alexander

Disappearing glaciers were an early sign of trouble for the nation's wildlands. But the mark of global warming on the American landscape didn't end there. Devastating wildfires have since ravaged Yosemite. Rising seas have encroached on the Point Reyes Peninsula. Vast stands of trees have died in and around Kings Canyon.

A study released Monday finds that the country's national parks, which were designed to set aside and protect the most pristine and coveted spots in the United States, are being hit disproportionately by climate change.

Temperatures across 417 sites managed by the National Park Service, from the Florida Everglades to Yellowstone to Alaska's Mount Denali, have increased at twice the rate as the rest of the country, the study finds. The parks also have experienced greater declines in rainfall.

Such hotter, drier conditions are expected to persist in many of the parks, probably magnifying the



Point Reyes is being constantly monitored to see how wildlife, such as these deer above South Beach, are adapting to climate change.

harm that's already begun to afflict mountains, forests and the coast as well as the plants and animals that live there.

The Trump administration's unraveling of global warming policies and the National Park Service's backsliding on climate

programs under President Trump stand only to exacerbate the risk.

"Up until our research, the severity of climate change across the national parks was unknown," said Patrick Gonzalez, a climate change scientist at UC Berkeley

Climate continues on A9

GOP sees 'smears' in court battle

Party leaders vow to fight Kavanaugh accusations

By Lisa Mascaro, Mary Clare Jalonick and Jonathan Lemire

WASHINGTON — Republicans thundered into an all-out campaign to save Brett Kavanaugh's Supreme Court nomination Monday as a second woman accused him of a long-ago sexual assault. Senate Majority Leader Mitch McConnell accused Democrats of a "smear campaign," Kavanaugh himself complained of "smears, pure and simple" and President Trump dismissed allegations against his nominee as "totally political."

McConnell said the Senate would vote soon on confirmation of the 53-year old appellate court judge.

Kavanaugh wrote to leaders of the Senate's Judiciary Committee, "I will not be intimidated into withdrawing from the process. ... The coordinated effort to destroy my good name will not drive me out."

Minutes later, McConnell angrily declared on the Senate floor that Democrats have thrown "all the mud they could manufacture" at Kavanaugh.

Kavanaugh continues on A6

» **Editorial:** Senate has duty to thoroughly investigate allegations against Kavanaugh. **A11**

Berkeley looks at social media rules for protests

By Ashley McBride and Michael Cabanatuan

The battles between far-right activists and their opponents that have roiled Berkeley in the past two years have been organized on social media. They've been debated on social media. And they've often played out live on social media.

The question now is whether Berkeley police should be using social media to expose people they arrest in the sometimes violent clashes. The City Council will consider Tuesday whether to ban police from posting names, mug shots and hometowns of people taken into custody "unless they pose an imminent threat to public safety."

The proposed policy stems from an Aug. 5 protest planned by two far-right-wing groups — one dubbed the Proud Boys, which didn't show up. Still, the day drew about 400 counterprotesters who called themselves anti-fascist, or antifa.

Protest continues on A9

AL SARACEVIC

It's time to stand up and sign Kaepernick

The 49ers spent \$137.5 million last year to lock up their quarterback of the future. They just didn't expect it to be the distant future.

The team confirmed Monday that Jimmy Garoppolo will miss the rest of this season, having sustained a major knee injury in Sunday's ugly loss to the Kansas City Chiefs.

So, now what? It may be time to look at their quarterback of the past.

That's right. Colin Kaepernick is rested and ready, and could stage the most publicized comeback in recent sports history. (With all due respect to Tiger Woods.) Imagine the hype and hope surrounding Kaepernick's return to Santa Clara? It would break the internet, but not the bank.

A Kaepernick return would largely depend on whether the 49ers would be willing to take such a huge gamble. Since coming on board as the new brain trust prior to last season, gener-

Saracevic continues on A8

Sporting Green




A's assured playoff spot thanks to Yankees' win. **B1**


Bobby Evans removed as Giants general manager. **B1**



Business Salesforce exec Ebony Frelix to announce \$18 million in grants by firm. **D1**



Weather
Sunny.
Highs: 68-94.
Lows: 48-61.



B8 38865 12000 4



Santiago Mejia / The Chronicle

S.F. restaurant surcharges give some diners heartburn

By Jonathan Kauffman

Cy Manis, a concierge at the Hilton Hotel in Union Square, says travelers come up to her desk once a week to ask about this "S.F. mandate" surcharge they see on their restaurant bills.

Manis, who waited tables for many years, is no fan of the surcharge — she wonders why restaurants wouldn't just raise their menu prices like other businesses — but explains to

In Situ, the popular ground-floor restaurant at the San Francisco Museum of Modern Art, is one that doesn't add a separate surcharge to patrons' checks.

guests that the restaurant used the funds to cover its workers' health care costs. "They're usually pretty empathetic and say, oh, that's good that the employees are taken care of," she said.

San Francisco's innovative Health Care Security Ordinance, which went into effect in January 2008, requires businesses with more than 20 employees to contribute a certain amount per worker per hour

Surcharges continues on A8

FROM THE COVER

Climate shift hits national parks hard

Climate from page A1

and lead author of the study. “Human-caused climate change exposes the national parks more severely than the rest of the United States.”

The reason for the disproportionate hit is relatively simple. National parks encompass the country’s most extreme environments where warming has generally been greater, the study notes. Many parks are at high elevations where the atmosphere is thinner and in the Arctic where the reflective snow cover has melted and more heat is being absorbed.

While the research, by scientists at UC Berkeley and the University of Wisconsin, does not detail the specific problems that national parks are facing, the study offers a first-of-its-kind analysis of the temperature and precipitation changes that are driving many of the problems. The findings are published in the journal *Environmental Research Letters*.

According to the study, temperatures across the national park system have increased a little more than 1 degree Celsius, or 1.8 degrees Fahrenheit, between 1895 and 2010, about double the country’s average. While the increase may seem modest, scientists have warned that warming of more than 2 degrees Celsius is a threshold that comes with grave risk.

In California, 23 out of 27 park sites, including Golden Gate National Recreation Area, Death Valley and Joshua Tree, have seen temperatures rise since 1950, sometimes far more than 1 degree Celsius.

Rainfall changes in the parks have been more variable. While in most parts of the country, annual precipitation has increased from 1895 to 2010, rain totals decreased across 12 percent of parklands, according to the research. By comparison, just 3 percent of all U.S. lands has seen a decline.

Going forward, the researchers project the average temperature across national parks will rise about 5 to 7 degrees Celsius, or 9 to 13 degrees Fahrenheit, by 2100, roughly a half degree more than the rest of the country, under the study’s most extreme modeling scenario. If heat-trapping emissions are capped as called for in the Paris climate agreement, average temperature increases will be limited to about 1 to 3 degrees Celsius, or roughly 2 to 6 degrees Fahrenheit.

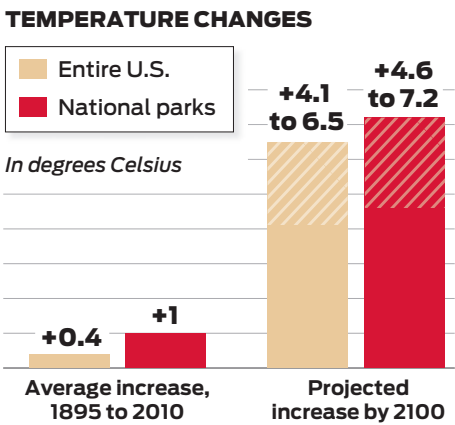


Scott Strazzante / The Chronicle

Temperatures across 417 sites managed by the National Park Service, including Point Reyes National Seashore where rising seas may put elephant seal habitat at risk, have increased rapidly.

National parks taking harder hit from climate change

Temperature and precipitation changes are affecting the country’s national parks more severely than the U.S. as a whole, according to a study.



SELECTED LIST OF NATIONAL PARKS

National park	Temperature change (°C)		Precipitation change (%)	
	1950-2010	2000-2100*	1950-2010	2000-2100*
Bryce Canyon National Park (Utah)	1.7	5.3	27	6
Death Valley National Park	1.3	4.9	38	8
Denali National Park (Alaska)	3.9	6.4	-11	32
Golden Gate National Recreation Area	1.4	3.7	7	9
Joshua Tree National Park	1.5	4.6	48	4
Kings Canyon National Park	1.5	4.8	19	6
Lassen Volcanic National Park	-0.2	4.6	-11	7
Mojave National Preserve	1.3	4.8	44	5
Muir Woods National Monument	1.3	3.8	-2	9
Pinnacles National Park	-0.6	3.9	19	8
Point Reyes National Seashore	1.3	3.7	3	10
Redwood National Park	0.4	3.8	-24	4
S.F. Maritime National Historical Park	1.6	3.8	22	9
Sequoia National Park	1.4	4.7	14	5
Virgin Islands National Park	1.4	2.9	6	-26
Yosemite National Park	1.9	4.7	5	6

* Projected data. Figures given here reflect the study’s most extreme modeling scenario.

Source: The study “Disproportionate magnitude of climate change in United States national parks” published in the journal *Environmental Research Letters*

Todd Trumbull / The Chronicle

» 2018 California Fire Tracker: Search an interactive map that provides statistics on the blazes that have burned across the state this wildfire season, and see links to complete Chronicle coverage at bit.ly/fire-tracker.

Regardless of which scenario plays out, according to the study, parks in Alaska are expected to see the most warming.

While the study’s precipitation models show wide variation in future rainfall, parks in Hawaii, the Virgin Islands and the American Southwest are projected to see the biggest declines.

Changes in temperature and rainfall, though, will probably have implications for most parks, in many cases well beyond what’s already occurring.

In Yosemite, earlier research shows that forests as well as small mammals have begun shifting upslope to cooler areas as temperatures have risen, threatening wholesale disruption if the warming continues.

In Joshua Tree, the park’s namesake tree is struggling amid intensifying heat, and researchers worry that much of the park could become unlivable for the tree if the trend persists.

In Point Reyes, oceans are washing farther up beaches as sea levels rise and the habitat of elephant seals may one day be at risk.

The National Park Service has long studied the impacts of

climate change, with both federal scientists and independent researchers, and a commitment to conserving wildlands amid rising temperatures remains part of the agency’s mission.

But Jonathan Jarvis, former director of the Park Service and now executive director of UC Berkeley’s Institute for Parks, People and Biodiversity, said those in the Trump administration currently running the agency aren’t making climate change a priority.

“What concerns me is there’s no clear leadership on the issue,” said Jarvis, who recently wrote a book, “The Future of Conservation in America: A Chart for Rough Water,” on the challenges facing public lands.

“The Park Service in the past has played a leadership role ... and all of that is sort of lost at the moment,” he said.

Jarvis said park leaders during his tenure had begun to look beyond park borders at nationwide climate adaptation strategies, such as creating large-scale wildlife corridors for animals to move to more hospitable places. But those far-reaching efforts, he said, have ceased under Trump.

The National Park Service did not respond to requests for comment before this story was published. Officials at Yosemite National Park also did not comment.

At many parks, research and action on climate change continue despite a change in priorities in Washington.

In Sequoia and Kings Canyon, scientists are looking into ways to make sure the giant sequoias endure amid a hotter, drier future. In other parks, researchers are looking to restore the shade provided by forests so rivers are cool enough for fish to survive. Elsewhere, wetlands are being restored to protect against sea level rise.

John Dell’Osso, chief of interpretation and resource education at Point Reyes National Seashore, said the Marin County park is constantly being monitored to make sure wildlife, from marine mammals to seabirds, adapt to climate change.

“We’re contemplating many what-if scenarios,” he said. “We’re kind of looking at everything.”

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First Amendment concerns on tweets

Protest from page A1

While the demonstration was largely peaceful, police arrested 21 people and posted their booking photos, names, cities of residence and other basic information on Twitter. All were anti-fascists, according to the National Lawyers Guild, and no one has yet been charged by the Alameda County district attorney’s office.

The postings, the Lawyers Guild says, are a form of “doxing,” the practice of using social media to post personal information about a person to embarrass or discredit them. Berkeley police ended up removing the posts after complaints from city residents.

Those who back the ban on such posts include the mayor, two council members and the Lawyers Guild, which held a rally Monday challenging city leaders to step up protections for protesters who show up to fight against racism. They say the prohibition of such social media posts by police will protect such individuals from being threatened, harassed and intimidated from participating in actions protected by the First Amendment.

The council may apply the ban to protest-related offenses or extend it to all crimes. Regardless, critics of the ban worry that it would withhold public

information and contribute to a less transparent Police Department.

Tweeting the mug shots and identifying information was an effort not only to satisfy media requests for public information, said Matthai Chakko, a city spokesman, but also to discourage violent conflicts in Berkeley that have been inflamed by social media.

“Berkeley has been the focus of unprecedented social media narrative used to organize conflicts and justify the use of weapons and armor in Berkeley,” Chakko said. “We wanted to send a message over social media that we do enforce laws.

“We released public records (mug shots and basic identifying information) over a media channel that people were using to foment violence.”

But people whose names and photos were splashed across the internet say the police action exposed them to threats. Jason Wallach was one of the 21 people arrested, and he no longer closes his bike shop in East Oakland alone.

After he was taken into custody during the Aug. 5 protest on suspicion of possession of a banned or dangerous weapon, Wallach’s booking photo, name and personal information were posted on Twitter. People flooded his business’ Yelp and Facebook pages with negative re-



Michael Short / Special to The Chronicle

Berkeley City Councilwoman Cheryl Davila proposed a resolution to limit police publishing of arrestee information.

views, and he said he received threatening anonymous phone calls and texts. Now he makes sure to have someone else with him when it’s closing time.

Wallach told his story Monday at a news conference organized by the Lawyers Guild at Berkeley’s Civic Center, which is near the site of the Aug. 5 protests and other violent clashes last year between right-wing and anti-fascist groups.

“It’s pretty spooky,” Wallach said. “You don’t know the origins, you don’t know how far they’re going to go, so you have to be vigilant.”

Kate Brenner, 70, said she was arrested Aug. 5 for possession of a banned weapon, which was a banner with cardboard poles weighted with two rocks to keep it unfurled.

“When I told the police the handcuffs were too tight on me and that I was 70 years old, they said, ‘Maybe you shouldn’t have

gotten yourself arrested.’ None of the fascists were arrested,” Brenner said. “As a Jew, I can’t stand on the sidelines. I won’t let the state attempt to silence me or intimidate me.”

Chakko declined to discuss individual cases. He noted that the city made it clear anything that could be used as a weapon, such as a broom, would be banned from protest sites. A long list was posted around the city, as well as on social media and in the press.

Councilwomen Cheryl Davila and Kate Harrison proposed a resolution that would direct the police to refrain “from publishing or releasing the addresses or photos of people arrested under the special circumstances of civil conflicts, particularly when one party is likely to do harm to another, specifically under threat of harm from people who spread hate.”

Their proposal would also restrict police from providing identifying information requested through the California Public Records Act.

Berkeley Mayor Jesse Arreguin has suggested a revised policy that would restrict police from “proactively” publishing mug shots on social media or other identifying information of people arrested in events protected by the First Amendment. However, police could still release the information to the media and in response to Public Record Act requests, he said Monday afternoon.

“We should not be impeding the First Amendment,” Arreguin said. “When the media wants information, they should have access, but we don’t want our Police Department tweeting out information and mug shots and creating a chilling effect for participants in protests.”

David Snyder, executive officer of the First Amendment Coalition, said it’s not clear whether media outlets have a legal right to booking photos, but names, cities of residence and other information on people who are arrested should always be disclosed.

“These are protections for both the public and the person being arrested,” Snyder said. “We don’t do secret arrests in this country.”

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