

OUR STATE PARKS AND A CHANGING CLIMATE

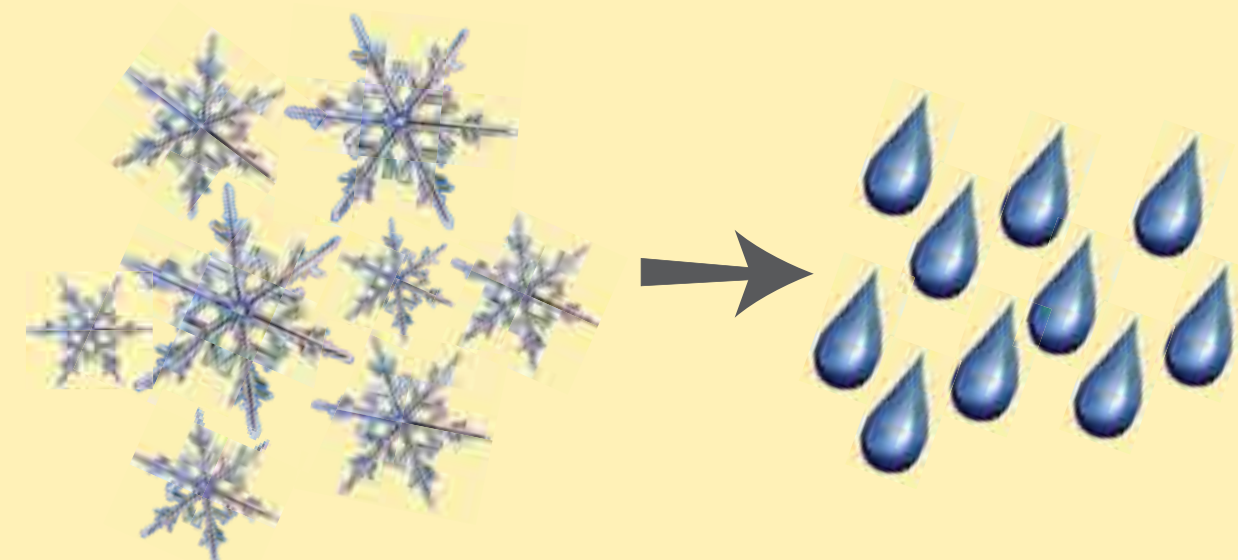
Mounting evidence tells us that California's climate is warming, and the rate of warming may well increase in the decades ahead. These realities are beginning to affect our parklands in unexpected ways.

Through careful planning, strategic resource management, wiser energy use, and public education, California State Parks is working to reduce the adverse impacts of climate change.



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Artwork by Faith Rumm

Snow, Runoff and Recreation



As more precipitation falls as rain instead of snow, reduced mountain snowpack will impact winter sports.

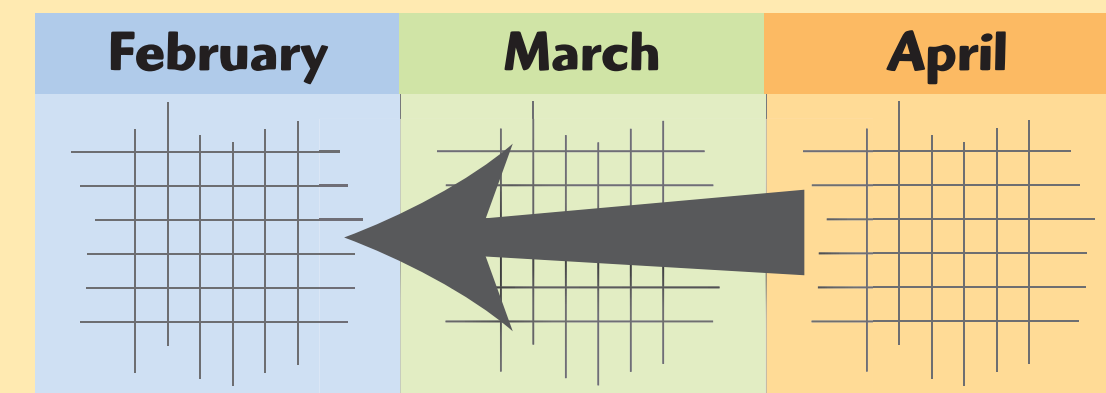


Increased seasonal flooding makes rivers more dangerous and destructive.

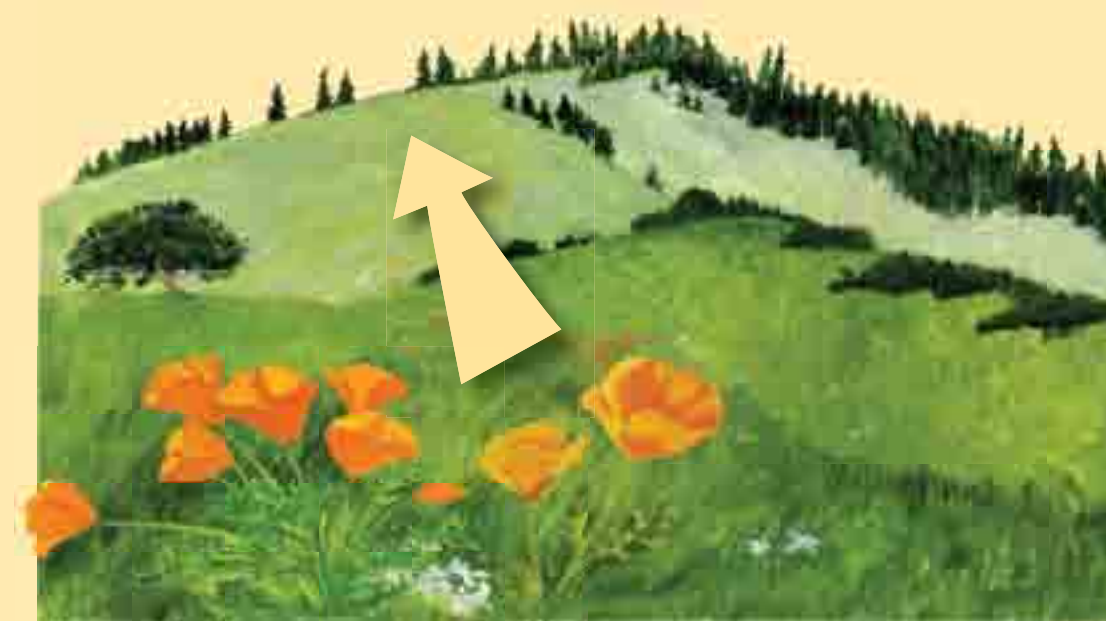


Drought reduces the appeal of reservoirs as summer destinations.

Ecological Uncertainty



Spring wildflowers are already blooming one to two weeks earlier than before. Vital relationships with pollinating birds and insects may be disrupted if this trend continues.



Many plants and animals will have to shift their ranges uphill or northward in order to survive the warming temperatures. Familiar natural communities may break down as species respond in different ways.



Intensifying heat and dryness could cost some parks their most cherished life-forms.

The Vulnerable Past

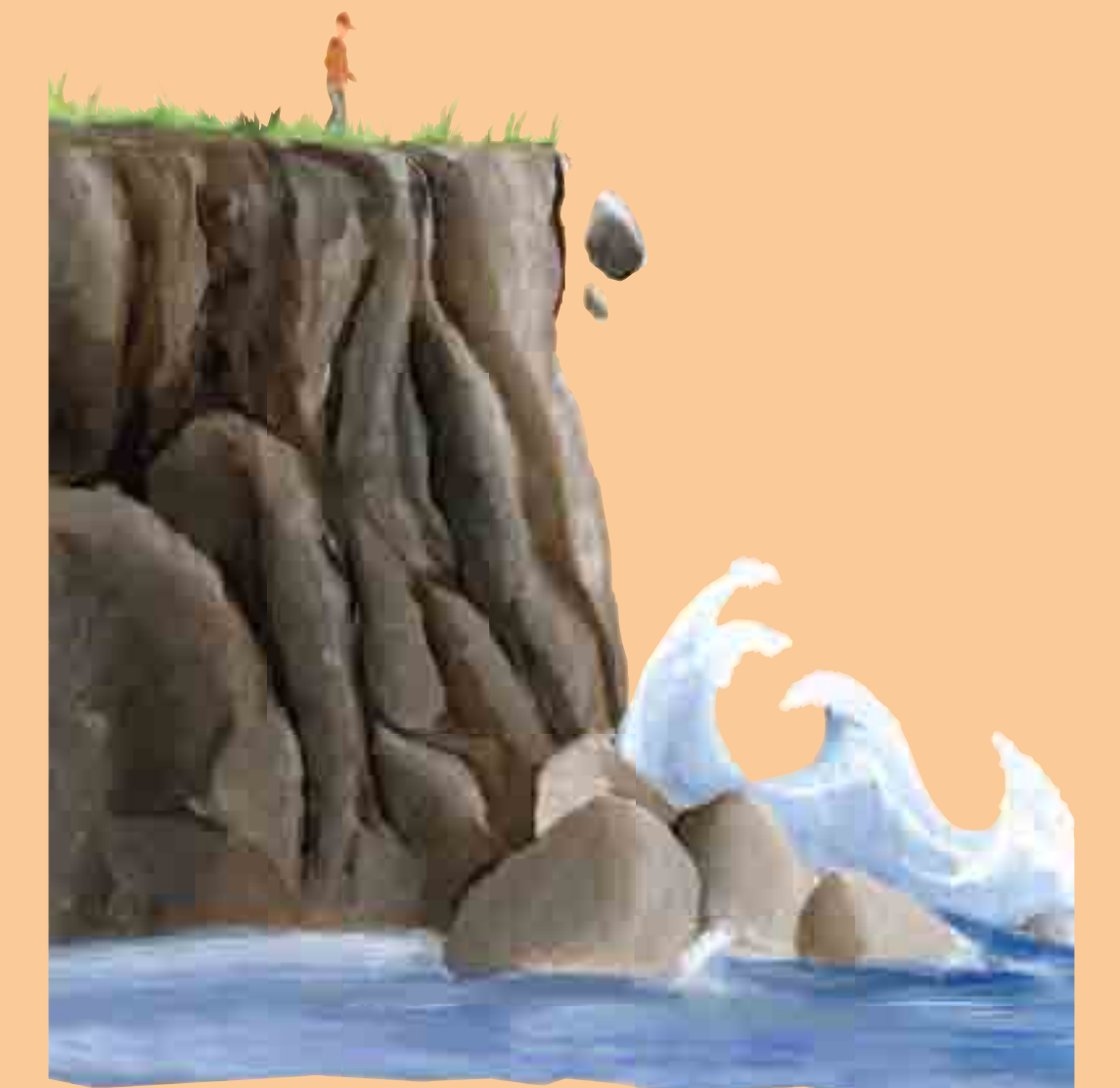


The wildfire season is becoming longer and more severe. In 2006, most of Cuyamaca State Park burned, including its historic visitor center.



Fires put cultural and natural resources at risk—not only destroying historic structures, but damaging archeological sites and exposing them to looting and vandalism.

Tomorrow's Coast



A rising sea level, along with an expected increase in wave erosion, will shrink popular beaches and threaten facilities at many coastal parks.



On tidal flats and coastal wetlands, even a few inches of sea level rise can mean thousands of acres of wildlife habitat lost.