Climate variability and change:  
An overview of our current understanding  
with implications for park and natural areas management

March 4, 2005  
Chico Hot Springs, Pray, MT

Workshop organized by Steve Gray (USGS-Tucson), Lisa Graumlich (Big Sky Institute, Montana State University) and Tom Oliff (NPS, Yellowstone National Park)

Workshop objectives:
- Communicate new findings on the causes and consequences of climate variability and change to park and natural resource management
- Facilitate a discussion of how our understanding of the climate system can inform the design and implementation of environmental monitoring programs in the mountains of the western US
- Foster alignment of climate monitoring strategies among NPS inventory and monitoring programs and between different government entities to maximize the utility and interpretability of data

Target audience:
- NPS and other natural resource managers interested in enhancing their use of climatic data to understand status and trends of biodiversity and water resources, particularly in mountain regions

Themes of the workshop:
- What does current research tell us about the changing climate of mountain regions?
- What are the implications of paleoclimatic data for current resource management challenges?
- What is our current understanding of the nature and likelihood of future climate change?
- How can managers bring climate information to bear on issues of inventory and monitoring?

The workshop will bring together 10-12 resource managers with four leading climate scientists. Discussion will focus on bringing state of
the art scientific knowledge to bear on the practical issues of managing parks and natural areas in the face of climate change.

**Logistics:**

The workshop will take place from 1:30 pm to 5 pm on March 4, 2005, after the conclusion of the MTNCLIM workshop at Chico Hot Springs Conference Center.

Workshop space is limited. **Please register in advance by contacting Steve Gray at stgray@usgs.gov by February 11, 2005.** For more information, contact Steve at this email address or by phone at (520) 670-6821 ext. 119.