



Incorporating Science Into Interpretation

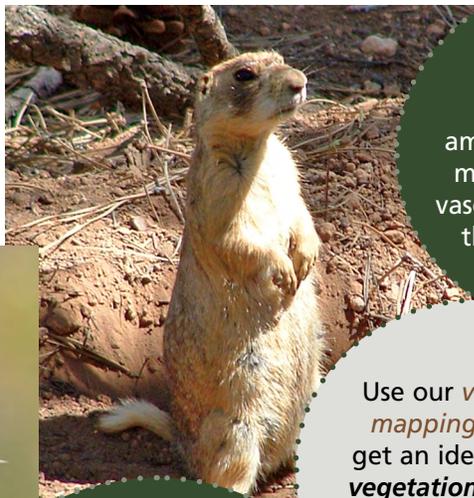
Are you looking for answers to questions like these? The NCPN can help.

- Which animals and plants live in your park?
- What's the size and elevation of your park?
- When and why was your park designated?
- What are the main challenges and threats to your park's natural resources?
- Which plants tend to grow together, and where?
- How might climate change affect your park?
- Are weeds taking over your park?
- Is the water in your park clean?
- Are your park's ecosystems healthy?

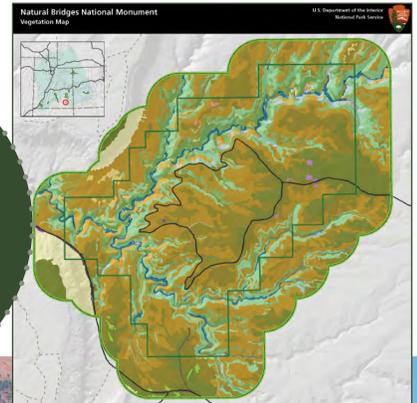
The Northern Colorado Plateau Network, (NCPN) as part of the National Park Service's Natural Resource Inventory & Monitoring Program, conducts long-term natural resource monitoring in 16 U.S. national parks in order to assess the condition of park ecosystems and de-

velop a stronger scientific basis for natural resource stewardship and management. With support from park staff, the network collects, analyzes, and reports on long-term natural resource data so park managers have access to quality information as they make decisions.

But our information isn't just useful for park decisionmakers. Our website is full of material that can help you populate your program or site bulletin with quality resource knowledge. Here are some examples.



At our *website*, you can generate a *species list* of amphibians, birds, fish, mammals, reptiles, or vascular plants—or all of the above—that live in your park.



Use our *vegetation mapping briefs* to get an idea of which *vegetation types and communities* are found in your park.

Invasive exotic plants are a potentially devastating threat at many national parks. See if we monitor them at your park, then check the reports to see which invasives are a problem at your park, and whether things are getting better or worse.

Water quality is important to visitors and natural systems alike. Check the section for your park in our *most recent report* to see if your water is pristine or if there are issues that visitors should be aware of.



©PATRICK J. ALEXANDER



Inventory & Monitoring

For general information about your park, its resources, and its management challenges, visit <http://go.nps.gov/NCPNparks> and choose your park. At your park's page, you'll find some basic information about the park, its significance, and its natural resources. For more detailed information, follow the link to "Park Biophysical Description." At the bottom of the page, you'll find links to everything we've published that has to do with your park.

Dinosaur National Monument



Mitten Park, Dinosaur National Monument
Size: 85,097 hectares
Elevation range: 1,448-2,743 meters

Park Species Lists
 Park Biophysical Description (PDF)
 Dinosaur NM Webcams

Dinosaur National Monument map. Click for official park map.

Dinosaur National Monument was established by Presidential Proclamation on October 4, 1915, to preserve the outstanding fossil resources at the dinosaur quarry north of Jensen, Utah. The park includes dinosaur fossils of international renown, as well as canyons of the lower Yampa River and upper Green River. The Yampa River is the only large tributary in the Colorado River system that remains unregulated by a major mainstream impoundment.

Elevations range from under 1,448 meters (4,750 feet) near the Quarry to over 2,743 meters (9,000 feet) at Zenobia Peak. Annual precipitation ranges from under 200 millimeters (11 inches) at low elevations to near 500 millimeters (20 inches) at highest elevations. Biotic diversity is high due to the monument's topography, diverse geologic substrates, location at the convergence of five physiographic provinces, and the presence of large desert rivers. Plant communities include montane coniferous forest, pinyon-juniper woodland, mixed mountain shrub, sagebrush-grassland, cold desert shrubland, barrens, and low-elevation riparian woodland.

Livestock grazing, increasing recreational use, threats to endemic plants, adjacent land-use impacts, and exotic plant species invasion are the monument's main natural resource management concerns.

The NCPN monitors air quality, big rivers, climate, invasive exotic plants, land surface phenology, landbirds, landscape dynamics, uplands, and water quality at Dinosaur National Monument.

Search All Dinosaur NM Publications
Enter search term here [Search] [Reset Search]

- View Publications by Topic
- Monitoring Reports
 - Inventory Reports
 - Park Briefs
- Click to expand and contract panels. Expand All / Collapse All
- Air Quality
 - Climate
 - Invasive Exotic Plants
 - Land Surface Phenology
 - Landbirds
 - Uplands
 - Water Quality

- NORTHERN COLO
- About This Netw
- Network Parks
- Inventories
- Monitoring
- Data Managem
- Reports & Public
- Park Species Lists
- Social Media
- NCPN Intranet Site (NPS-only)
- NCPN SharePoint (NPS-only)

Search the Northern Colorado Plateau Network
Contact the Northern Colorado Plateau Network

Want to talk about climate change? Consult our two briefs, *Climate Change in the Northern Colorado Plateau Network* and *Plant Responses to Climate Change in the Northern Colorado Plateau Network*.

Northern Colorado Plateau Network
Information Brief

Climate Change in the Northern Colorado Plateau Network
Current Findings and How Future Monitoring Will Detect It

The Northern Colorado Plateau Network (NCPN) is one of 12 National Park Service inventories and monitoring systems that have been implemented and implemented across the National Park System. Each inventory and monitoring system has been designed to monitor and report on a specific natural resource or ecosystem. The NCPN is a network of 12 parks that share a common goal of monitoring and reporting on climate change impacts. This brief provides an overview of the NCPN and how future monitoring will detect climate change impacts.

Northern Colorado Plateau Network
Information Brief

Plant Responses to Climate Change in the NCPN

Plants are being affected by the changes in the Northern Colorado Plateau Network (NCPN) region. The NCPN is a network of 12 parks that share a common goal of monitoring and reporting on climate change impacts. This brief provides an overview of the NCPN and how future monitoring will detect climate change impacts.



For park-specific climate-change projections, David Thoma may be able to assist you.



Want to know more? The NCPN monitors air quality, big rivers, climate, invasive exotic plants, landbirds, landscape dynamics, phenology, springs and seeps, terrestrial vegetation and soils, wadeable streams, and water quality at parks across four states. For an overview of what we've been doing in your park, check out our park briefs.

To learn more about us, read our program brief or watch our overview movie.

To find out what we're up to from day to day,



- About Nat
- CR
- SR
- SR
- SR
- SR

of the 20,000 total designated beneficial-use evaluations completed for the period

Live Webcams (click sample image to open full-sized webcam window)

