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Silencing science

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President Donald Trump says he doubts humans have much of a role in climate change. His administration has downplayed the science of climate change and sought to silence scientists working for the federal government. In this hour, Reveal's Elizabeth Shogren details the pressures one researcher faced as she worked on a project for the National Park Service.

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were-told-climate-change-was-sensitive-so-they-removed-it-from-a-key-planning-report/) National park officials were told climate change was ‘sensitive.’ So they removed it from a key planning report

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A big storm could submerge Canaveral National Seashore

If greenhouse gas emissions keep growing and a category 3 hurricane were to hit Florida’s Canaveral National Seashore in 2050, the whole national park will be under water, according to projections by scientist Maria Caffrey and the National Park Service. Thousands of sea turtle nests could be washed away, and archaeological sites, park buildings, roads and boardwalks all will be at risk.

Calculations of sea level rise and storm surge can help park service personnel protect natural and historic treasures at parks and help the public know what’s at stake in climate change. But under President Trump, the park service long suppressed this research. Now that it’s out, the agency hasn’t publicly spread the word that this trail-blazing science is available for 118 national parks.

Graphic by Kavya Sukumar

Credits

Reveal: Reported by Elizabeth Shogren. Produced by Amy Walters. Edited by Deborah George.

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Transcript

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Al Letson:	Hey, hey, hey, Revealers. This is my last chance in 2018 to remind you how hard we've been working to bring you stories that make the world a better place. And it's also my last opportunity to remind you that we need your help so we can do a lot more in 2019. This work, investigating the powerful, uncovering secrets others are trying to keep hidden, takes time and skill, and costs money, a lot of it. We make this show for you, our listeners, and we're a nonprofit that also depends on you. We can't produce Reveal without your help. We need as many of you as possible to join us by becoming a Reveal member. Any amount, any at all, helps. So please, text the word DONATE to 63735, and we'll get back to you so you can tell us what you want to give. You know the drill. Standard texting and data rates apply. And hey, as an extra thank you, if you donate by January 4th, we'll send you a brand spanking-new Reveal T-shirt. To see what it looks like, just text the word DONATE right now, 63735, and we'll send you a gift of yours truly looking super fly in that Reveal Tee. Listen, you love us, we love you, let's make it official and do some good work together.
Al Letson:	From the Center for Investigative Reporting and PRX, this is Reveal. I'm Al Letson.
Al Letson:	Just after Thanksgiving the US government released a huge report documenting the impacts climate change is having on our country. Thirteen federal agencies and hundreds of scientists worked on this. When asked about it President Trump attacked it's prediction that climate change will be devastating to the US economy.
	Yeah. I don't believe it. No. No, I don't believe it.



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