National Park Service
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Sustainable Operations and Climate Change Branch
Park Facility Management Division Facilities Planning Branch

Jean Lafitte National Historical Park and Preserve

Coastal Hazards & Climate Change Asset Vulnerability Assessment
March 2017

Program for the Study of Developed Shorelines
Western Carolina University
Cullowhee, NC 28723

Contents

This document has been developed by the National Park Service - Sustainable Operations and Climate Change Branch and Park Facility Management Division Facilities Planning Branch in partnership with Western Carolina University through a Task Agreement with the Southern Appalachian Cooperative Ecosystems Studies Unit. Contributing authors: Katie Peek (kmcdowell@wcu.edu), Blair Tormey (btormey@wcu.edu), Holli Thompson (hthompson@wcu.edu), Robert Young (ryoung@wcu.edu), Shawn Norton (shawn_norton@nps.gov), Julie McNamee (julie_thomas_mcnamee@nps.gov), and Ryan Scavo (ryan_scavo@nps.gov).

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Cover Photo Credit: Photo taken at JELA by Program for the Study of Developed Shorelines at Western Carolina University.

NPS 467/154051, March 2017

Executive Summary

The National Park Service (NPS) Sustainable Operations and Climate Change Branch, in partnership with Western Carolina University's (WCU) Program for the Study of Developed Shorelines (PSDS), has developed a **Coastal Hazards and Climate Change Asset Vulnerability Assessment Protocol**. This protocol is meant to assess the vulnerability of infrastructure to multiple coastal hazards and climate change factors (i.e., erosion, flooding, storm surge, sea-level rise, and historical flooding), over a 35-year planning horizon (2050). Unlike natural resource vulnerability, which combines three metrics (exposure, sensitivity, and adaptive capacity), the newly developed method for assessing infrastructure includes only exposure and sensitivity to coastal hazards and climate change factors in the vulnerability score; adaptation strategies are instead examined in the context of the vulnerability results. The overall goal is to standardize the methodologies and data used, allowing managers to compare the vulnerability of coastal assets across local, regional, and national levels.

A total of 25 structures (buildings and sheds) and 40 transportation assets (roads, parking lots, waterfront systems, and primary trails) are included in the vulnerability assessment of Jean Lafitte National Historical Park and Preserve (JELA). The notable result of the exposure analysis at JELA is that the assets are split relatively evenly between all exposure rankings (low, moderate, and high), which is likely due in part to the widespread geographic nature of assets at the park. The results also show that the majority of assets have moderate or high sensitivity to coastal hazards and climate change. Almost half of the transportation assets have high sensitivity, which is primarily due to the physical condition and reported historical damage of these assets.

Over 40% of all assets analyzed at JELA have high vulnerability to coastal hazards and climate change factors. A higher percentage of transportation assets are highly vulnerable when compared to structures, and most high vulnerability assets are within the Barataria unit of the park. The high vulnerability assets at JELA have a combined current replacement value (CRV) of approximately $24.7 million, which is roughly 19% of the total CRV of all assets analyzed. The two most valuable, high vulnerability, transportation assets are the Barataria Preserve's Palmetto and Bayou Coquilles Foot Trails, and the two most valuable, high vulnerability structures are the Barataria Ed Center and the Barataria Visitor Center.

In 2012, the State of Louisiana released the Comprehensive Master Plan for a Sustainable Coast (CMP), which estimates roughly 1 meter of relative sea-level rise (sea-level rise plus subsidence) for southern Louisiana by 2070. In 2017, an updated draft of the CMP was released, which also projects approximately 1 meter of relative sea-level rise by 2070. Thus, in order to reconcile this vulnerability assessment with the CMP, a 2070 sea-level rise model was used in a second exposure analysis to examine the effects of 1 meter of sea-level rise. Sea-level rise data for the new 2070 exposure analysis was obtained from NOAA's Sea Level Rise Viewer (https://coast.noaa.gov/slr/); the 3 foot sea-level rise model scenario was utilized to approximate the 1 meter of rise predicted in the CMP (see discussion beginning on page 15).

Vulnerability Assessment Products & Deliverables:

1) Excel datasheets - All results, as well as asset-specific scoring, are provided in tabular form. The exposure, sensitivity, and vulnerability scores are reported alongside the FMSS data for each asset, as well as the scores for each step of the analysis.

2) GIS Maps and Layers - All GIS data, including the exposure layers, exposure results, and final vulnerability results will be sent to the park as a separate file. The GIS data will also be available to view online at the ArcGIS Online (AGOL) website. Digital data sources can be found in the "Digital Data Sources" section of the document. Contact WCU or NPS for further information.

3) Park Specific Vulnerability Results Summary Document - This document, which explains the deliverables, results, and methodology.

Introduction & Project Description

The National Park Service (NPS) Sustainable Operations and Climate Change Branch, in partnership with Western Carolina University's (WCU) Program for the Study of Developed Shorelines (PSDS), has developed a **Coastal Hazards and Climate Change Asset Vulnerability Assessment Protocol**. This protocol establishes a standard methodology and set of best practices for conducting vulnerability assessments in the built environment. Standardizing the methodologies and data utilized in these assessments allows managers to compare the vulnerability of coastal park assets across local, regional, and national levels.

A proposed standardized approach to assessing climate change vulnerability was described in a multiple agency (NOAA, NPS, USGS, DOD, NWF, and USFS) document titled "Scanning the Conservation Horizon: A Guide to Climate Change Vulnerability Assessment (Glick et al., 2011)." This document defines the vulnerability of natural resources to climate change as: the extent to which a species, habitat, or ecosystem is susceptible to harm from climate change impacts. Vulnerability under this approach is comprised of three equally weighted metrics or components: exposure, sensitivity, and adaptive capacity:

Vulnerability = Exposure + Sensitivity + Adaptive Capacity

- ✓ **Exposure** refers to whether a resource or system is located in an area experiencing direct impacts of climate change, such as temperature and precipitation changes, or indirect impacts, such as sea-level rise.
- ✓ **Sensitivity** refers to how a resource or system fares when exposed to an impact.
- ✓ **Adaptive Capacity** refers to a resource's or system's ability to adjust or cope with existing climate variability or future climate impacts.

While this formula has been successfully applied to natural systems, some aspects are less appropriate for application in the built environment (i.e., buildings, roads, etc.). For example, structures cannot inherently adapt to climate change or other hazards, while natural resources often can (a salt marsh can adapt to changes in sea level by migrating upland, whereas a building cannot). Therefore, NPS and WCU have modified the methodology and formula for conducting vulnerability assessments of assets within national parks. The new modified formula for the vulnerability of the built environment (assets, infrastructure, buildings, transportation, etc.) is as follows:

Vulnerability = Exposure + Sensitivity

For this methodology, adaptive capacity of an asset is evaluated separately and is not included in the vulnerability score. This does not mean that understanding the adaptive capacity of an asset is not important. The range of adaptation strategies or options available for key vulnerable assets within a national park is the final and perhaps most important step in the overall analysis, as any adaptation actions taken for an asset will help reduce its exposure or sensitivity, which reduces vulnerability.

One goal of this protocol is to standardize methods for evaluating the exposure of NPS assets to coastal hazards and climate change. This includes the standardization of data inputs (i.e. widely available, established data) that will allow the application of a consistent methodology among units. Another goal is to create a more complete and effective set of indicators for assessing the sensitivity of assets to coastal hazards. The focus for this protocol is on structures and transportation assets in the NPS asset database (Facilities Management Software System; FMSS), but it could be adapted to other resources.

General Protocol Methodology

The **Coastal Hazards and Climate Change Asset Vulnerability Assessment Protocol** has four primary steps: 1) Exposure Analysis and Mapping, 2) Sensitivity Analysis, 3) Vulnerability Analysis, and 4) Adaptation Strategies Analysis. A detailed description of the protocol can be found in the final section of this document: Vulnerability Assessment Methodology. Further scoring information can also be found in the Excel results sheets that accompany this report. Below is a general description of the first three steps of the protocol. Adaptation Strategies Analysis will be addressed in a separate report.

Exposure Analysis and Mapping: Standard exposure indicators have been established as part of this protocol (Table 1); these indicators represent the primary factors that should be evaluated to determine an asset's coastal hazard and climate change exposure (to the year 2050). The exposure analysis utilizes data imported into a Geographical Information System (GIS), as exposure is directly dependent on location relative to mapped hazard data. Assets located within an exposure indicator hazard zone (e.g., the storm surge zone) are assigned a higher score than assets located outside the zone. Scores for each indicator are then summed and binned to get a total exposure score. Final exposure scores fall into one of four ranking categories (based on the number of exposure zones): minimal exposure (asset does not lie within any mapped zone), low exposure (1 zone), moderate exposure (2-3 zones), and high exposure (4-5 zones).

Table 1. **JELA specific hazards and data sources for the exposure indicators (see more details beginning page 17)**

Exposure Indicators	JELA Specific Hazard	JELA Data Source
Flooding Potential	1% annual flood ± velocity/waves	FEMA Flood Zones (VE or AE)
Extreme Event Flooding	Storm surge	NPS-specific SLOSH model [1], Cat 3
Sea-Level Rise Inundation	2100 sea-level rise (0.54 m) (proxy for 2050)	NPS-specific SLR modeling
Shoreline Change	Erosion & coastal proximity	Shoreline proximity buffers
Reported Coastal Hazards	Historical flooding	Park questionnaire

[1]Sea, Lake, and Overland Surges from Hurricanes

Sensitivity Analysis: Sensitivity is a function of the inherent properties or characteristics of an asset. A set of primary indicators has also been determined for asset sensitivity: flood damage potential, storm resistance and condition, historical damage, and protective engineering. The main data source for much of the sensitivity analysis is an asset-specific questionnaire (completed by park staff), which contains detailed questions related to each of the sensitivity indicators. A higher score is given for an unfavorable sensitivity indicator result (e.g., an asset built at grade will get a high score for flood damage potential). The sensitivity scores for each indicator are summed to obtain a total raw score, then binned into three categories: low, moderate, and high sensitivity. Assets with minimal exposure are excluded from the sensitivity analysis, since an asset must be exposed to a hazard in order to be sensitive to it.

Vulnerability Analysis: To calculate a vulnerability score for each asset, the exposure and sensitivity scores are summed, and then binned into four vulnerability ranking categories. The vulnerability ranking categories are as follows: minimal (assets with minimal exposure), low, moderate, and high.

Unique Factors: Each park has a unique set of conditions based on the data available and the geologic setting. At JELA, the primary unique factors affecting the analysis include: 1) adjustments to the sea-level rise model due to high rates of land subsidence, and 2) the mitigating effects of the New Orleans area flood control system. A more detailed description of these factors, including how they affected the results for JELA, are presented later in the report, in the section titled: Unique Factors & Considerations.

Results Summary & Discussion

A total of **25 structures** (buildings and sheds) **and 40 transportation assets** (roads, parking lots, waterfront systems, and primary trails) were included in the vulnerability assessment of JELA. The term "asset" will be used in this document to represent any structure or transportation infrastructure listed in FMSS, regardless of ownership. Also, the results for this vulnerability assessment represent a time frame of approximately 35 years, up to 2050 (a discussion of the 2070 exposure is located on page 15). This document provides a general summary of the results for exposure, sensitivity, and vulnerability of structure and transportation assets at JELA. Specific scores for these factors are reported (alongside FMSS data) for each individual asset in the supplied Excel datasheets; final exposure and vulnerability results are also provided as GIS maps and layers.

Exposure Analysis:

The notable result of the exposure analysis at JELA is that all the assets are split relatively evenly between exposure rankings (Table 2). In addition, roughly 9% of all assets have minimal exposure; minimal exposure within this protocol means that the asset did not fall within ***any*** of the mapped exposure hazard zones (flooding, storm surge, erosion/coastal proximity, sea-level rise, and historical flooding- see Vulnerability Assessment Methodology towards end of document).

The statistical spread in exposure results is likely due to the widespread nature of assets at JELA. The park has assets located over a broad geographic area (Figure 1), some of which are well inland. Over half of the assets in the Barataria unit of the park have high exposure (59%), while no other units have high exposure assets (Figure 2). The high exposure of the Barataria region is primarily due to the rapid rate of relative sea-level rise, as this part of Louisiana has the highest rate of coastal land subsidence in the U.S.

The assets in the New Orleans areas of the park (Chalmette Battlefield and Cemetery and the French Quarter) are primarily low and moderate exposure (Figure 3). The lack of high exposure assets in these locations is due to the mitigating effects of the New Orleans area flood control system (Mississippi River and hurricane/storm protection levees and storm water pumping systems); any asset within the system was automatically given a favorable score for both the storm surge and sea-level rise exposure indicator zones (see Unique Factors & Considerations section for more information). Most of the minimally exposed assets are located at the more inland sites of the park (ACC and Prairie ACC units) as these locations are outside most of the exposure hazards zones (particularly storm surge and sea-level rise).

Table 2. JELA Exposure Results Summary. Sum of percentages may not equal 100 due to rounding.

Assets	High Exposure		Moderate Exposure		Low Exposure		Minimal Exposure		Total #
	#	%	#	%	#	%	#	%	
Structures	5	20%	7	28%	8	32%	5	20%	25
Transportation	15	38%	13	33%	11	28%	1	3%	40
All JELA Assets	**20**	**31%**	**20**	**31%**	**19**	**29%**	**6**	**9%**	**65**

Figure 1. General areas of JELA in southern Louisiana. The small dots represent assets within each unit of JELA.

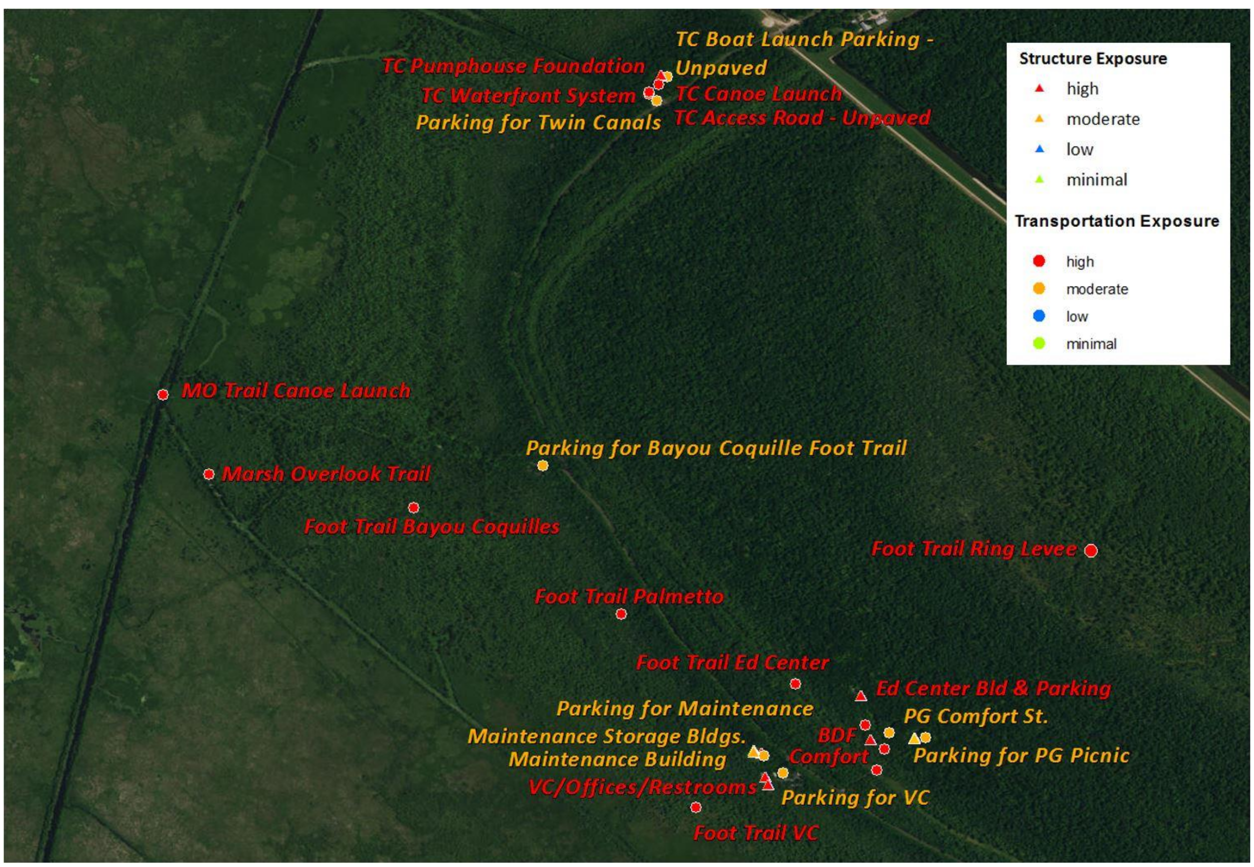

Figure 2. Exposure results from the Barataria unit of the park. Over half of the assets at this location have high exposure. Not all assets are labeled in this figure.

Figure 3. Exposure results from the Chalmette Battlefield and Cemetery unit of the park. In spite of low elevation, the lack of high exposure assets in these locations is due to the mitigating effects of the New Orleans area flood control system.

Sensitivity Analysis:

The sensitivity results for all JELA assets (structures and transportation) show the majority of assets (59%) have moderate sensitivity (to coastal hazards and sea-level rise) and 41% have high sensitivity (Table 3). When divided into structures and transportation, the sensitivity scores for JELA assets are slightly different. Most structures (75%) have moderate sensitivity, while the transportation assets are split evenly between high (49%) and moderate sensitivity (51%). No structures or transportation assets have low sensitivity, and 6 assets were excluded from analysis due to minimal exposure (outside the mapped exposure hazard zones, see Exposure Analysis section).

Table 3. JELA Sensitivity Results Summary. Sum of percentages may not equal 100 due to rounding.

Assets	High Sensitivity		Moderate Sensitivity		Low Sensitivity		Total # Analyzed	Excluded* (min. exposure)
	#	%	#	%	#	%		
Structures	5	25%	15	75%	0	0%	20	5
Transportation	19	49%	20	51%	0	0%	39	1
All JELA Assets	**24**	**41%**	**35**	**59%**	**0**	**0%**	**59**	6

*Assets with minimal exposure (in no hazard zone) were excluded from the sensitivity analysis. Total # analyzed is different for sensitivity compared to exposure and vulnerability.

With the exception of the Barataria TC Pump House Foundation, all structures at JELA were reported as not storm resistant, but in relatively good physical condition. Only a few structures are elevated, including the Barataria Visitor Center, the Barataria Office Complex/Restrooms, and the Barataria Ed Center (Figure 4). Five structures in the Chalmette unit were reported to have been historically damaged (by coastal hazards): Comfort Station, M-B House, Superintendents Lodge, Carriage House, and Equipment Storage Bldg. Although the results for specific sensitivity indicators varied, the overall ranking for most structures at JELA was moderate (Table 3). Five structures have high sensitivity to coastal hazards and sea-level rise, including the Barataria TC Pump House Foundation, the Barataria BDF and PG Comfort Stations, the Barataria Maintenance Complex, and the ACC Visitor Center. All of these high sensitivity assets (except the TC Pump House Foundation) were reported to have been historically damaged.

Figure 4. Elevated structures in the Barataria unit of JELA. A) The Office Complex and Visitor Center (connected); B) and C) The Ed Center.

All transportation assets at JELA have moderate or high sensitivity to coastal hazards and sea-level rise. In the Chalmette unit, all the transportation assets have high sensitivity due to the condition, storm resistance, and historical damage sensitivity categories. Each of the Chalmette assets were also reported as being in poor condition (due to drainage issues) and have been historically damaged.

Vulnerability Analysis:

Close to half (42%) of all assets at JELA have high vulnerability to coastal hazards and sea-level rise, over one-third (35%) have moderate vulnerability, only 14% have low vulnerability, and 9% are minimal vulnerability (Table 4). A higher percentage of transportation assets are highly vulnerable compared to structures (50% compared to 28%). Almost one-half of transportation assets have moderate vulnerability, with only 5% low vulnerability. Among structures, roughly one-quarter each are either moderate (24%), low (28%), or minimal (20%) vulnerability (outside all exposure zones).

Table 4. JELA Vulnerability Results Summary. Sum of percentages may not equal 100 due to rounding.

Assets	High Vulnerability		Moderate Vulnerability		Low Vulnerability		Minimal Vulnerability		Total #
	#	%	#	%	#	%	#	%	
Structures	7	28%	6	24%	7	28%	5	20%	25
Transportation	20	50%	17	43%	2	5%	1	3%	40
All JELA Assets	**27**	**42%**	**23**	**35%**	**9**	**14%**	**6**	**9%**	**65**

Most high vulnerability assets are located in the Barataria unit, however, a few transportation assets in the other units have high vulnerability, including the Wetlands ACC Developed Waterfront on Bayou Lafourche, and several roads and parking lots in the Chalmette unit (Figure 5). The high vulnerability scores in the Barataria unit are primarily due to the exposure to storm surge, flooding, and sea-level rise hazards, while the high vulnerability scores in the Chalmette unit are primarily due to the assets' sensitivity scores.

The high vulnerability assets at JELA have a combined current replacement value (CRV) of approximately $24.7 million, which is about 19% of the total CRV of all assets analyzed. Only one of the ten most valuable assets is moderate and two are high vulnerability. The majority of the ten most valuable structures are actually low or minimal vulnerability (three low, four minimal).

When separated into structures and transportation, the statistics are quite different; 77% of the CRV of the transportation assets have high vulnerability, while only 8% of the CRV of structures are high vulnerability. Out of the ten most valuable transportation assets, eight have high vulnerability and the rest are moderate. The two most valuable, high vulnerability transportation assets are the Barataria Preserve's Palmetto and Bayou Coquilles Foot Trails, and two most valuable, high vulnerability structures are the Barataria Ed Center and the Barataria Visitor Center.

No structures have both high vulnerability and high priority to the park (API > 70), but one structure, the Barataria Sewage Treatment Plant Building, has moderate vulnerability and high priority to the park (API = 71). All high priority (API > 70) transportation assets have high vulnerability, including: Chalmette National Cemetery Military Cemetery Road, Chalmette Battlefield Monument Road, Wetlands ACC Developed Waterfront on Bayou Lafourche, Barataria Foot Trail Bayou Coquilles, Barataria Marsh Overlook Trail, and Chalmette Battlefield Tour Road.

Overall, 42% of all JELA assets have high vulnerability using this methodology (Table 4, Figure 5). However, there are several important caveats to the vulnerability assessment and results:

1) This methodology is meant to assess the vulnerability of a park to coastal hazards and climate change factors combined (i.e., erosion, flooding, storm surge, sea-level rise, and historical flooding; see indicator list in Vulnerability Assessment Methodology section). Therefore, a park or section of park (like the Barataria unit) that has maximum exposure to one or more of these factors (i.e., surge, sea-level rise) will inherently have a higher overall exposure, and thus, vulnerability.

2) A major goal of this methodology is to create a standard protocol for vulnerability assessments, regardless of the data utilized. As higher quality data become available for the metrics of vulnerability (exposure and sensitivity), the final rankings for these assets may change. In these cases, the same protocol will be used, incorporating the more precise data, and increasing the reliability of the vulnerability results.

3) JELA has a number of historical assets, particularly within the Chalmette Battlefield and Cemetery units of the park. None of these assets (structures or transportation) have high ***vulnerability*** to coastal hazards and sea-level rise combined. However, it must be noted that the overall low ***exposure*** of these assets is completely dependent on the efficacy of the New Orleans area flood control systems. Within this protocol, all of the assets within the levee system were given a favorable ***exposure*** score for both storm surge and sea-level rise, based on the assumption that levee-protected assets will continue to be protected from hazards until at least the 2050 timeline of this study. However, during Hurricane Katrina in 2005, the levee system failed 2.5 miles northeast of the Chalmette unit within the Lower 9th Ward (Figure 6), which was responsible for inundating a large number of assets in this region of the park. A similar levee failure in the future could cause comparable (or worse) flooding within JELA's New Orleans area units. Therefore, it is possible that the ***vulnerability*** scores for the assets in the Chalmette and French Quarter units of the park are deceptively low, providing a false sense of security.

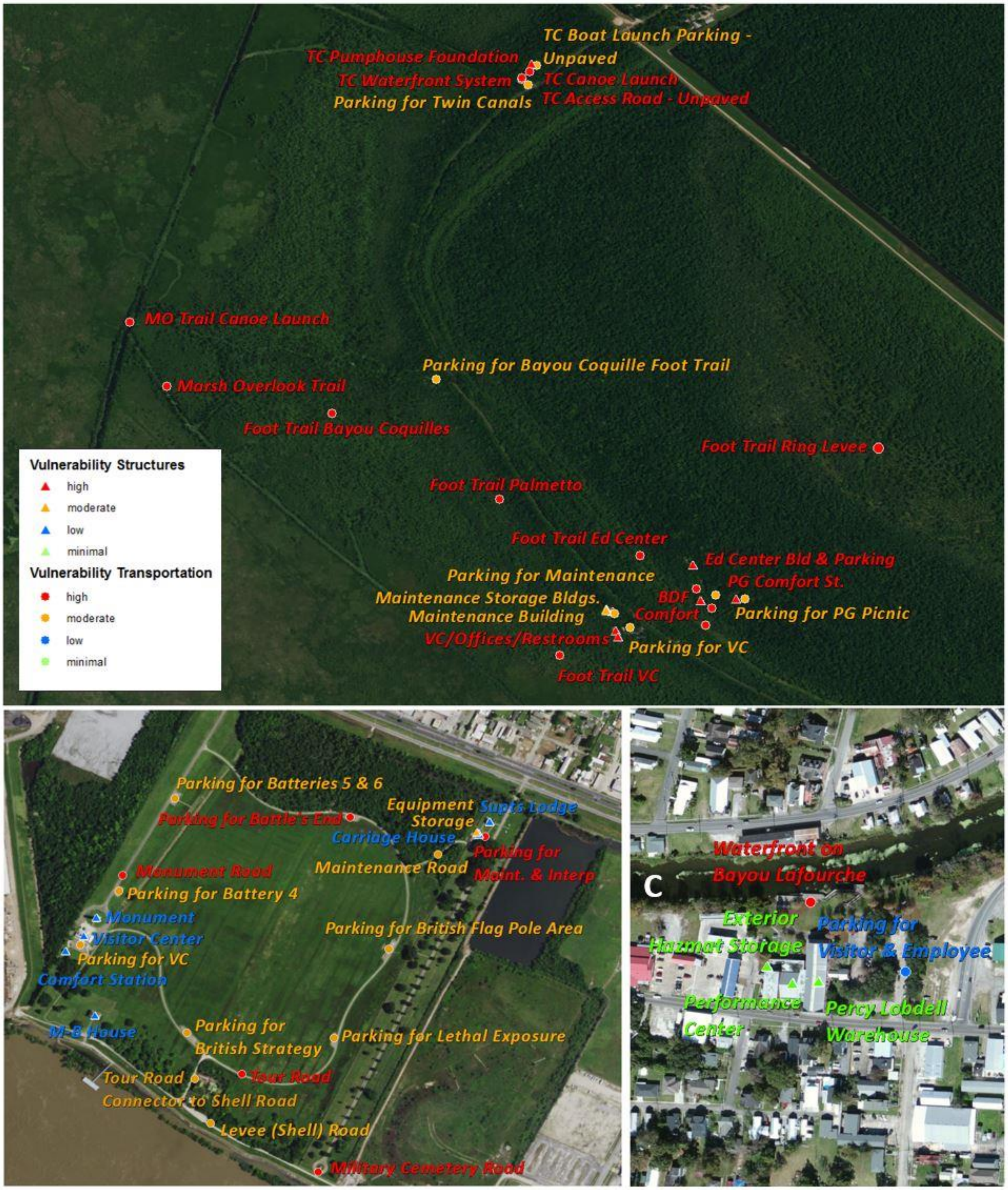

Figure 5. Mapped vulnerability results for JELA assets (not all assets are labeled). A) Barataria unit; B) Chalmette Battlefield and Cemetery unit; C) WACC region. All assets in other units of the park (PACC, ACC, and Headquarters) have minimal vulnerability.

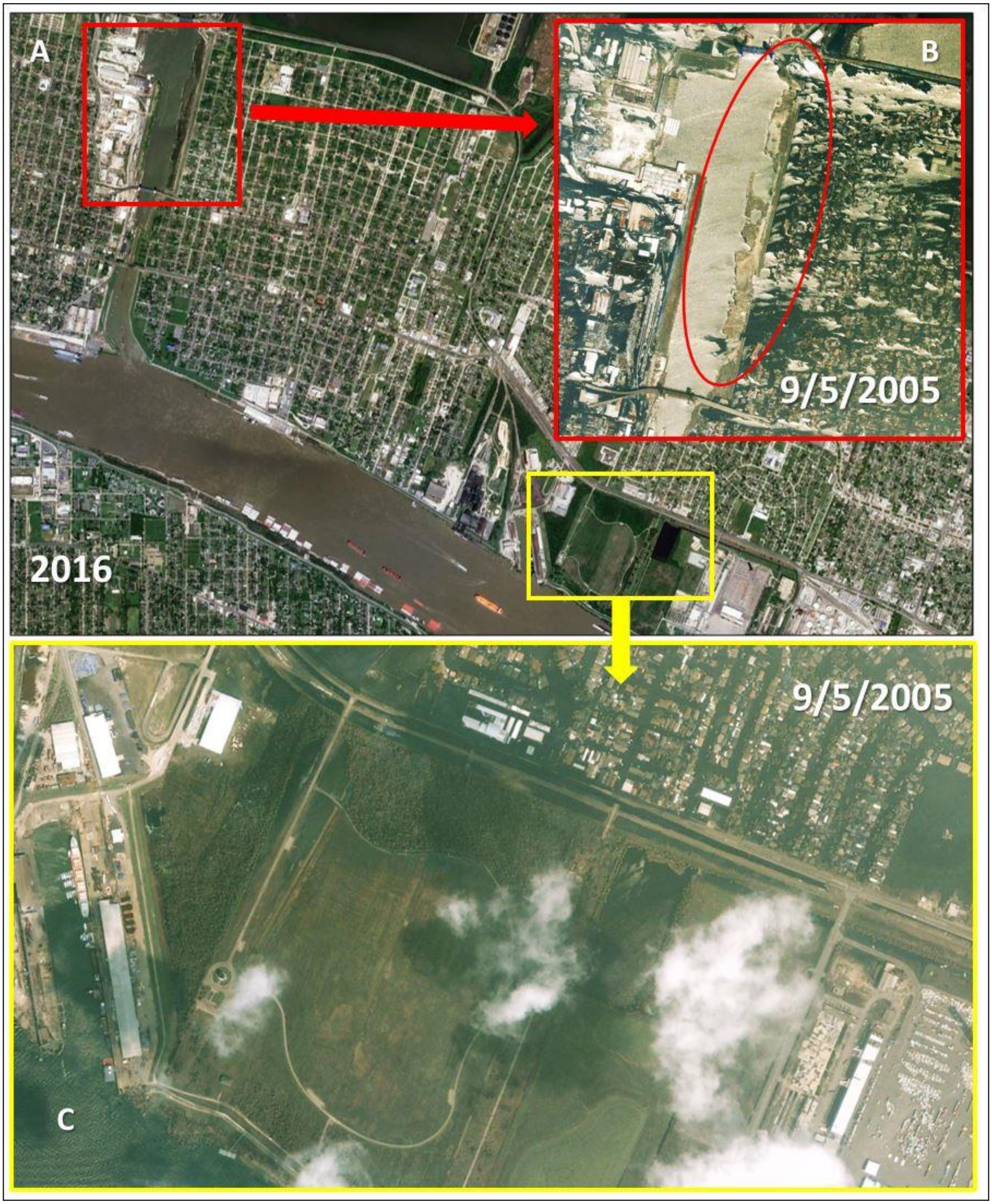

Figure 6. Levee breach/failure and flooding of the Chalmette unit of JELA during Hurricane Katrina in 2005 (from Google Earth). A) 2016 aerial imagery of the Lower 9th Ward (near the red box) and Chalmette (near the yellow box) areas of New Orleans. B) The Lower 9th Ward levee breach during Katrina (imagery from 9/5/2005). C) The flooding of the Chalmette unit of the park from the levee breach in the Lower 9th Ward (imagery from 9/5/2005).

2070 Exposure Analysis

In 2012, the State of Louisiana released the Comprehensive Master Plan for a Sustainable Coast (CMP), which estimates roughly 1 meter of relative sea-level rise (sea-level rise plus subsidence) for southern Louisiana by 2070. In 2017, an updated draft of the CMP was released, which also projects approximately 1 meter of relative sea-level rise by 2070. In order to reconcile this vulnerability assessment with the CMP, a 2070 (~1m) sea-level rise model was incorporated in a second exposure analysis at JELA.

To determine the 2070 exposure of JELA assets to the approximate 1 meter rise predicted in the CMP, the 3 foot sea-level rise model from NOAA was used (Table 5, Figure 7). Sea-level rise data for the new 2070 exposure analysis was obtained from NOAA's Sea Level Rise Viewer (https://coast.noaa.gov/slr/). ***All other original exposure data layers from the 2050 assessment were preserved***. Sensitivity was not evaluated, since determining the sensitivity of an asset that far into the future (50+ years from now) would be highly speculative.

Driven primarily by sea-level rise, there is an increase in the number of high exposure assets between 2050 and 2070 (Table 5), with high exposure assets (both structures and transportation) increasing roughly 20%. In fact, all of the assets with exposure changes are located in the Barataria unit of the park, where the only differences between the 2070 (1.0 m) and 2050 (0.54 m) sea-level rise models occur. This does not mean that sea-level rise and storm surge exposure will not increase in the other units by 2070, but rather that this assessment cannot predict the efficacy of the New Orleans area flood control systems in the future. As a result, all assets within the flood control system are excluded from both the mapped sea-level rise and storm surge hazard zones and are, therefore, scored favorably.

Due to higher modeled sea-level, five structures in the Barataria unit change from moderate to high exposure by 2070, including: the PG Comfort Station, Jones Point VIP Trailer, the Sewage Treatment Plan, and the two maintenance exterior fuel sheds. Seven Barataria unit transportation assets shift from moderate to high exposure by 2070, including Parking for VC, Parking for Maintenance, Parking for PG Picnic Area, Parking for Bayou Coquille Foot Trail, Parking for Twin Canals, Jones Point Parking, TC Boat Launch Parking Lot, and Parking for Ed Center Sewage Plant.

Table 5. Comparison of exposure results for 2050 and 2070.

Exposure Statistics	Structures		Transportation		All Assets	
	2050	2070	2050	2070	2050	2070
# High Exposure	5	10	15	22	20	32
# Mod Exposure	7	2	13	6	20	8
# Low Exposure	8	8	11	11	19	19
# Minimal Exposure	5	5	1	1	6	6
Total # Assets Analyzed	25	25	40	40	65	65
% High Exposure	20%	40%	38%	55%	31%	49%
% Moderate Exposure	28%	8%	33%	15%	31%	12%
% Low Exposure	32%	32%	28%	28%	29%	29%
% Minimal Exposure	20%	20%	3%	3%	9%	9%

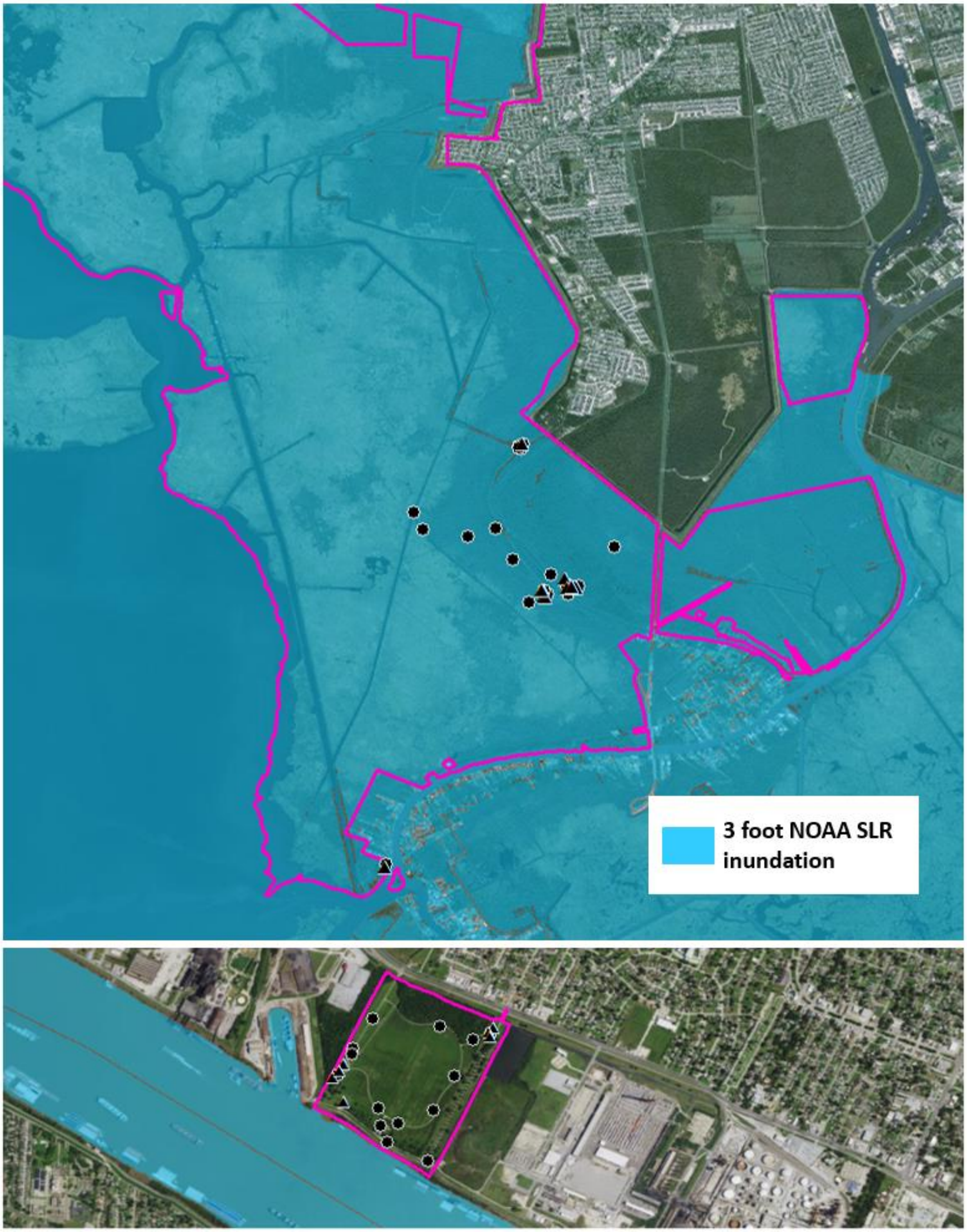

Figure 7. 2070 (3 foot) sea-level rise inundation map for the Barataria (top) and Chalmette (bottom) units of JELA (from NOAA). Blue shading represents areas that would be inundated with a 3 foot rise; background is aerial imagery. Notice the lack of inundation behind the flood control system in the Chalmette unit of the park.

Unique Factors & Considerations

Erosion & Coastal Proximity:

For shorelines without erosion rate data (ocean, estuarine, or developed areas), a simple **coastal proximity buffer** is applied. The coastal proximity buffer distance applied is 35 meters, which can accommodate an erosion rate up to 1m/year, and can account for the fact that infrastructure close to the shoreline is highly likely to experience a range of coastal hazards, including erosion, within the 35 year (2050) timeframe for this analysis. Proximity buffers were used for the major shorelines of JELA, primarily along Lake Salvador. Small canals (less than 100 feet wide) within the Barataria area of JELA were not buffered for erosion/coastal proximity. Shoreline digitizing was done using the ESRI streaming world imagery layer at a scale of 1:2500.

FEMA Flooding Data:

Preliminary (post-Katrina) FEMA data were used for the analysis of flooding at JELA for the primary units (all except the Prairie ACC area, which was published 2016 data). The data have not yet been officially finalized*, but is the most recent dataset for most of the park, and therefore, was used for this analysis (downloaded at: https://msc.fema.gov/portal/advanceSearch#searchresultsanchor).

*Update: Preliminary FEMA data utlized for this anlaysis have now been finalized.

Sea-Level Rise Data:

For the sea-level rise exposure, this protocol utilizes the 2050 sea-level rise inundation model (IPCC 8.5 Representative Concentration Pathway [RCP]) provided by the NPS Climate Change Response Program (CCRP). However, this model only takes into account sea level volume change over that time period, and does not incorporate local land-level change (i.e., subsidence or uplift). For most parks, this is not an issue, as local land-level change is relatively small compared to the amount of predicted sea-level change. However, JELA (and the surrounding area) has a very high rate of subsidence---7.6 mm per year based on data from the Grand Isle, LA tide gauge (data provided by the NPS CCRP).

The CCRP model results show 0.24 meters (9.4 inches) of sea-level rise by 2050 for JELA (Table 6). Using the Grand Isle subsidence rate of 7.6 mm/year, and assuming a constant rate until 2050, another 0.266 meters (10.5 inches) of local sea-level rise is possible due to subsidence. Thus, it can be estimated that JELA could have a total of 0.51 meters of sea-level rise by 2050 (water level rise plus subsidence). Therefore, it was decided that the 2100 4.5 RCP scenario (0.54 m rise) would be used as a "proxy" for total sea-level rise by 2050 at JELA (Table 6, Figure 8).

Table 6. Representative Concentration Pathways and associated sea-level rise values for different time scenarios (obtained from CCRP, publication in press for this analysis).

Park	Year	Representative Concentration Pathways (RCP)			
		2.6	4.5	6.0	8.5
Jean Lafitte National Historical Park and Preserve†§	2030	0.14 m	0.13 m	0.13 m	0.12 m
	2050	0.24 m	0.23 m	0.23 m	**0.24 m**
	2100	0.48 m	**0.54 m**	0.56 m	0.68 m

This SLR model also does not show inundation in the Big Woods area of the Barataria unit (Figure 8 and 9). This is due to what NOAA calls the hydrologically "unconnected" nature of this portion of the park. Areas that have this designation are removed from the sea-level rise model based on the assumption that rising sea levels would not affect areas without a connection to tidal waters. However, upon discussion with the park, it was determined that this area (which is lower in elevation, Figure 9) has at least a partial hydrologic connection. The closest hydrologic monitoring station (CRMS #0234; https://www.lacoast.gov/crms_viewer2/Default.aspx#) confirms this area is inundated by 1-2 feet of water year-round. Therefore, any assets within this area were considered within the sea-level rise exposure hazard and were given an unfavorable score.

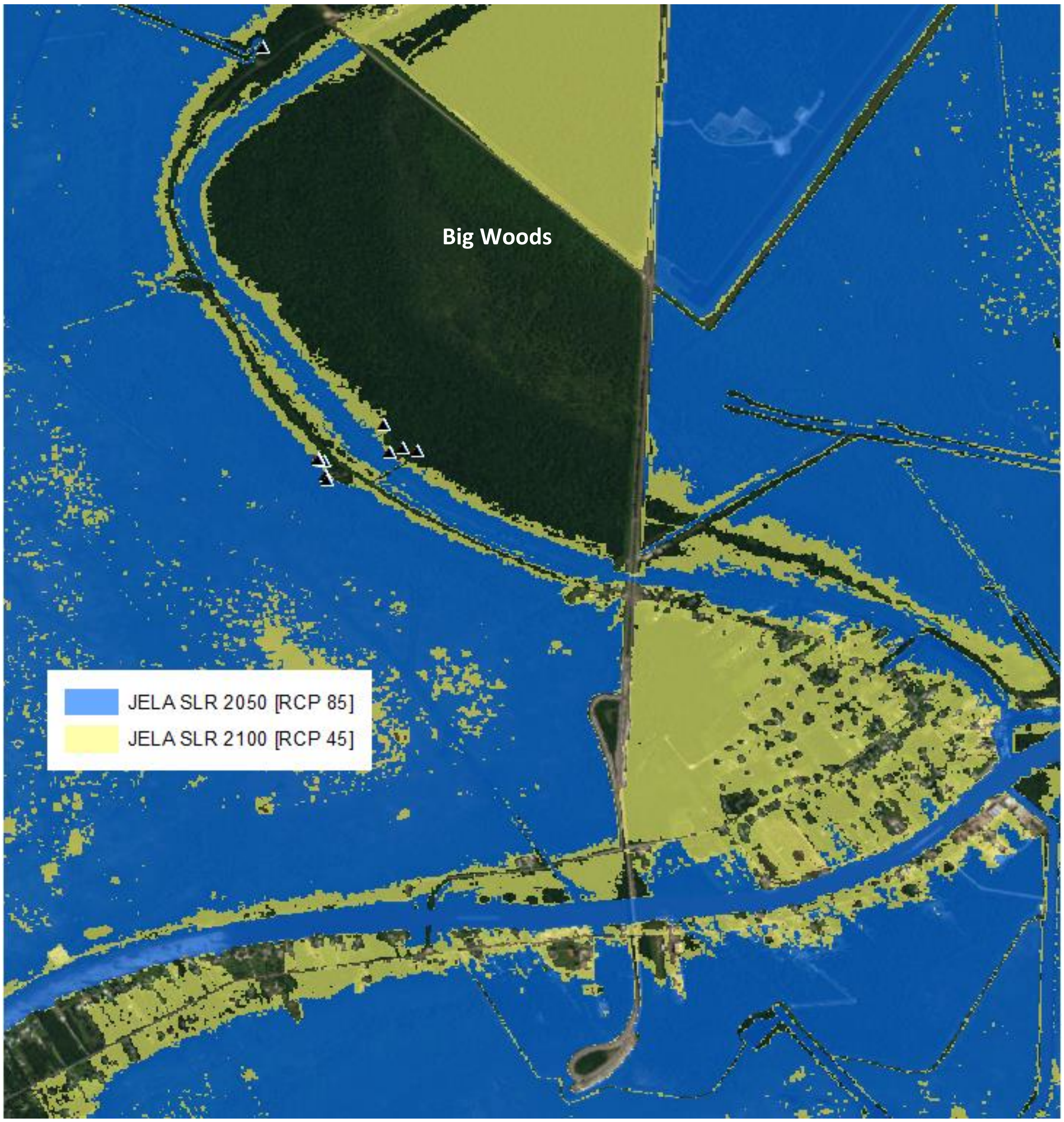

Figure 8. Map showing the difference in coverage between the 2050 SLR model scenario (8.5 RCP) and the 2100 SLR model scenario (4.5 RCP) within the Barataria area of JELA. The yellow represents the additional area that is covered by the 2100 SLR model that is not covered by the 2050 model. These areas represent inundation of the ground surface and do not represent water height. Areas without blue or yellow are represented by aerial imagery.

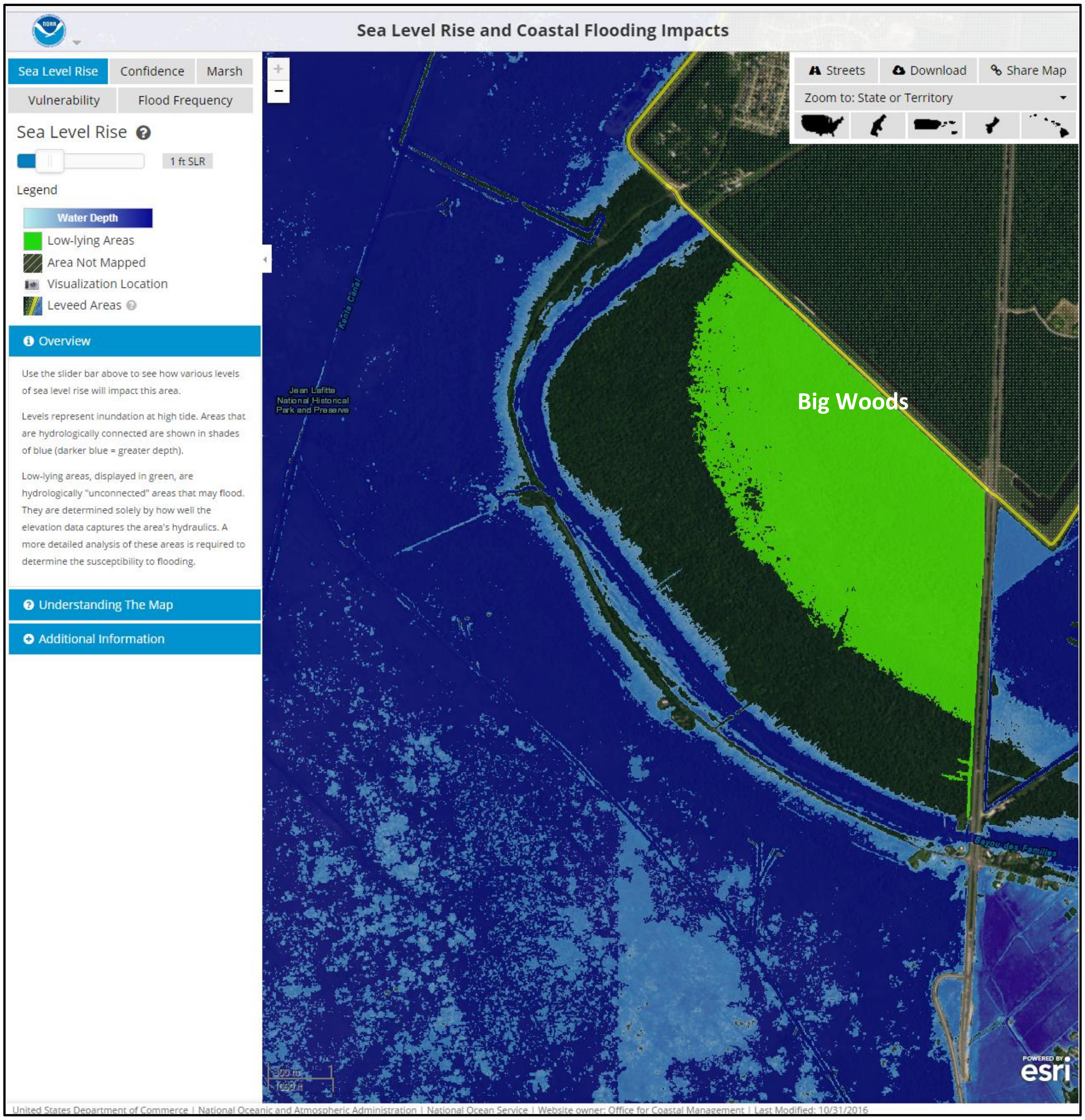

Figure 9. Map showing inundation (blue shades) with 1 foot of sea-level rise according to NOAA (https://coast.noaa.gov/slr/). Notice the green shading in the Big Woods area of the park, which represents areas that are low-lying, but are considered hydrologically "unconnected" and therefore, are not shown as inundated with a 1 foot rise in sea level. However, NOAA also states that further analysis is required to determine the flooding potential of these areas. Discussions with the park led to the conclusion that this area has at least a partial hydrologic connection to tidal waters. Therefore, the Big Woods area was considered within the sea-level rise zone within this vulnerability assessment.

New Orleans Area Flood Control System:

JELA is unique in that two units of the park are completely within the extensive New Orleans area flood control system. Therefore, upon discussion with the park, it was decided that all assets within the flood control system would be excluded from both the mapped sea-level rise and storm surge hazard zones, with the assumption that the system will perform as designed until the year 2050 (Figure 10).

Figure 10. Mississippi River levee protection in front of Chalmette Battlefield at JELA.

Digital Data Sources

Data for Exposure	Name of Source/Link	Directions for Use/ Download	Other Notes
FEMA – Effective	FEMA's National Flood Hazard Layer (Official) on ArcGIS.com. http://fema.maps.arcgis.com/home/item.html?id=cbe088e7c8704464aa0fc34eb99e7f30	Zoom to area of interest and click to download panel (click "download county GIS data").	Areas at JELA covered: Headquarters (French Quarter), Lafayette (ACC- Acadian Cultural Center), Eunice (PACC- Prairie Acadian Cultural Center). ***Effective*** means these areas have digital data on the official National Flood Hazard Layer site.
FEMA – Preliminary	FEMA's Preliminary FEMA Map Products Page https://hazards.fema.gov/femaportal/prelimdownload/	Select by state and then by parish; scroll to bottom of page and download FIRM database.	Areas of JELA covered: Barataria, Chalmette. ***Preliminary*** means these areas did not have panels listed on the above official effective website (although the actual results may be final, they are not yet posted for download on this official page).
SLR – Climate Change Response Program (CCRP)	Data provided by NPS CCRP; full publication related to product in press (not accessible yet); metadata is available.	Geodatabase; for JELA 2050 proxy used JELA_slr_45_2100.	Used JELA_slr_45_2100 for proxy for 2050 SLR inundation (to include subsidence). SLR layer does not extend to ACC or PACC areas of park.
SLR – NOAA	NOAA SLR and Coastal Flooding Impact Viewer data download page https://coast.noaa.gov/slrdata/	Click on state of interest (from Sea Level Rise Data Download link) and then Sea Level Rise for parish of interest.	Used 3 ft. SLR (approximately 1 m) for each area of interest for 2070 exposure analysis (LA_SLR_3ft).
Surge (SLOSH) – Climate Change Response Program (CCRP)	Data provided by NPS CCRP; full publication related to product in press (not accessible yet); metadata is available.	Geodatabase; must navigate to C3M_km3_p (category 3 mean tide).	Used C3M_km3_p (category 3 mean tide). Was further edited by WCU to show just area of inundation. Surge data does not extend to ACC or PACC areas of park.
Erosion	Simple shoreline buffer of 35 meters. Digitized shoreline using ESRI streaming layer at scale of 1:2500. http://server.arcgisonline.com/ArcGIS/rest/services/World_Imagery/MapServer	Imagery cannot be downloaded, but is viewed as a streaming layer while within ArcMap program.	Very few assets are in the erosion/proximity buffer for JELA (although other resources, such as natural resources, may be at risk). To include this factor in future studies, distance from the water can be measured directly or by digitizing in ArcGIS. This study only digitized the canals over 100 feet in width.

Note: Digital FEMA data could not be located for Thibodaux area (Wetlands Acadian Cultural Center- WACC), approximated using LSU Flood Mapping Service- http://maps.lsuagcenter.com/floodmaps/?FIPS=22057 (type in Thibodaux to view zones).

Vulnerability Assessment Methodology

The **Coastal Hazards and Climate Change Asset Vulnerability Assessment Protocol** has four primary steps:

1) Exposure Analysis and Mapping
2) Sensitivity Analysis
3) Vulnerability Analysis
4) Adaptation Strategies Analysis

Step 1: Asset Exposure Analysis & Mapping

The first step in the protocol is to analyze the exposure of NPS assets to coastal hazards and climate change. Standard exposure indicators have been determined by WCU; these indicators represent the primary factors or hazards that should be evaluated to determine an asset's exposure (to the year 2050). The five general exposure indicators are: flooding potential, extreme event flooding, sea-level rise inundation, shoreline change, and reported coastal hazards. The goal of this methodology is to standardize the data sources for exposure analysis, using widely available and regularly updated sources (when possible). Table 7 summarizes these indicators, as well as common data sources for each.

Table 7. Exposure Indicators for Asset Coastal Hazards and Climate Change Vulnerability

Exposure Indicator	Common Data Sources
☑ **Flooding Potential** 1% annual flood chance ± velocity/waves	FEMA Flood Zones (VE or AE); LiDAR DEM or other elevation model
☑ **Extreme Event Flooding** storm surge, tsunami, extreme high water	NPS-specific SLOSH model; tsunami models; tide gage recorded extreme high water data
☑ **Sea-Level Rise Inundation** 2050 projection	NPS-specific SLR modeling; LiDAR DEM or elevation other model
☑ **Shoreline Change** erosion, coastal proximity, cliff retreat	State or USGS erosion rate buffers; cliff retreat rate buffers; shoreline proximity buffers
☑ **Reported Coastal Hazards** historic flooding, visible slope instability	Park surveys/questionnaire results; storm imagery & reconnaissance

The exposure analysis utilizes data imported into Geographical Information Systems (GIS) format, as exposure is directly dependent on location and mapped hazard data (whether the area experiences the hazard). Digital hazard data are gathered for each of the exposure indicators, such as the online georeferenced FEMA flood map layers. The only dataset that does not come from a widely available, well established source is the reported coastal hazards layer, which is derived from storm imagery, reconnaissance, and direct communication with park personnel. Each exposure data layer thus represents an exposure indicator hazard zone for a particular park. Assets that are located within a particular zone are assigned a higher score than assets located outside of the hazard zone.
The following sections describe the specific methods, scoring, and common data sources of each exposure indicator.

Flooding Potential:

The flooding potential indicator describes hazards related to the 1% annual flood chance, including waves and water velocity. For most parks, data for this exposure indicator comes from FEMA's digital flood maps (https://msc.fema.gov/portal/search). Two primary FEMA flood zones are utilized: the VE and AE zones (and sometimes the A, AO, or AH). According to FEMA, the VE zones are areas subject to inundation by the 1-percent-annual-chance flood event, with additional hazards due to storm-induced velocity wave action, and the AE zones are areas subject to inundation by the 1-percent-annual-chance flood event (determined by detailed methods). For a further description of the FEMA flood zones, including the other A zones, see FEMA's website: http://www.fema.gov/flood-zones.

If an asset is within the AE (or other A) zone, it receives an unfavorable score (4) for the flooding indicator. Any asset within the VE zone (the highest hazard zone) receives an unfavorable score for the flooding indicator, and is also assigned an automatic high score for exposure overall. Assets in neither flood zone receive a favorable score (1) for this indicator. Within some parks the FEMA data is incomplete; in these cases, other elevation data sources (such as LiDAR DEMs) are used to supplement the FEMA data.

Extreme Event Flooding:
The extreme event flooding indicator captures flooding from major storms, tsunami, and other extreme high water events. **Storm surge** is the primary extreme event flooding that occurs within parks along the east and gulf coast of the U.S. The data source for storm surge is a NOAA surge inundation model: Sea, Lake, and Overland Surges from Hurricanes (SLOSH; more information: http://www.nhc.noaa.gov/surge/slosh.php). The SLOSH model uses a composite of several thousand model runs with differing storm conditions each time to predict surge. There are two products of this: the Maximum Envelope of Water (MEOW), which is a set of worst case scenarios for certain characteristics like storm category, speed, trajectory, and tide level; and the Maximum of the Maximum Envelope of Water (MOM), which is the worst of all potential scenarios modeled. The surge data included in the exposure analysis (the SLOSH MOM for a category 3 storm) represents the maximum potential surge conditions. SLOSH storm surge data for this protocol was supplied by the NPS Climate Change Response Program (CCRP).

For parks that are not subject to tropical storms and surge (primarily west coast parks), an alternative extreme event flooding hazard is evaluated, commonly either modeled **extreme high water** events or modeled **tsunami** hazard zones. Data for extreme high water events were provided by CCRP; these data map historic patterns of extreme high water events based on tide gage information. The source of the tsunami hazard data is variable, but commonly comes from state agencies or universities.

If an asset falls within the mapped category 3 storm surge zone, extreme high water zone, or the tsunami hazard zone, it receives an unfavorable score (4) for the extreme event flooding indicator. If it lies outside of these zones, it receives a favorable score (1) for this indicator.

Sea-Level Rise:
The sea-level rise indicator describes the potential rise in water within parks by the year 2050. The data source for this exposure indicator is a NPS-specific sea-level rise inundation model provided by the NPS CCRP. The estimated inundation extent was achieved by utilizing a modified bathtub approach as developed by NOAA, and attempts to account for local and regional tidal variability and hydrological connectivity. Polygon extents consist of 4 model-run scenarios using sea-level change maps produced by Colorado Center for Astrodynamics Research at the University of Colorado in Boulder. The maps are based on Representative Concentration Pathways (RCP), which are four greenhouse gas concentration trajectories. Two RCPs were modeled, a moderate RCP, 4.5 and the

most extreme RCP, 8.5. Each RCP was projected to the years 2050 (condition used for this protocol) and 2100. One caveat of these data is that the model does not incorporate local land level change (subsidence or uplift). For many parks this is not a problem, as this change is relatively small compared to the amount of predicted water level rise. However, the sea-level rise data in parks with high rates of subsidence (parks in southern Louisiana) or uplift (many Alaska parks) will require adjustment.

If an asset falls within the mapped 2050 SLR zone, it receives an unfavorable score (4) for the sea-level rise indicator. If it lies outside of the mapped SLR zone, it receives a favorable score (1).

Shoreline Change:
For most parks, particularly those along the U.S. East and Gulf coasts, shoreline **erosion** buffers are created using known erosion rate data. These data are commonly acquired from the U.S. Geological Survey, Coastal and Marine Geology Program (http://coastal.er.usgs.gov/shoreline-change/) or from state coastal management programs. Short-term erosion rates (usually data ranging from the 1970's to 2004) are utilized to make buffer zones for a 35-year time frame. Rates are binned into the following categories before buffering: 1m/year, 2m/year, 4m/year, 6m/year, 8m/year, etc. (continuing increments of 2 meters).

Many national parks along the west coast of the U.S. contain steep cliff shorelines. In some cases, these shorelines are retreating significantly due to cliff erosion; this is particularly true of areas comprised of unconsolidated materials (sands and gravels) or loosely consolidated bedrock (commonly sedimentary rock). In these cases, cliff retreat data will be utilized in place of erosion rate data (when available). Like erosion rates, the cliff retreat rates are utilized to make **cliff retreat** buffer zones for a 35-year time frame (2050). Below 1 meter, retreat rates are binned into detailed increments, with categories of: 0.25m/year, 0.5m/year, 0.75m/year, and 1m/year, and the same categories as shoreline erosion for rates above 1 meter: 1m/year, 2m/year, 4m/year, 6m/year, 8m/year, etc. (increments of 2 meters).

For shorelines without erosion or cliff retreat rate data (ocean, estuarine, or developed areas), a simple **coastal proximity** buffer is applied. The coastal proximity buffer distance used is 35 meters, which can accommodate an erosion rate up to 1m/year, and can account for the fact that infrastructure close to the shoreline is highly likely to experience a range of coastal hazards within the 35 year (2050) timeframe of this analysis.

If an asset falls within the erosion, cliff retreat, or coastal proximity buffer zone, it receives an unfavorable score (4) for this indicator. If it lies outside of these zones, it receives a favorable score (1).

Reported Coastal Hazards:
All of the other exposure indicators represent the *potential* area that could be affected by coastal hazards; the zones do not represent data from actual past events. Therefore, it is essential to have one indicator that includes actual reported coastal hazards. Understanding what has happened in the past in an area is essential to predicting what may happen in the future.

Historical flooding information for each park is commonly obtained from a questionnaire that is completed by park staff. Historical flooding information is also derived from storm imagery, reconnaissance visits, and direct communication with park personnel. For this indicator, the following question is posed to park personnel as part of the questionnaire:

"Have any of the following assets (or lands around the asset) been FLOODED in previous storm events? * This question is referring to the lands or area around an asset. Even if the asset was not built during a particular storm, we would like to know if that location has been flooded in the past."

For high elevation parks with cliff retreat and no flooding hazards, a similar question is asked for this indicator, and is related to **visible slope instability**. For cliff retreat, it is important to know if the landscape around an asset is currently showing signs that further retreat and erosion is imminent.

After scores are given for each exposure indicator (either 1 or 4), they are summed and binned to get a total exposure score for each asset. Final binned exposure scores fall into one of four ranking categories (based on the number of exposure zones): minimal exposure (asset does not lie within any mapped hazard zone), low exposure (1 zone only), moderate exposure (2-3 zones), and high exposure (4-5 zones). Specific scoring ranges can be found within the Excel results sheets. Any assets that obtain an exposure ranking of minimal are not further analyzed for sensitivity. Finally, all asset types (transportation and structures) are analyzed for exposure using the same general methodology.

Step 2: Asset Sensitivity Analysis

The second step in the protocol is to analyze the sensitivity of NPS assets to coastal hazards and climate change. Similar to exposure, a set of indicators was determined for asset sensitivity. Unlike exposure, however, sensitivity is evaluated independent of location (only exposure is location-dependent). Sensitivity refers to how that asset would fare when exposed to the hazard, which is a function of the inherent properties or characteristics of the asset. While the sensitivity indicators for structures and transportation assets are generally the same (Table 7), how sensitivity is addressed during design and construction is very different.

Because digital sensitivity data are not generally available, the primary data source for much of the sensitivity analysis is an asset-specific questionnaire. This questionnaire contains detailed questions related to the various sensitivity indicators (e.g., is the structure elevated above base flood elevation). It is distributed to appropriate personnel within each unit— typically individuals that possess long institutional memory and familiarity with park facilities. Where appropriate, sensitivity data is also obtained from FMSS, the National Bridge Inventory, aerial imagery, and site visits.

Bridges are considered transportation assets, but have additional factors that must be considered when analyzing sensitivity to coastal hazards and climate change. Table 8 summarizes the four general sensitivity indicators (for all assets), as well as the four additional bridge indicators. The following section describes each sensitivity indicator in detail, including data sources, methodology, and scoring.

Table 8. **Sensitivity Indicators for Asset Coastal Hazards and Climate Change Vulnerability**

	Sensitivity Indicator	Data Sources
☑	Flood Damage Potential (Elevated)	Asset questionnaire; direct measurements of threshold elevation
☑	Storm Resistance & Condition	Asset questionnaire; FMSS database
☑	Historical Damage	Asset questionnaire; discussion with park staff
☑	Protective Engineering	Asset questionnaire; field & aerial imagery analysis; WCU Engineering Inventory
Additional Bridge Indicators		
☑	Bridge Clearance	National Bridge Inventory (item 39)
☑	Scour Rating	National Bridge Inventory (item 113)
☑	Bridge Condition	National Bridge Inventory (item 59 & 60)
☑	Bridge Age	National Bridge Inventory (item 27); FMSS database

Flood Damage Potential:

The flood damage potential indicator represents how likely an asset is to be inundated if the surrounding land area is flooded. For structures, this usually means whether or not the building is constructed on elevated stilts or pilings. Alternatively fill be added to the surrounding land to artificially elevate the asset above local ground height. This information is commonly obtained through the park questionnaire or visual inspection during site visits. For this indicator, the following question is posed to park personnel as part of the questionnaire:

"Are any of the following assets elevated at least 5 feet above local ground level (including critical utilities)? Examples include: 1) assets on stilts or pilings, or 2) assets built on artificial fill material above local ground level. NOTE: If elevated, but not quite 5 feet, indicate in comments."

When available, threshold elevation data collected by the NPS Resource Information Services Division (RISD) are included in the sensitivity analysis. These data, which have been collected at only a handful of parks thus far, are acquired with sub-centimeter Global Positioning System (GPS) equipment in order to record accurate threshold and asset elevations. In parks that do not have these data, the questionnaire (in combination with field work) is the primary data source used to determine whether an asset is elevated. The questionnaire generally inquires whether an asset is elevated above ground level – in the case of structures, at least 5 feet. Ideally, elevation of an asset would be compared to FEMA's Base Flood Elevation (BFE), and the precise threshold elevations acquired by RISD make this comparison possible. This can aid in the determination of highly reliable elevation indicators for structures within parks. It should be noted however, that elevation is one of several indicators used to calculate the sensitivity of an asset, and availability of precise elevation data, while preferable, is not critical in gauging overall sensitivity and vulnerability.

The precise threshold elevation verifies the first metric (flood damage potential) within the sensitivity analysis. This elevation is compared to local BFE for each asset to determine if the asset's primary threshold was above or below BFE. If an asset is elevated above BFE, it will receive a favorable score for the flood damage potential sensitivity metric (only if it is within a FEMA flood zone).

If an asset is reported to be elevated on stilts, built on elevated fill, or has a threshold above FEMA BFE, it receives a favorable score (1) for the flooding potential indicator. If it is not elevated (built at grade), it receives an unfavorable score (4) for the indicator.

Storm Resistance & Condition:
This sensitivity indicator represents how well an asset will resist damage from coastal hazards based on two factors: 1) overall storm resistance and 2) condition. Assets built to storm-resistant standards, with quality construction, or in good condition are less likely to be damaged by coastal hazards. For this indicator, the following two questions are posed to park personnel:

"Are any of the following assets built to resist flood/wave storm damage? Examples include: 1) assets built to specific storm-resistant standards/engineering codes, or 2) assets particularly or inherently resistant to other forms of damage or deterioration (e.g., fortifications)."

"Are any of the assets listed below particularly vulnerable to flood/wave damage due to condition? In other words, is the asset in poor condition due to deterioration, lack of maintenance, etc.? DO NOT consider the location of the asset (even if it is near the water or commonly flooded), only consider the physical condition of the asset itself. The condition should be considered independent of the asset's location."

This sensitivity indicator is scored as a combination of storm resistance and condition. If an asset is reported to be storm resistant, it receives a favorable score (1) for half of the total score for this indicator (and vice versa). If the asset is reported to be in poor condition, it receives an unfavorable score (4) for half of the total score for this indicator (and vice versa).

Historical Damage:
The historical damage indicator represents if an asset has been damaged by coastal hazards in the past, as assets that have been previously damaged are more likely be damaged in the future. This is similar to the reported coastal hazards exposure indicator, but instead of focusing on the site or area around an asset, this indicator is focused on damage to the asset itself. For this indicator, the following question is posed to park personnel as part of the questionnaire:

Have any of the following assets been significantly DAMAGED in previous storm/flooding events (water/wave damage only)? * This question is focused on the actual damage from an event (the prior flooding question is about the LAND near the asset being inundated)

If an asset is reported to have been damaged in the past, it receives an unfavorable score (4) for this indicator. If it has not been damaged in the past it receives a favorable score (1) for the indicator.

Protective Engineering:
This indicator represents if an asset is protected by engineering including hard structures (e.g., seawalls, bulkheads) or landscape modifications (e.g., significant drainage alteration, major restored landscape). This indicator assumes that assets protected with engineering are less likely to be damaged by coastal hazards. Data sources include the questionnaire, the NPS coastal engineering inventory (http://www.nature.nps.gov/geology/coastal/monitoring.cfm), and site visits. The following question is posed to park personnel as part of the questionnaire:

Are any of the following assets currently being protected by an engineered structure (e.g., seawall, bulkhead) or other major engineering (e.g. drainage, major landscape modification, major restored landscape)? Explain if needed.

If an asset is reported to be protected by engineering, it receives a favorable score (1) for this indicator; if the asset is not protected by engineering, it receives an unfavorable score (4) for the indicator.

Bridge Indicators: Clearance, Scour Rating, Condition, and Age:
For bridges within the National Bridge Inventory (NBI) database (public bridges over 20 feet in length), additional indicators are considered; the data for these indicators comes directly from the NBI database. The bridge sensitivity additional indicators include: clearance, scour rating, condition, and age. Table 9 below describes each indicator, including the description, rationale, and scoring.

Table 9. Additional Bridge Indicators

Indicator	Description & Rationale	Scoring (NBI score = sensitivity score)
Clearance	Bridges with higher clearance above the water surface are less likely to be damaged by coastal hazards.	*Amount of clearance in feet*: > 15 = 1; 9-15 = 2; 1-8 = 3; 0= 4
Scour Rating	Bridges with scour issues are more likely to be damaged by coastal hazards.	*Rating*: n/a = 1; low & stable (5-8) = 2; stable (4) = 3; critical = 4
Condition	Bridges in poor condition are more likely to be damaged by coastal hazards.	*Condition Rating*: n/a = 1; 0-3 = 2; 4-6 = 3, 7-9 = 4
Age	Bridges closer to their lifespan are more likely to be damaged by coastal hazards.	*Age (in years)*: 0-25 = 1; 26-50 = 2; 51-75 = 3; > 75 = 4

To calculate a sensitivity score, each asset is first given a score for all applicable indicators. These scores are summed to obtain a total raw score for sensitivity, then binned into three categories reflective of the number of unfavorable indicators: low sensitivity, moderate sensitivity, and high sensitivity. Specific scoring ranges can be found within the Excel results sheets.

Step 3: Asset Vulnerability Analysis
To obtain a vulnerability score for each asset, the exposure and sensitivity scores are summed, and then binned into four vulnerability ranking categories. The ranking categories are as follows: minimal vulnerability (assets with minimal exposure and not included in the sensitivity analysis), low vulnerability, moderate vulnerability, and high vulnerability. Specific scoring ranges for vulnerability can be found within the Excel results sheets. A subset of the assets from the completed vulnerability analysis will be chosen by the park for development of adaptation strategies (step 4).

Step 4: Adaptation Strategies Analysis
After the vulnerability analysis is complete, adaptation strategies will be analyzed for key assets within each park. FMSS data such as Asset Priority Index (API) and Optimizer Band (OB) can help select the assets to analyze for adaptation strategies. Assets analyzed will likely include those with high vulnerability and high priority and/or high criticality (API/OB), as well as high vulnerability assets with low priority and/or criticality. This adaptation analysis begins with discussions with the park, or by way of a questionnaire. This portion of the analysis focuses on the options available to the park to reduce the overall vulnerability of key assets. An outline of potential adaptation strategies to reduce coastal hazards and climate change vulnerability has been compiled by WCU for both structures and transportation assets (Table 10).

Table 10. Adaptation Strategies to Reduce Vulnerability of Assets to Coastal Hazards and Climate Change

Adaptation Action	Effect on Vulnerability and Rationale
☑ **Elevate**	Reduces the **sensitivity** of the asset; elevating a structure (and critical utilities) or transportation asset (i.e., a road) reduces the risk of flood damage.
☑ **Relocate**	Reduces the **exposure** of the asset; relocating the asset to a lower risk area reduces the likelihood that it will experience impacts from coastal hazards/SLR.
☑ **Protect/Engineer**	Reduces the **exposure** and/or **sensitivity** of the asset; protecting the asset with an engineered structure or landscape modifications (i.e., drainage) can reduce the likelihood that the asset will experience, or obtain damage from, coastal hazards/SLR.
☑ **Decommission & Remove**	Eliminates the vulnerable asset.
☑ **Storm-Resistant Redesign**	Reduces the **sensitivity** of the asset; redesigning the asset to be more storm resistant can reduce the likelihood of damage from coastal hazards/SLR.
☑ **Engineering Downgrade** (transportation assets only)	Reduces the **sensitivity** of the asset; downgrading the amount of engineering (i.e., replacing paved parking lot with shell material lot) can reduce the cost of rebuilding after damage and gives more flexibility for replacement.

This protocol is designed solely to assess the vulnerability of physical infrastructure. However, there are other adaptation actions for vulnerable assets that would not reduce the vulnerability of the physical asset, but instead its function. For example, a park might consider moving the critical contents within a building to a higher floor to reduce potential flood damage. Similarly, parks may decide to shift an asset's function to a less vulnerable asset. These adaptation actions do not change the vulnerability of the original asset (i.e., exposure and sensitivity remain the same); instead these actions change the criticality of the asset, potentially making it less of a concern to the park.

Additional NPS Climate Change Resources

Additional efforts are being made by NPS to address climate change in the coastal zone, as well as other critical environments. A number of these studies aim to improve the understanding of overall trends in climate change stressors, while others have focused on recording the specific effects of those stressors on natural and cultural resources within parks. Using this research and the latest climate science, the NPS is guiding adaptation efforts at units nationwide. Below are some of the climate change related resources at NPS:

- General Climate Change at NPS: http://www.nps.gov/subjects/climatechange/index.htm
- Climate Change Adaptation for Cultural Resources: http://www.nps.gov/subjects/climatechange/adaptationforculturalresources.htm
- Coastal Adaptation: http://www.nps.gov/subjects/climatechange/coastaladaptation.htm
- NPS Climate Change Adaptation Plan: http://www.nps.gov/orgs/ccrp/upload/NPS_CCActionPlan.pdf