



NATIONAL *fish, wildlife & plants*
CLIMATE ADAPTATION STRATEGY

Project Title: Assessing Climate Vulnerability of California Vegetative Communities

Headline Title (2-5 words): Vulnerability Assessment of California Vegetative Communities

Brief Summary (Abstract): This project is a California-wide, climate change vulnerability analysis at the macro-habitat scale for 42 different terrestrial vegetation types (macrogroups). Results of the vulnerability assessment will be compared with existing taxa-specific vulnerability studies to paint a more complete picture of biodiversity vulnerabilities to projected climatic changes in the state. This project is being completed in conjunction with the update to California's Wildlife Action Plan.

Project Location: California.

Partners: University of California, Davis.

Background: As stewards of the state's diverse fish, wildlife, and plant resources, and the habitats upon which they depend, CDFW must understand and plan for these environmental changes. The revision of the state's Wildlife Action Plan (SWAP), presented an opportunity to integrate climate risks into a state-wide framework for conservation, and ensure that we are continuing to work towards minimizing the negative impacts of climate change on California species and habitats. Developing conservation strategies that address the threats posed by climate change has been identified as a high priority for the SWAP revision; climate considerations are already being taken into account in the revision process.

To more thoroughly incorporate climate change threats into the SWAP update, and to supplement the climate considerations currently taking place, it was determined that a state-wide, comprehensive climate change vulnerability analysis at the habitat-scale was needed. Specifically, a vulnerability assessment of the 42 macrogroups in the state is needed to identify vulnerabilities at the scale of analysis and planning being used for the SWAP revision. Vulnerability assessments are an important tool and crucial part of adaptation planning.

Project Goals: Identify not only which species or habitats are most vulnerable to climatic changes, but why they are the most vulnerable. Using this information we can work to minimize or alleviate the contributing factors to a species or habitat's vulnerability by developing management actions to increase habitat and species resiliency to climate risks.

Strategy Goals Implemented:

Goal 5: Increase knowledge and information on impacts and responses of fish and wildlife to a changing climate.

Climate Impacts Addressed: Impacts to biodiversity.

Status of Project Implementation (Timeline, Milestones, Next Steps): Through a Request for Proposals, the University of Davis, California was selected to complete the vulnerability assessment. The project will commence upon completion of the contract (tentatively in June, 2014) and will be finalized in one year.



NATIONAL *fish, wildlife & plants*
CLIMATE ADAPTATION STRATEGY

Project Outcomes: The conservation community will gain information on the exposure, sensitivity, adaptive capacity, and overall vulnerability of vegetative communities across the entire state. This information can be used to guide conservation priorities, will inform future revision of the Wildlife Action Plan, and will be used to inform other management and planning efforts at the Department.

Funding Sources: State Wildlife Grant.

Photos/Attachments:

Photo/Figure Credits (do we have permission to print):

Suggested Photo Caption: