

## PRODUCTS AND SERVICES



### Climate Change Vulnerability Assessment and Adaptation Strategies

Conservation planning for a changing world



The Colorado Natural Heritage Program is actively engaged in climate change assessment and adaptation planning throughout Colorado and the western U.S. Program staff are already working with a variety of partners to meet the challenges of biodiversity conservation under changing conditions. As part of Colorado State University, we are well placed to collaborate with regional climate change experts and move forward with climate change adaptation strategies.

#### Climate change vulnerability assessment

- Identify Colorado's most vulnerable species and ecosystems.
- Provide in-depth analysis of key factors interacting with climate change and contributing to the vulnerability of terrestrial ecosystems and species (e.g., pest attacks, invasive species, fire, and drought), and factors contributing to the vulnerability of freshwater ecosystems (e.g., decreasing base flows, dependence on timing and magnitude of snowmelt).
- Help natural resource managers set priorities for conservation.

#### Adaptation strategies

- Species- or ecosystem-specific adaptation guides that address the sensitivity, exposure, and adaptive capacity of these elements under expected future climate conditions. Comprehensive summary of what is known about the species or ecosystem, an evaluation of climate change vulnerability, and a detailed analysis of what can be done to preserve and manage the target elements in light of changing future conditions.
- Build on what we currently know to help build resilience of the species, ecosystems, and people facing a changing climate. Focus on identifying real-world next steps.
- Identify high priority "no-regrets" strategies that incorporate expert opinion and stakeholder input.

#### Data development, management and integration

- Predictive modeling and other analyses backed by our BIOTICS database employing an internationally adopted and peer-reviewed methodology for tracking species of concern.
- Geospatial and non-spatial methods of examining the vulnerability of elements across their entire range.

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