CONSERVATION LECTURE SERIES PRESENTS:

A Climate Change Vulnerability Assessment of California's Terrestrial Vegetation

Prepared for the California Department of Fish and Wildlife by the University of California, Davis
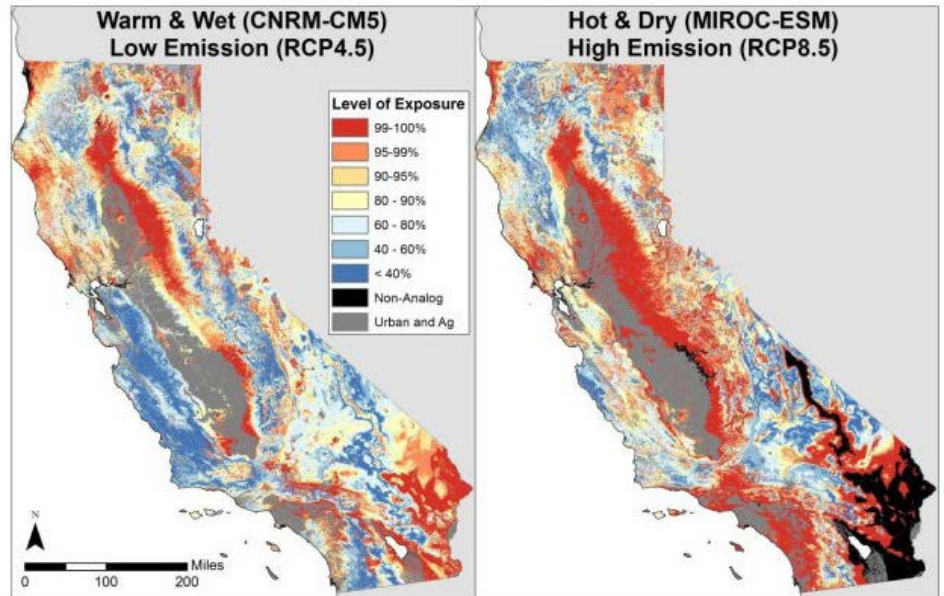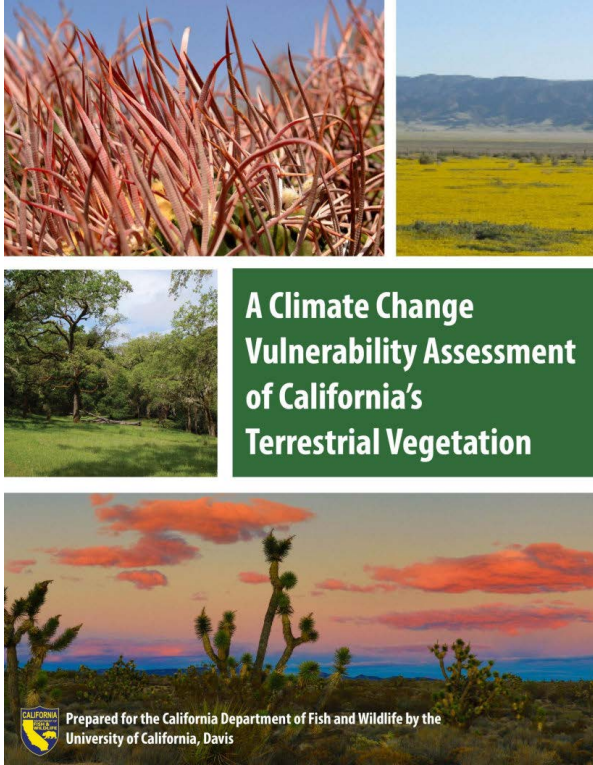
Conservation applications of vegetation climate vulnerability and refugia data in California

PRESENTED BY: Dr. Jim Thorne, UC Davis; Dr. Melanie Gogol-Prokurat, CDFW; and Sandra Hill, CDFW

Understanding the potential stress of climate change on vegetation can help guide conservation and land management decisions. Climatic stress varies across the distribution of each vegetation type. Vegetation refugia are areas where climatic stress is expected to remain within the tolerance level of a given vegetation type—areas where the vegetation and the species that depend on these habitats might find refuge in the face of climate change. We will discuss a vegetation vulnerability and refugia dataset that was developed for California, how this data has been applied to the habitat maps of 522 terrestrial vertebrate species, and other conservation applications of the data.

Dr. Jim Thorne is a Landscape Ecologist at UC Davis. He led the vegetation climate vulnerability assessment that was completed in conjunction with the 2015 State Wildlife Action Plan (SWAP) update. The applications of this work was recently featured in a Climate-Change Refugia Special Issue of Frontiers in Ecology and the Environment.

Dr. Melanie Gogol-Prokurat, Spatial Ecologist, and Sandra Hill, GIS Specialist, are with the Conservation Analysis Unit at the California Department of Fish and Wildlife's Biogeographic Data Branch. They used the vegetation vulnerability data to evaluate the extent of climate change exposure and refugia within the habitats of 522 terrestrial vertebrate species using California Wildlife Habitat Relationships habitat suitability data.

Tuesday, Dec. 15th, 10:30 am - 12 pm
Register at: https://www.wildlife.ca.gov/Conservation/Lectures
Questions? Contact: Whitney.Albright@wildlife.ca.gov

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