Climate Change Vulnerability Assessments of the Great Basin: linking science to decision making
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Abstract
The use of climate science in decision making requires a complex interaction between science provider and potential user. Many decision-making tools attempt to aid this interaction. One such tool is a Vulnerability Assessment (VA). VAs quantify the exposure, sensitivity and adaptive capacity of an ecosystem or species as the result of climate change. Though VAs are meant to aid resource managers in making decisions, several barriers have been found to hinder their use. Through interactions with resource managers throughout the Great Basin, USA, we hope to better understand these barriers to better understand the interaction between science and user.

What fuels the disconnect between climate science and a decision maker?

We hypothesize several factors:
- Too complex
- Biased
- Not relevant
- Too expensive
- Unaligned timelines
- Other...

...What do you think?

What we are asking
We are disseminating surveys via Qualtrics right now. The survey will provide us with data that will identify who is using Vulnerability Assessments, why certain VAs are being used and the constraints that prevent VAs from being used more broadly.

What’s next?
After collecting information via our survey, we plan to conduct individual interviews with subsets of our stakeholders. In the interviews we will explore the connection of science and decision-making in greater detail.

The goal of our project is to offer insight into the successful integration of science in resource management and decision-making. We also seek to identify gaps in the integration process that, through knowledge gained in this study, can be filled in the future.

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