Name	Applying the NatureServe Climate Change Vulnerability Assessment to Natural Heritage Resources in Virginia
Description	Zoologists and Botanists at the Virginia Department of Conservation and Recreation – Division of Natural Heritage identified 40 species (20 plant species and 20 animal) to assess for their predicted responses to climate change stressors using NatureServe's Climate Change Vulnerability Index. This tool consists of aprogrammed in a Microsoft Excel workbook; uses downscaled climate predictions provided by the Climate Wizard; requires knowledge about current distribution and natural history of the species being assessed; predicts whether a species will decline, remain stable, or increase in numbers or distribution within an assessment area; identifies key factors associated with vulnerability for assessed species; and is complementary to NatureServe Conservation Status Ranks (assessment factors do not overlap). The Index uses a scoring system that integrates a species' predicted exposure to climate change within an assessment area and three sets of factors associated with climate change sensitivity, each supported by published studies: 1) indirect exposure to climate change, 2) species specific factors (including dispersal ability, temperature and precipitation sensitivity, physical habitat specificity, interspecific interactions, and genetic factors), and 3) documented response to climate change.
Type	- PRODUCTS: Plans, Assessments, Studies
Sector	- Biota
Focus Area	- Conservation/ Restoration of Sensitive Species and Habitats
Region	- Regional Or State -- Mid-Atlantic
Lead Agencies	Virginia Department of Conservation and Recreation – Division of Natural Heritage
Contacts	Anne Chazal, Virginia Department of Conservation and Recreation, anne.chazal@dcr.virginia.gov