

## Climate Change Vulnerability Index

### Plant Species Assessment

Completed by John Gamon, Washington Natural Heritage Program

December 2013

Name: *Erigeron howellii*

Index Result: Not Vulnerable / Presumed Stable

#### Exposure to Climate Change:

- 1) Temperature – All occurrences fall within the same temperature category (3.9-4.4<sup>0</sup> F warmer).
- 2) Moisture – All occurrences fall within the same moisture metric category (-0.051 - -0.073).

#### Climate: Indirect

- 1) Exposure to sea level rise
- 2) Distribution relative to barriers
  - a. Natural barriers
  - b. Anthropogenic barriers
- 3) Predicted impact of land use changes resulting from human responses to climate change

#### Species-Specific Factors:

- 1) Dispersal and movements
- 2) Predicted sensitivity to temperature and moisture changes
  - a. Predicted sensitivity to changes in temperature
    - i. historical thermal niche - Considering the mean seasonal temperature variation for occupied cells, the species has experienced average (57.1 - 77° F/31.8 - 43.0° C) temperature variation in the past 50 years.
    - ii. physiological thermal niche – Selected ‘Somewhat increase’ vulnerability
  - b. Predicted sensitivity to changes in precipitation, hydrology, or moisture regime
    - i. historical hydrological niche - Considering the range of mean annual precipitation across occupied cells, the species has experienced slightly lower than average (11 - 20 inches/255 - 508 mm) precipitation variation in the past 50 years.
    - ii. physiological hydrological niche
  - c. Dependence on a specific disturbance regime likely to be impacted by climate change - Neutral
  - d. Dependence on ice, ice-edge, or snow-cover habitats – Selected ‘Somewhat increase’ vulnerability; some sites experience snowpack during some years.
- 3) Restriction to uncommon geological features or derivatives - Neutral
- 4) Reliance on interspecific interactions
  - a. Dependence on other species to generate habitat - Neutral
  - b. Dietary versatility (animals only)
  - c. Pollinator versatility (plants only) - Unknown
  - d. Dependence on other species for propagule dispersal - Neutral
  - e. Forms part of an interspecific interaction not covered by 4a-d
- 5) Genetic factors
  - a. Measured genetic variation - Unknown
  - b. Occurrence of bottlenecks in recent evolutionary history (*use only if 5a is "unknown"*) - Neutral
- 6) Phenological response to changing seasonal temperature and precipitation dynamics - Unknown