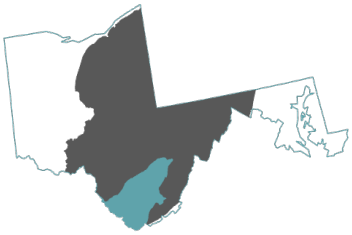
CLIMATE CHANGE PROJECTIONS FOR INDIVIDUAL TREE SPECIES

CENTRAL APPALACHIANS SOUTHERN WEST VIRGINIA



This region's forests will be affected by a changing climate and other stressors during this century. A team of managers and researchers created an assessment that describes the vulnerability of forests in the region (*Butler et al. 2015*). This report includes information on observed and future climate trends, and also summarizes key vulnerabilities for forested natural communities. The Landscape Change Research Group recently updated the Climate Change Tree Atlas, and this handout summarizes that information. Full Tree Atlas results are available online at *www.fs.fed.us/nrs/atlas/*. Two climate scenarios are presented to "bracket" a range of possible futures. These future climate projections (2070 to 2099) provide information about how individual tree species may respond to a changing climate. Results for "low" and "high" emissions scenarios can be compared on the reverse side of this handout.

The updated Tree Atlas presents additional information helpful to interpret tree species changes:

- Suitable habitat - calculated based on 39 variables that explain where optimum conditions exist for a species, including soils, landforms, and climate variables.
- Adaptability - based on life-history traits that might increase or decrease tolerance of expected changes, such as the ability to withstand different forms of disturbance.
- Capability - a rating of the species' ability to cope or persist with climate change in this region based on suitable habitat change (statistical modeling), adaptability (literature review and expert opinion), and abundance (FIA data). The capability rating is modified by abundance information; ratings are downgraded for rare species and upgraded for abundant species.
- Migration Potential Model - when combined with habitat suitability, an estimate of a species' colonization likelihood for new habitats. This rating can be helpful for assisted migration or focused management (see the table section: "New Habitat with Migration Potential").

Remember that models are just tools, and they're not perfect. Model projections can't account for all factors that influence future species success. If a species is rare or confined to a small area, model results may be less reliable. These factors, and others, could cause a particular species to perform better or worse than a model projects. Human choices will also continue to influence forest distribution, especially for tree species that are projected to increase. Planting programs may assist the movement of future-adapted species, but this will depend on management decisions. Despite these limits, models provide useful information about future expectations. It's perhaps best to think of these projections as indicators of possibility and potential change.

SOURCE: *This handout summarizes the full model results for the Central Appalachians region, available at www.fs.fed.us/nrs/atlas/combined/resources/summaries. More information on vulnerability and adaptation in the Central Appalachians region can be found at www.forestadaptation.org/central-appalachians. A full description of the models and variables are provided in Iverson et al. 2019 (www.nrs.fs.fed.us/pubs/57857 and www.nrs.fs.fed.us/pubs/59105) and Peters et al. 2019 (www.nrs.fs.fed.us/pubs/58353).*

CLIMATE CHANGE CAPABILITY

POOR CAPABILITY	
American holly	Pitch pine
Bigtooth aspen	River birch
Black ash	Serviceberry
Eastern hemlock	Striped maple
Eastern white pine	Sweet birch
Mountain magnolia	Yellow birch
Pawpaw	Yellow buckeye
Pin cherry	
FAIR CAPABILITY	
Cucumbertree	White ash
GOOD CAPABILITY	
American beech	Northern red oak
American hornbeam	Red maple
Bitternut hickory	Sassafras
Black locust	Shagbark hickory
Black oak	Shortleaf pine
Blackgum	Sourwood
Blackjack oak	Southern red oak
Chestnut oak	Sugar maple
Eastern hophornbeam	Sweetgum
Eastern redbud	Sycamore
Eastern redcedar	Virginia pine
Flowering dogwood	White oak
Mockernut hickory	Yellow-poplar
NEW HABITAT WITH MIGRATION POTENTIAL	
Florida maple	Slash pine
Loblolly pine	Sugarberry
Longleaf pine	Water oak
Pecan	Willow oak
Post oak	Winged elm
Shumard oak	

NIACS
Northern Institute of Applied Climate Science

www.forestadaptation.org

ADAPTABILITY: Life-history factors, such as the ability to respond favorably to disturbance, that are not included in the Tree Atlas model and may make a species more or less able to adapt to future stressors.

- \+ HIGH *Species may perform better than modeled*
- • MEDIUM
- – LOW *Species may perform worse than modeled*

HABITAT CHANGE: Projected change in suitable habitat between current and potential future conditions.

- ▲ INCREASE *Projected increase of >20% by 2100*
- ● NO CHANGE *Projected change of <20% by 2100*
- ▼ DECREASE *Projected decrease of >20% by 2100*
- ★ NEW HABITAT *Tree Atlas projects new habitat for species not currently present*

ABUNDANCE: Based on Forest Inventory Analysis (FIA) summed Importance Value data, calibrated to a standard geographic area.

- \+ ABUNDANT
- • COMMON
- – RARE

CAPABILITY: An overall rating that describes a species' ability to cope or persist with climate change based on suitable habitat change class (statistical modeling), adaptability (literature review and expert opinion), and abundance within this region.

- △ GOOD *Increasing suitable habitat, medium or high adaptability, and common or abundant*
- ○ FAIR *Mixed combinations, such as a rare species with increasing suitable habitat and medium adaptability*
- ▽ POOR *Decreasing suitable habitat, medium or low adaptability, and uncommon or rare*

SPECIES	ADAPT	ABUN	LOW CLIMATE CHANGE (RCP 4.5) HABITAT CHANGE	LOW CLIMATE CHANGE (RCP 4.5) CAPABILITY	HIGH CLIMATE CHANGE (RCP 8.5) HABITAT CHANGE	HIGH CLIMATE CHANGE (RCP 8.5) CAPABILITY
American basswood	•	•	●	○	▼	▽
American beech	•	+	●	△	●	△
American elm	•	–	●	▽	▲	○
American holly	•	–	●	▽	●	▽
American hornbeam*	•	–	▲	○	▲	△
Bigtooth aspen	•	–	▼	▽	▼	▽
Bitternut hickory*	+	•	▲	△	▲	△
Black ash	–	–	▼	▽	▼	▽
Black cherry	–	•	●	▽	▲	○
Black locust*	•	•	●	○	▲	△
Black oak	•	•	▲	△	▲	△
Black walnut*	•	–	●	▽	▲	○
Blackgum	+	•	▲	△	▲	△
Blackjack oak	+	–	▲	△	▲	△
Bluejack oak*	•				★	
Chestnut oak	+	+	●	△	●	△
Chinkapin oak	•	–	●	▽	▲	○
Cucumbertree*	•	•	●	○	●	○
Eastern hemlock	–	•	●	▽	●	▽
Eastern hophornbeam*	+	–	▲	△	▲	△
Eastern redbud*	•	–	▲	△	▲	△
Eastern redcedar	•	–	▲	△	▲	△
Eastern white pine	–	–	▲	▽	▲	▽
Florida maple*	+		★		★	
Flowering dogwood	•	–	▲	△	▲	△
Honeylocust*	+				★	
Loblolly pine	•		★		★	
Longleaf pine	•		★		★	
Mockernut hickory	+	•	▲	△	▲	△
Mountain magnolia*	–	•	●	▽	●	▽
Northern red oak	+	+	▲	△	▲	△
Pawpaw*	•	–	▼	▽	▼	▽

SPECIES	ADAPT	ABUN	LOW CLIMATE CHANGE (RCP 4.5) HABITAT CHANGE	LOW CLIMATE CHANGE (RCP 4.5) CAPABILITY	HIGH CLIMATE CHANGE (RCP 8.5) HABITAT CHANGE	HIGH CLIMATE CHANGE (RCP 8.5) CAPABILITY
Pecan*	–		★		★	
Pignut hickory	•	•	▲	△	●	○
Pin cherry*	•	–	▼	▽	▼	▽
Pitch pine	•	–	●	▽	●	▽
Post oak	+		★		★	
Red maple	+	+	▼	△	▼	△
River birch*	•	–	▼	▽	▼	▽
Sassafras*	•	•	▲	△	▲	△
Scarlet oak	•	•	▲	△	●	○
Serviceberry*	•	–	●	▽	●	▽
Shagbark hickory	•	•	▲	△	▲	△
Shortleaf pine	•	–	▲	△	▲	△
Shumard oak*	+		★		★	
Slash pine	•		★		★	
Slippery elm*	•	–	●	▽	▲	○
Sourwood	+	•	●	△	●	△
Southern red oak	+	–	▲	△	▲	△
Striped maple	•	–	▼	▽	▼	▽
Sugar maple	+	+	▼	△	▼	△
Sugarberry	•		★		★	
Sweet birch	–	•	▼	▽	▼	▽
Sweetgum	•	–	▲	△	▲	△
Sycamore*	•	•	▲	△	▲	△
Virginia pine	•	•	▲	△	▲	△
Water oak	•		★		★	
White ash	–	•	▲	○	▲	○
White oak	+	+	▲	△	▲	△
Willow oak*	•		★		★	
Winged elm	•		★		★	
Yellow birch	•	•	▼	▽	▼	▽
Yellow buckeye*	–	•	▼	▽	▼	▽
Yellow-poplar	+	+	▼	△	▼	△

**Species with low model reliability based on five statistical metrics of the habitat models that affect change class.*
See maps and tables for more information (www.fs.fed.us/nrs/atlas/combined/resources/summaries).

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