Forest Vulnerability

Project Brief

National Park Service
U.S. Department of the Interior

Natural Resource Stewardship & Science
Climate Change Response Program

Climate, Trees, Pests, and Weeds: Change, Uncertainty, and Biotic Stressors at Marsh-Billings-Rockefeller National Historical Park

Background

Climate change and nonnative tree pests and plants affect forest composition, structure, and function, and the coming decades will likely bring accelerating changes due to these multiple global change factors. We investigated potential forest change in response to climate, differences in projections of change among climate scenarios (uncertainty), and levels of nonnative biotic stressor (tree pests and invasive plants) at 121 national park units in the eastern U.S. (see Fisichelli et al. 2014 for the full article and the project brief for a synthesis). For Marsh-Billings-Rockefeller National Historical Park, we provide here park-specific climate (Table 1) and tree habitat suitability projections (Table 2) for 2100 under two climate scenarios ("least change" and "major change"). These scenarios bracket a range of plausible future conditions based on greenhouse gas emissions and global climate model projections and facilitate assessment of uncertainty in future projections. We also report nonnative tree insects and diseases ("pests") with infestation areas that include the park (Table 3). Park-level nonnative vascular plant ("weeds") information is available from NPSpecies.

Adaptation to ongoing climate change requires revising existing strategies to meet traditional goals and will increasingly require revising goals and developing new strategies. Data presented here is intended to inform managers of potential future change (climate and forests) and exacerbating factors (nonnative species).

More Information

This project is part of ongoing work of the NPS Climate Change Response Program to support park adaptation to changing conditions (websites: for managers, for the public).

Source Publication

Fisichelli, N. A., S. R. Abella, M. P. Peters, and F. J. Krist Jr. 2014. Climate, trees, pests, and weeds: change, uncertainty, and biotic stressors in eastern U.S. national park forests. Forest Ecology and Management 327:31-39.

Contact

Nicholas Fisichelli, Ph.D.
Ecologist, Climate Change Response Program
National Park Service
970-225-3578
Nicholas_Fisichelli@nps.gov

Table 1. Baseline (1961-1990) and future (2070-2099) climates used in tree habitat suitability models for Marsh-Billings-Rockefeller National Historical Park. Future projections for the two climate scenarios ("Least Change" and "Major Change") illustrate a plausible range of future conditions and are shown as departures from baseline values. The Least Change scenario includes a major decrease in future greenhouse gas emissions while the Major Change scenario is a continuation of historical increases in emissions. Climate data are averaged across a roughly 6200 mi^2 (16000 km^2) area centered on the park.

Climate Variable	Baseline (1961-1990)	Least Change (2070-2099)	Major Change (2070-2099)
mean annual temperature	5.8 °C (42.4 °F)	+1.9 °C (+3.4 °F)	+6.7 °C (+12 °F)
mean January temperature	-7.8 °C (18 °F)	+1.3 °C (+2.4 °F)	+5.8 °C (+10.5 °F)
mean July temperature	19.2 °C (66.6 °F)	+1.5 °C (+2.7 °F)	+7.5 °C (+13.6 °F)
seasonality (July-January temp.)	27 °C (48.6 °F)	+0.2 °C (+0.3 °F)	+1.7 °C (+3.1 °F)
mean May-September temp.	15.8 °C (60.4 °F)	+1.8 °C (+3.3 °F)	+7.1 °C (+12.8 °F)
annual precipitation	1077 mm (42.4 in)	+12.2 %	+21.7 %
May-September precipitation	489 mm (19.2 in)	+10.5 %	+13.1 %

Table 2. Potential changes in habitat suitability (2100 compared with 1990) for tree species in Marsh-Billings-Rockefeller National Historical Park. Species are grouped into decreasing, no change, increasing, mixed results, and new habitat groups based on change class designations for two future climate scenarios (the "least change" scenario represents strong cuts in greenhouse gas emissions and modest climatic changes and the "major change" scenario represents continued increasing greenhouse gas emissions and rapid warming). Change class designations are based on the ratio of future (2100) to baseline (1990) habitat suitability and baseline habitat values, e.g., for common species, large decrease is ≤ 0.5, small decrease is > 0.5 and ≤ 0.8, no change is > 0.8 and ≤ 1.2, small increase is > 1.2 and ≤ 2.0, and large increase is > 2.0. Note: table below uses finer change classes (n=8) than was used in the original article (n=3) to designate uncertainty in habitat projections. Habitat suitability models from the US Forest Service Climate Change Tree Atlas. Contact author for further details on change class definitions.

Decreases in Potential Habitat

Scientific Name	Common Name	Least Change	Major Change
Abies balsamea	balsam fir	large decrease	large decrease
Acer saccharum	sugar maple	small decrease	large decrease
Acer spicatum	mountain maple	extirpated	extirpated
Betula papyrifera	paper birch	small decrease	extirpated
Fraxinus nigra	black ash	large decrease	extirpated
Picea mariana	black spruce	extirpated	extirpated
Picea rubens	red spruce	small decrease	small decrease
Populus balsamifera	balsam poplar	extirpated	extirpated
Populus tremuloides	quaking aspen	small decrease	extirpated
Prunus pensylvanica	pin cherry	small decrease	extirpated
Thuja occidentalis	northern white-cedar	small decrease	small decrease

No Change in Potential Habitat

Scientific Name	Common Name	Least Change	Major Change
Amelanchier spp.	serviceberry	no change	no change
Fraxinus americana	white ash	no change	no change
Ostrya virginiana	eastern hophornbeam	no change	no change

Increases in Potential Habitat

Scientific Name	Common Name	Least Change	Major Change
Acer saccharinum	silver maple	small increase	large increase
Betula lenta	sweet birch	small increase	small increase
Carpinus caroliniana	American hornbeam	small increase	large increase
Carya glabra	pignut hickory	large increase	large increase
Carya ovata	shagbark hickory	small increase	large increase
Carya tomentosa	mockernut hickory	small increase	large increase
Fraxinus pennsylvanica	green ash	small increase	large increase
Juglans nigra	black walnut	large increase	large increase
Juniperus virginiana	eastern redcedar	large increase	large increase
Populus deltoides	eastern cottonwood	large increase	large increase
Quercus alba	white oak	large increase	large increase
Quercus coccinea	scarlet oak	large increase	large increase
Quercus prinus	chestnut oak	large increase	large increase
Quercus rubra	northern red oak	small increase	small increase
Quercus velutina	black oak	large increase	large increase
Robinia pseudoacacia	black locust	large increase	large increase
Salix nigra	black willow	large increase	large increase

Increases in Potential Habitat (continued)

Scientific Name	Common Name	Least Change	Major Change
Ulmus americana	American elm	small increase	large increase
Ulmus rubra	slippery elm	large increase	large increase

Mixed Results

Scientific Name	Common Name	Least Change	Major Change
Acer negundo	boxelder	no change	large increase
Acer pensylvanicum	striped maple	no change	large decrease
Acer rubrum	red maple	no change	small decrease
Betula alleghaniensis	yellow birch	no change	large decrease
Betula populifolia	gray birch	no change	small decrease
Carya cordiformis	bitternut hickory	no change	large increase
Fagus grandifolia	American beech	no change	large decrease
Juglans cinerea	butternut	small increase	small decrease
Picea glauca	white spruce	small increase	large decrease
Pinus resinosa	red pine	no change	large decrease
Pinus strobus	eastern white pine	no change	large decrease
Populus grandidentata	bigtooth aspen	no change	extirpated
Prunus serotina	black cherry	no change	small decrease
Prunus virginiana	chokecherry	no change	extirpated
Quercus macrocarpa	bur oak	no change	large increase
Tilia americana	American basswood	no change	small increase
Tsuga canadensis	eastern hemlock	no change	large decrease

New Potential Habitat

Scientific Name	Common Name	Least Change	Major Change
Asimina triloba	pawpaw	--	new entry
Carya illinoinensis	pecan	--	new entry
Carya texana	black hickory	--	new entry
Celtis laevigata	sugarberry	--	new entry
Celtis occidentalis	hackberry	new entry	new entry
Cercis canadensis	eastern redbud	new entry	new entry
Cornus florida	flowering dogwood	new entry	new entry
Diospyros virginiana	common persimmon	--	new entry
Gleditsia triacanthos	honeylocust	new entry	new entry
Liquidambar styraciflua	sweetgum	--	new entry
Liriodendron tulipifera	yellow-poplar	new entry	new entry
Maclura pomifera	osage-orange	new entry	new entry
Morus rubra	red mulberry	new entry	new entry
Nyssa sylvatica	blackgum	new entry	new entry
Pinus echinata	shortleaf pine	--	new entry
Pinus taeda	loblolly pine	--	new entry
Pinus virginiana	Virginia pine	--	new entry
Platanus occidentalis	sycamore	new entry	new entry
Quercus falcata var.falcata	southern red oak	--	new entry

New Potential Habitat (continued)

Scientific Name	Common Name	Least Change	Major Change
Quercus imbricaria	shingle oak	--	new entry
Quercus marilandica	blackjack oak	--	new entry
Quercus muehlenbergii	chinkapin oak	--	new entry
Quercus palustris	pin oak	new entry	new entry
Quercus stellata	post oak	--	new entry
Sassafras albidum	sassafras	new entry	new entry
Ulmus alata	winged elm	--	new entry
Ulmus crassifolia	cedar elm	--	new entry

Table 3. Nonnative tree insects and diseases ("tree pests") with infestation areas that include Marsh-Billings-Rockefeller National Historical Park. Detection scale is the finest spatial scale at which infestation data were available for the park area. Data derived from the US Forest Service Alien Forest Pest Explorer (AFPE) Database.

Scientific Name	Common Name	Detection Scale
Acantholyda erythrocephala	pine false webworm	state
Adelges abietis	eastern spruce gall adelgid	state
Adelges piceae	balsam woolly adelgid	county
Anarsia lineatella	peach twig borer	state
Caliroa cerasi	pear sawfly	state
Caulocampus acericaulis	maple petiole borer	state
Cephalcia lariciphila	European web-spinning larch sawfly	state
Coleophora laricella	larch casebearer	state
Coleophora serratella	birch casebearer	state
Cronartium ribicola	white pine blister rust	county
Cryphonectria parasitica	chestnut blight	county
Cryptorhynchus lapathi	poplar-and-willow borer	state
Cyrtepistomus castaneus	Asiatic oak weevil	state
Diaspidiotus perniciosus	San Jose scale	state
Diprion similis	introduced pine sawfly	state
Epinotia nanana	European spruce needleminer	state
Eucallipterus tiliae	linden aphid	state
Eulecanium cerasorum	calico scale	state
Fenusa pusilla	birch leafminer	state
Gilpinia hercyniae	European spruce sawfly	state
Gremmeniella abietina	scleroderris canker	state
Hylastes opacus	European bark beetle	state
Kaliofenusa ulmi	elm leafminer	state
Lepidosaphes ulmi	oystershell scale	state
Leucoma salicis	satin moth	county
Lymantria dispar	gypsy moth	county
Nectria coccinea	beech bark disease	county
Neodiprion sertifer	European pine sawfly	state
Ophiostoma novo-ulmi	Dutch elm disease	state
Otiorhynchus ovatus	strawberry root weevil	county

Table 3 (continued). Nonnative tree insects and diseases ("tree pests") with infestation areas that include Marsh-Billings-Rockefeller National Historical Park.

Scientific Name	Common Name	Detection Scale
Otiorhynchus sulcatus	black vine weevil	state
Periphyllus lyropictus	Norway maple aphid	state
Phyllaphis fagi	woolly beech aphid	state
Physokermes piceae	spruce bud scale	state
Plagiodera versicolora	imported willow leaf beetle	state
Popillia japonica	Japanese beetle	county
Pristiphora erichsonii	larch sawfly	state
Pristiphora geniculata	mountain-ash sawfly	state
Profenusa thomsoni	Ambermarked Birch Leafminer	state
Rhyacionia buoliana	European pine shoot moth	county
Scolytus multistriatus	smaller European elm bark beetle	state
Sirococcus clavigignenti juglandacearum	butternut canker	county
Taeniothrips inconsequens	pear thrips	county
Tomicus piniperda	pine shoot beetle	county
Trichiocampus viminalis	poplar sawfly	state
Venturia saliciperda	willow scab	state
Xanthogaleruca luteola	elm leafbeetle	state