

Forestry Research Brief May 2024

Adaptive Silviculture for Climate Change in the Driftless Area



Principal Investigators and Partners

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- Wisconsin, Iowa, and Minnesota Departments of Natural Resources

Timeline

- Launch April 2020
- Expected Completion Date 2026
- Status Ongoing

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Project Overview

The Adaptive Silviculture for Climate Change (ASCC) in the Driftless Area is a multi-state collaborative project between Iowa, Wisconsin, and Minnesota to study the long-term ecosystem responses to a range of climate adaptation strategies in the oak-hickory forests of the Driftless Area. The Driftless ASCC is part of a larger network of research sites in different forest ecosystems throughout the United States and Canada. The primary goal of ASCC is to provide forest managers with robust examples of how to integrate climate change adaptation into silvicultural decision-making and on-the-ground actions.

Key Points

- ASCC studies follow a common framework (i.e., resistance, resilience, transition) of silvicultural treatments designed to foster resilience to the impacts of climate change.
- ASCC treatments are tailored to meet site-specific conditions and are designed by an expert panel of regional scientists and local managers.

Management Implications

- Driftless ASCC will help local managers and landowners select treatments that best maintain the health and resilience of their oak-hickory forests.
- Driftless ASCC will also investigate reforestation with seed sources and species projected to be adapted to future climates.