



DREAM: Desired REgeneration Through Assisted Migration



Caption 2: White cedar (pictured) was planted, along with sugar maple, black walnut, white oak, bur oak, white pine, shellbark hickory, and tulip poplar in spring 2025. Photo Credit: Wisconsin DNR.

Principal Investigators & Partners

- Wisconsin DNR
- US Forest Service
- MRNF, Québec
- University of Idaho
- Michigan State University

Timeline

- Launch – May 2025
- Expected Completion
Date – 2045
- Status – Ongoing

Contact Information

Elena Razenkova
Forestry Research Scientist
Elena.razenkova@wisconsin.gov

Else Radeloff
Forestry Field Coordinator
Else.radeloff@wisconsin.gov

Project Overview

Climate is changing faster than trees can adapt. New management approaches, such as assisted migration, are being developed to promote resilient forests adapted to future climate conditions and ensure production of forest products and services. Three types of assisted migration are being tested, including moving the population a) within their current range, b) to suitable areas adjacent to the current range, and c) outside its current range. Based on climate analogue modeling, seed sources were defined for different geographic locations to try and match project future climate conditions at our project sites. Seeds were planted at Wilson State Nursery in Boscobel, grown as seedlings, and then planted at the Wisconsin sites in spring 2025 under a range of silvicultural treatments. Seedlings are being monitored for survival, growth, and condition. This research helps to answer questions, such as whether tree species and populations from further south can survive under current climate conditions, browsing pressure, competition, etc.

Key Points

- Climate change is outpacing natural tree migration.
- Planting tree species to locations either within or outside their current ranges based on predicted climate shifts.

Management Implications

- Identify tree species/stock more resilient to future climate conditions.
- Identify the silvicultural treatments needed for success when planting.



Caption 1: Map of project site locations. Pine Popple, the DNR site (red), is in Northeast WI. Other sites are managed by project partners. Map Credit: Wisconsin DNR.