



121 State Parks





2.2 Million Acres of State Forest

Climate Change Impacts & Vulnerabilities

- Increased storm damage
- Reduced snow pack
- Frost damage to forests
- Changes in stream temperatures & timing of peak flows
- More pests and invasive species
- Changes in species and natural communities
- Loss of genetic and species diversity
- Phenological shifts
- Forest regeneration







Mid-Atlantic Forest Climate Change Vulnerability Assessment



Current distribution



Doubling of CO₂



Potential Losers

- Sugar maple
- Paper Birch
- Hemlock
- White Pine
- American Beech

Potential Winners

- Eastern Redbud
- Shagbark Hickory
- Sweetgum
- Sycamore
- Eastern
 Cottonwood

The New Conservation Paradigm

•Manage for change and not some ideal end point

•Focus on maintaining ecological integrity, not just species

•Create arenas of evolution, not museums of the past



"I skate to where the puck is going to be, not where it's been."

Wayne Gretzky

Adaptation & Mitigation

- Enhance genetic diversity
- Increase ecosystem redundancy
- Prioritize species & ecosystems for conservation efforts
- Address habitat fragmentation
- Identify and protect vital corridors & refugia
- Connect our work with surrounding states
- Build resilience by addressing non-climate stressors
- Consider use of non-native tree species
- Carefully consider assisted migration if no other options
- Increase forest carbon sequestration through afforestation and forest management



