



The Current Forest Regeneration Status for Acadia National Park is: Secure

Introduction

Acadia National Park (ACAD) is located in the Northeast Temperate (NETN) Inventory and Monitoring Network (Figure 1). This brief summarizes the notable findings from the Eastern Forest Working Group Forest Health Monitoring project, and recommends management actions to prevent the loss of forests in ACAD. For more detailed information see the source publication in the ‘Resources’ section below.

Main Findings

On a four category scale (Secure, Insecure, Probable Failure, and Imminent Failure), ACAD has a forest regeneration status of **Secure**. This means that the park currently has abundant seedling and sapling numbers, and shows few concerning trends in regeneration metrics. The regeneration status for each of the 10 metrics examined in this study are described in Figure 2. Depicted in Figure 3 are the trends in tree, sapling, and seedling abundance by native canopy, other native species, and exotics.

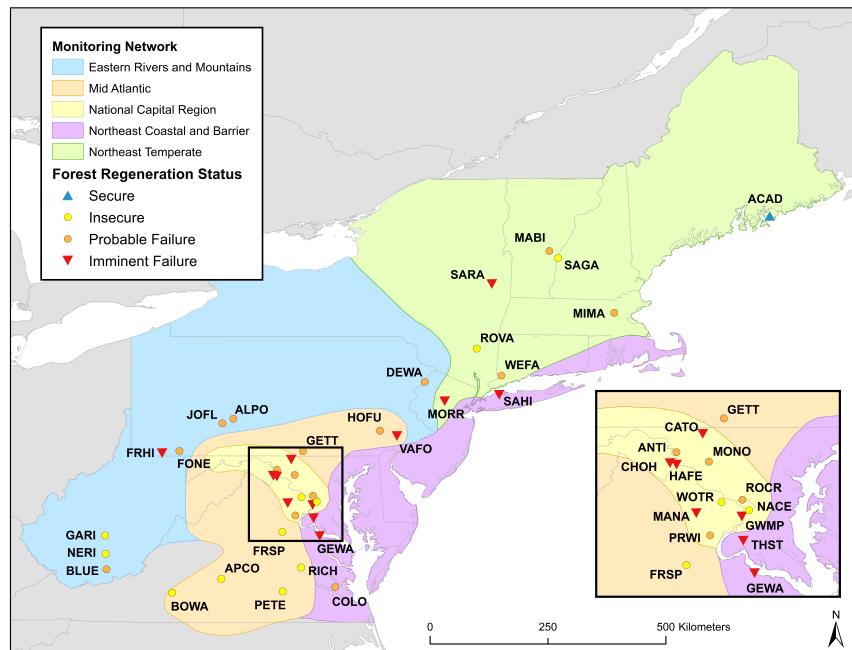


Figure 1. Map of parks included in regional regeneration project and forest regeneration status.



Figure 2. Regeneration status for each of the 10 metrics in the study.

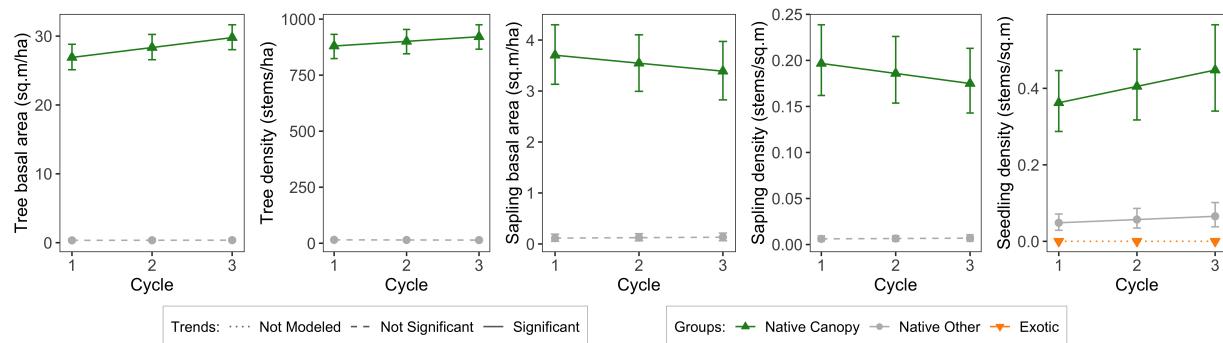


Figure 3. Trends in tree, sapling and seedling abundance by species group. Trends are based on change over time across three complete survey cycles: Cycle 1 (2008 – 2011), Cycle 2 (2012 – 2015), and Cycle 3 (2016 – 2019).

Management Recommendations

We suggest that managers of ACAD continue invasive plant management actions, as is true for all of the eastern national parks in this study. Although we do not recommend any other management strategies at this time, conditions are changing rapidly across parks and continued monitoring and reassessment of management actions is necessary to avoid future forest loss in the park. Protected forests such as those in eastern national parks need forest stewardship plans, along with the resources to implement them, that address sustained commitment to reducing deer browse impacts, managing invasive plants, and enhancing forest structural complexity and diversity to secure sufficient regeneration. Please refer to the source publication for more information on management strategies, and reach out to the contact below for further assistance.

Resources

Source Publication:

Miller K., Perles S., Schmit J.P., Matthews E., Weed A., Comiskey J., Marshall M., Nelson P., Fisichelli N. 202X. Forests in eastern national parks face widespread regeneration debt. Ecological Applications.

Contact:

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Links:

1. Managing Resilient Forests Initiative for Eastern National Parks