

CLIMATE CHANGE AND GEOGRAPHIC VARIATION IN THE SOUTHERN PINES

Ron Schmidting¹

¹Southern Institute of Forest Genetics, Southern Research Station, USDA Forest Service, Saucier, MS

Climate change has been occurring for eons, and plant species have always responded by migrating to areas of more favorable climate or evolving in place. The rapid pace of climate warming that is now occurring may not allow enough time for the changes to take place. For species that are commonly planted, such as the southern pines, projected climate change can be incorporated into planting efforts by utilizing known geographic variation to account for that variation. Geographic variation in the southern pines is reviewed, and seed-movement strategies discussed.