

Inter-Tribal Forest Adaptation

Honoring our forest communities on a changing landscape

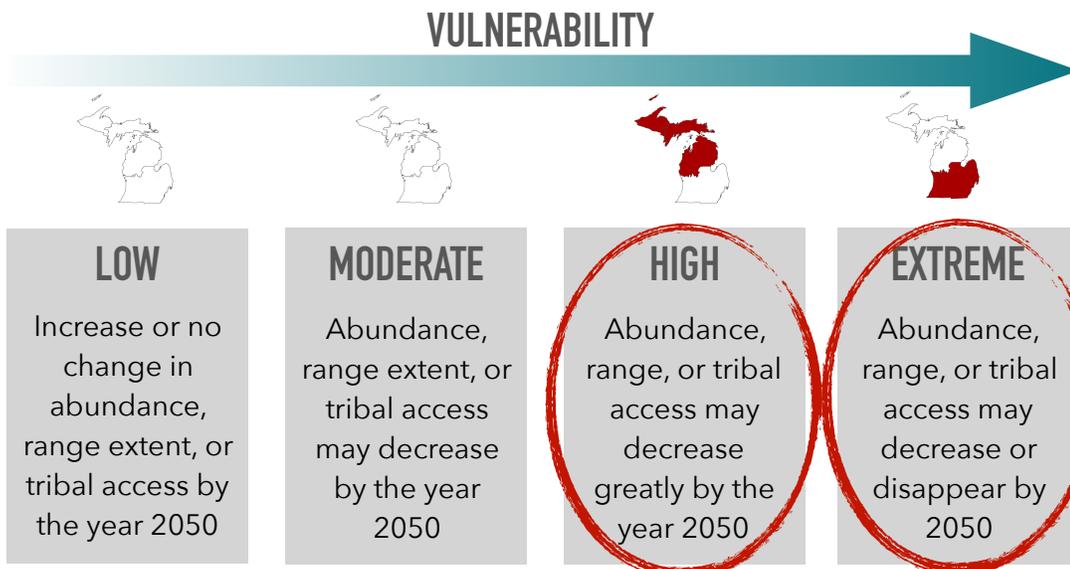


Bagwaji zhigaagawinzhiig; Bgwëth zhegagozhik

Wild leek (*Allium tricoccum*)

Bagwaji zhigaagawinzhiig is a long-lived herb that grows in rich upland and floodplain forests under the closed canopy of mature beech, maple, and hemlock trees. They are native to North America and provide food and medicine for Anishinaabek, other people and animals. They are also at risk from over-harvesting and certain forest management practices.

How might Bagwaji zhigaagawinzhiig respond to climate-driven change in Michigan?



Growth

Grows slowly as clones and rarely by seed.



Habitat

Grows in rich soils under the shade of mature hardwoods.



Harvest

Harvesting just 5-10% of bulbs in an area may cause population decline.

Changes in climate may impact how and where Bagwaji zhigaagawinzhiig grows

Climate-driven changes	Possible impacts	What to watch for
Increasing temperatures The average temperature increased by 2 F° over the past century and may increase 4-6 F° by 2050.	Bagwaji zhigaagawinzhiig grows in cooler areas of the forest, which may become warmer as air temperatures increase.	Have you noticed changes in where or how Bagwaji zhigaagawinzhiig grow?
Drier soils Increased air temperatures may lead to warmer and drier soils, especially in mid- to late-summer.	Bagwaji zhigaagawinzhiig grows best in shady areas with damp soil throughout the year. Dry soils may reduce growth and reproduction.	Have there been changes in how moist local forests are throughout the year?
Extreme storms Heavy storms have increased in number and intensity and may continue increasing in the future.	Disturbance from storms and wind may decrease Bagwaji zhigaagawinzhiig habitat by opening up the tree canopy.	Have Bagwaji zhigaagawinzhiig patches changed in size?
Increasing invasive species Invasive species may increase due to climate-driven change.	Increased competition from invasive species may reduce Bagwaji zhigaagawinzhiig growth and reproduction.	Have you noticed new plants or earthworms around Bagwaji zhigaagawinzhiig?

Working together to support native forest understory plants

Anishinaabeg maintain important knowledges on, and relationships with, local forests, waters, seasons, and cycles. The Inter-Tribal Council of Michigan is working with the Bay Mills Indian Community, Lac Vieux Desert Band of Lake Superior Ojibwe, Pokagon Band of Potawatomi, Saginaw Chippewa Indian Tribe, Michigan Natural Features Inventory, and Northern Institute of Applied Climate Science to understand and support forest understory plants across Michigan, based on Anishinaabe and Western scientific knowledges and ways.



For more information or to get involved, contact:

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