

### **Climate-Smart Seedlot Selection Tool:** Restoration and Reforestation for the 21<sup>st</sup> Century

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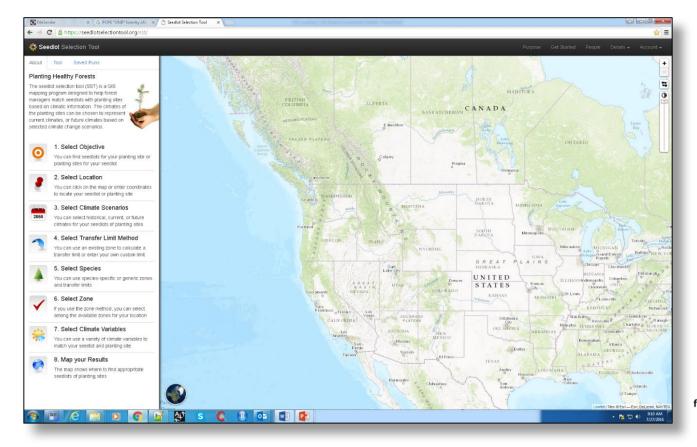


for the greatest good

Presentation at the Washington Office, February 16, 2017

## **Objectives**

- 1. Introduce the Seedlot Selection Tool
- 2. Provide some examples
- 3. Discuss implications of climate change



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## **People and funding**

#### Glenn Howe - Co-Principal Investigator

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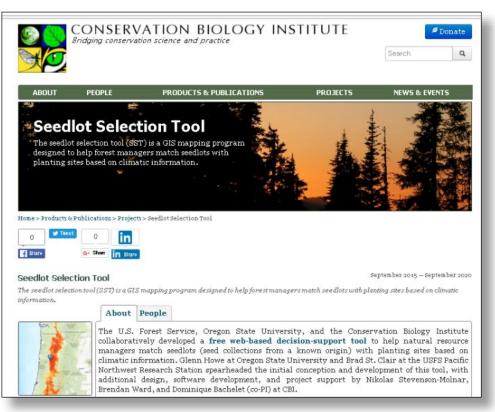
#### Brad St.Clair – Co-Principal Investigator

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consbio.org/products/webinars/climate-smartseedlot-selection-tool







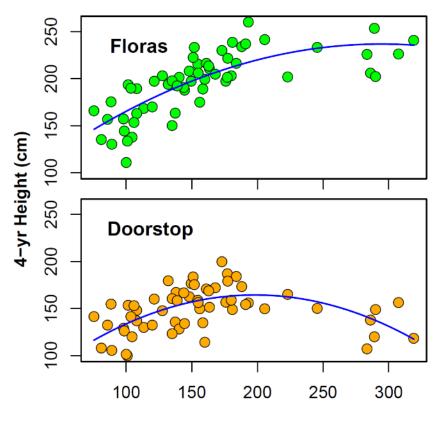


United States Department of Agriculture Northwest Climate Hub

# Background

1. Plants are adapted to local climates

Douglas-Fir Seed Source Movement Trial



Seed-Source Frost-Free Period (days)

*Floras – warm site* Frost-free days = 308

**Doorstop – cool site** Frost-free days = 190

### Local adaptation

Sources from climates similar to the planting site are among the tallest at each site



### Lessons from Forestry





- Early observations of poor growth and survival
- Maladaptation took time to develop
- Led to first seed movement guidelines in 1939
  - 100 miles north or south
  - 1,000 ft in elevation
  - Considerations for unusual climates, topography or soils

2. Seed zones and population movement guidelines developed to ensure adaptation

### Forest Tree Seed Zones

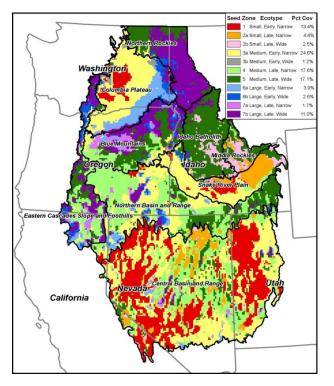




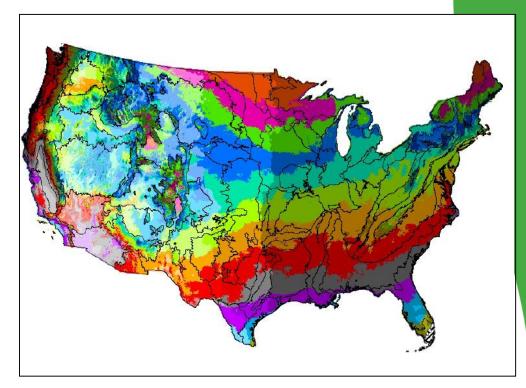


# 2. Seed zones and population movement guidelines developed to ensure adaptation

Bluebunch Wheatgrass Seed Zones



St.Clair, Kilkenny, Johnson, Shaw, Weaver. 2013. Genetic variation in adaptive traits and seed transfer zones for Pseudoroegneria spicata (bluebunch wheatgrass) in the northwestern United States. Evolutionary Applications 6: 933-948 Generalized Provisional Seed Zones



Bower, St.Clair, Erickson. 2014. Generalized provisional seed zones for native plants. Ecological Applications 24: 913-919



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### 3. But climates are changing, which affects adaptation

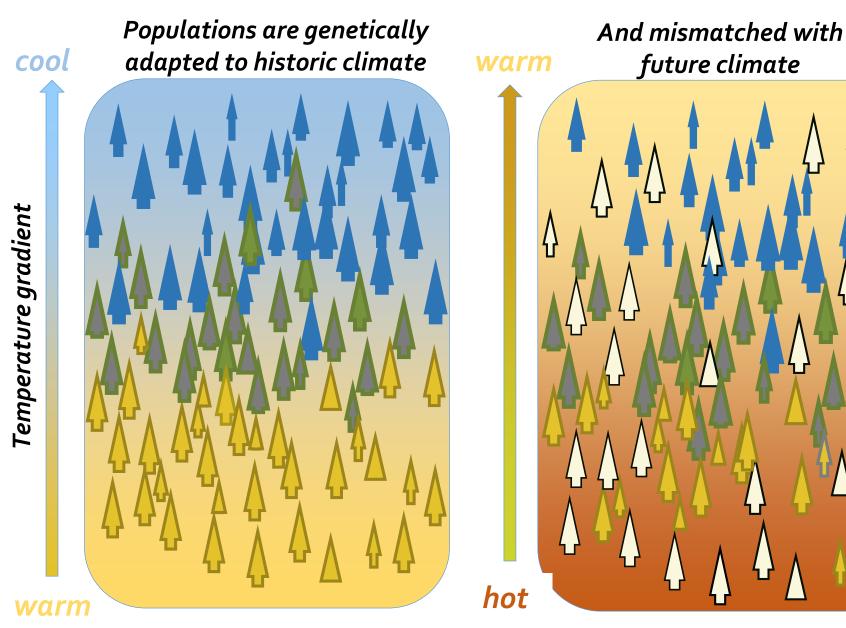
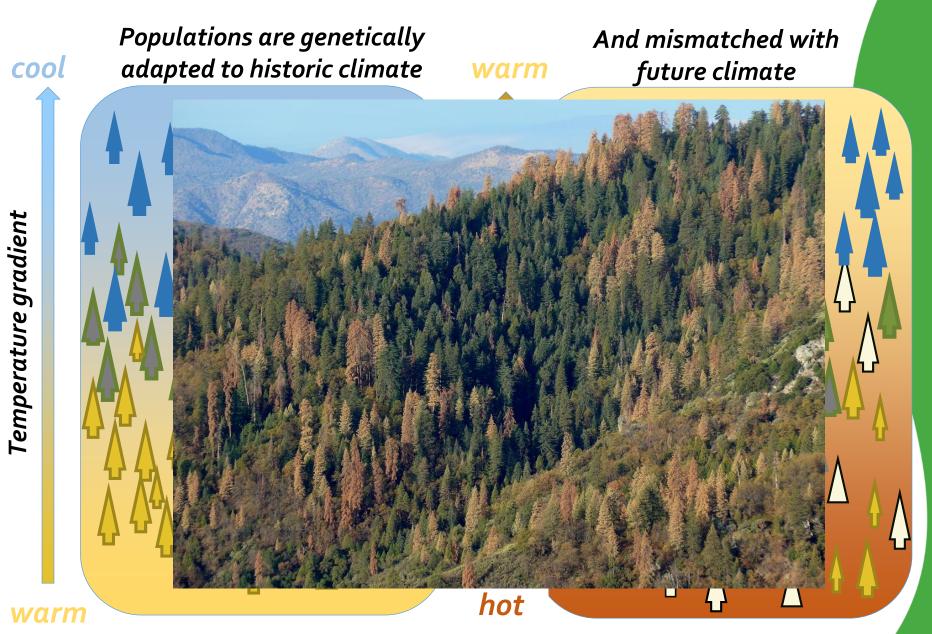


Figure courtesy of Sally Aitken, UBC

### 3. But climates are changing, which affects adaptation



4. We can manage genetic variation to positively influence how plants respond and adapt to climate change

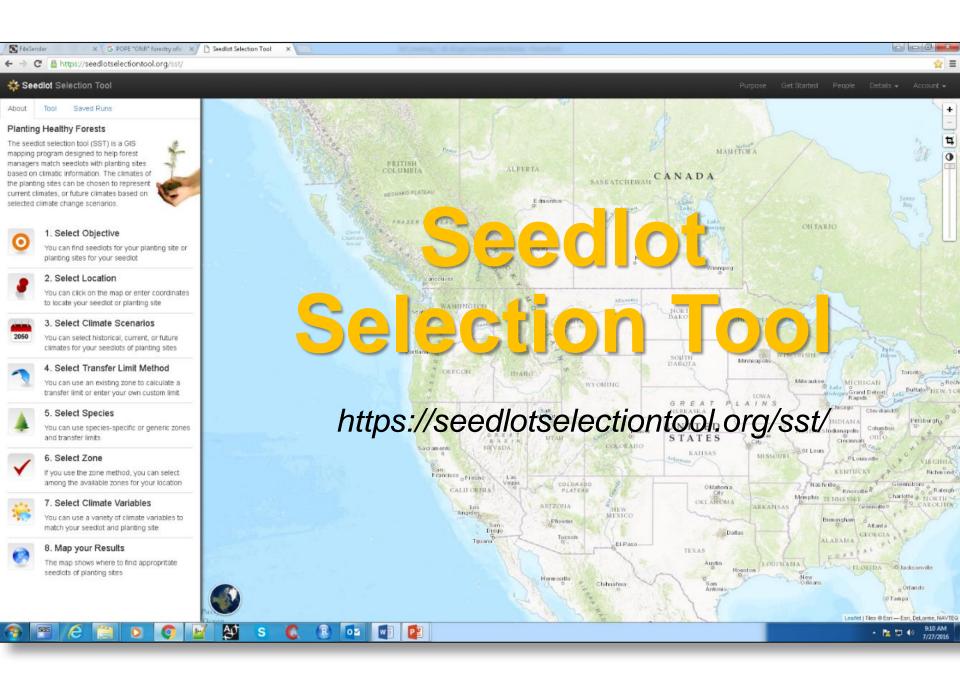












### **Can address two objectives:**

### Given a planting site

### <u>Which seedlot</u> is well adapted today...or in the future?



### *Given a <u>seedlot</u>* <u>Where</u> is it well adapted today...or in the future?







## How the tool works



**1. Select Objective** You can find seedlots for your planting site or planting sites for your seedlot



**2. Select Location** You can click on the map or enter coordinates for the location of your seedlot or planting site



**3. Select Climate Scenarios** You can select historical, current, or future climates for your seedlots or planting sites



**4. Select Transfer Limit Method** You can use an existing zone to calculate a transfer limit or enter your own custom limit



**5. Select Species** You can use species-specific or generic zones and transfer limits



6. Select Zone If you use the zone method, you can select among the available zones for your location

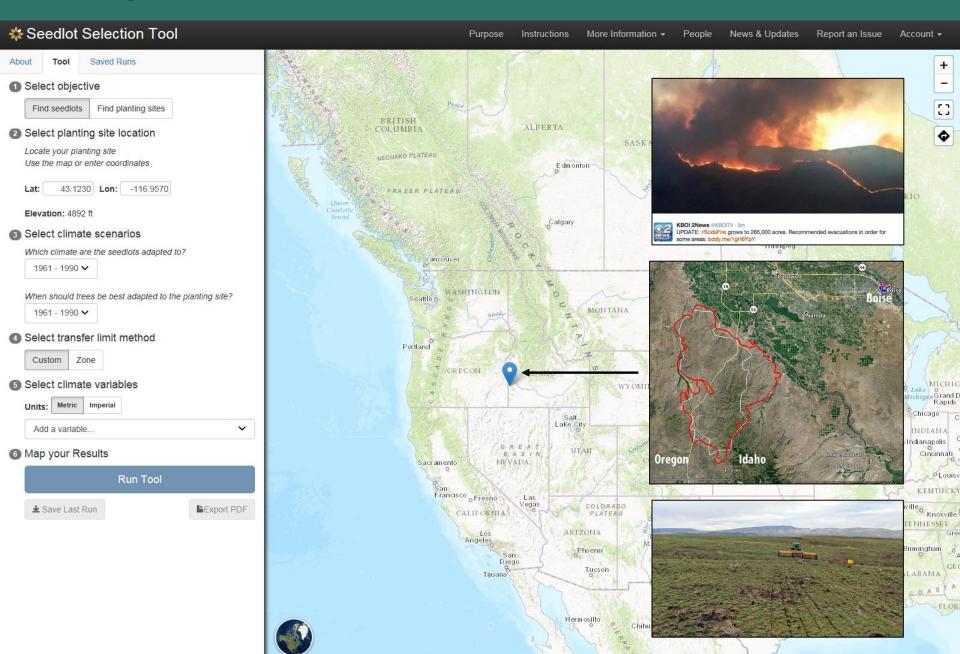


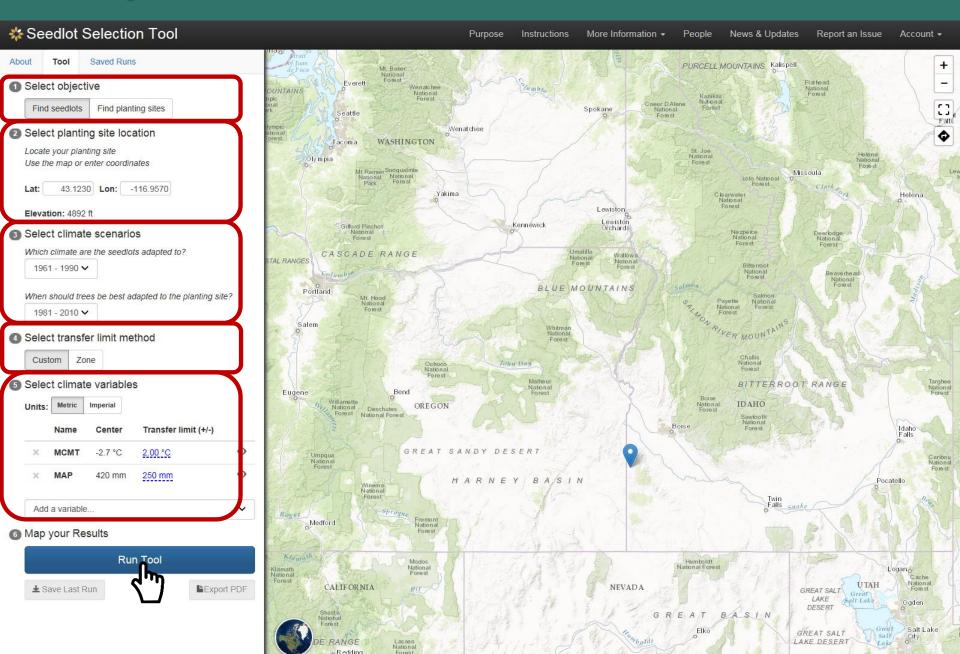
**7. Select Climate Variables** You can use a variety of climate variables to match your seedlot and planting site

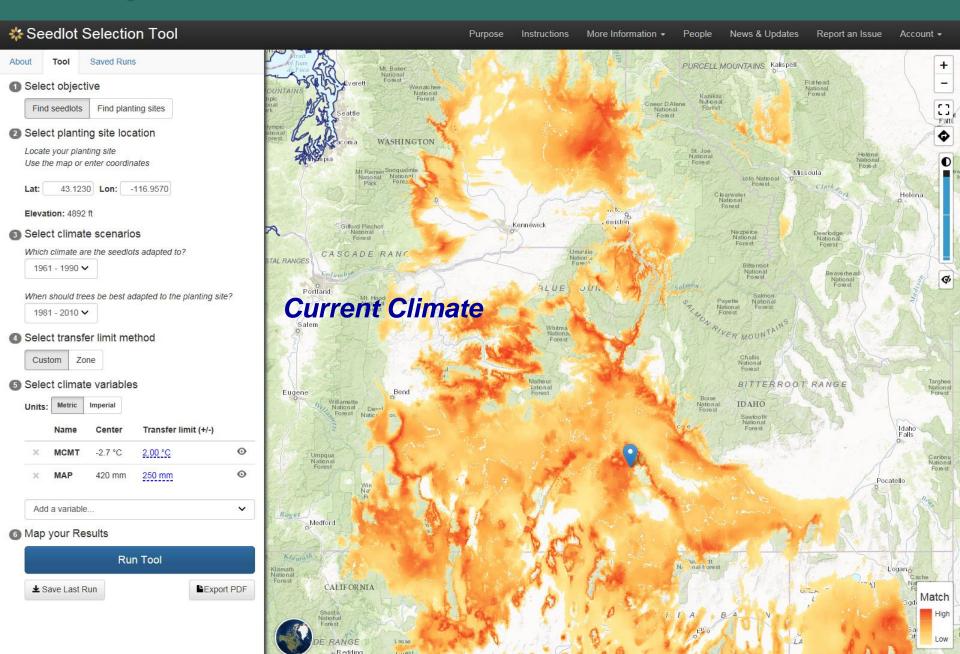


8. Map Your Results The map shows where to find appropriate seedlots or planting sites

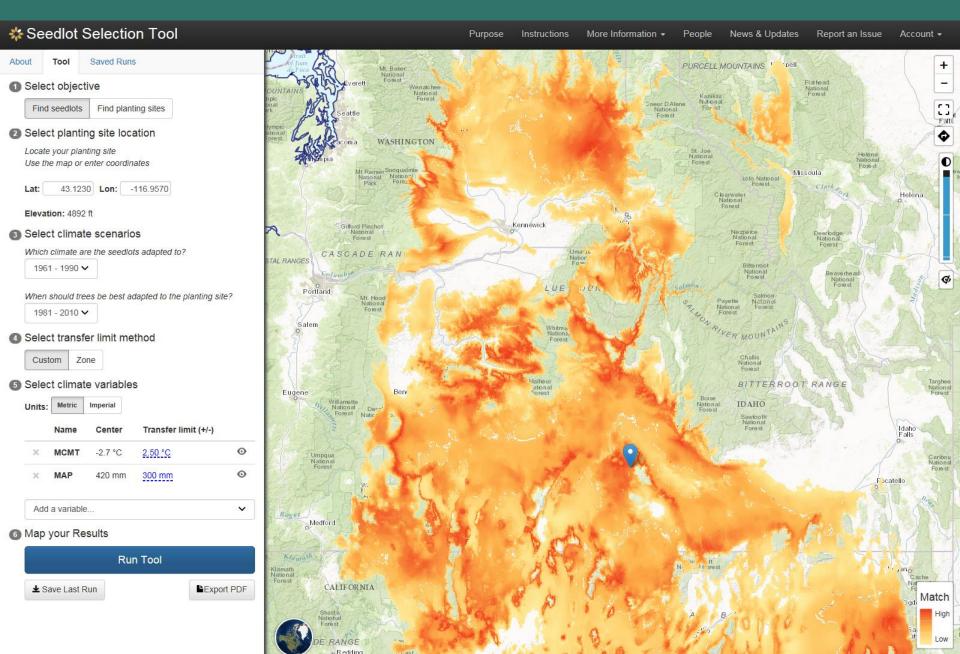
- Select objective
- Select location
- Select climate scenarios
- Select transfer limit method
- Select species
- Select zone
- Select climate variables
- Map your results



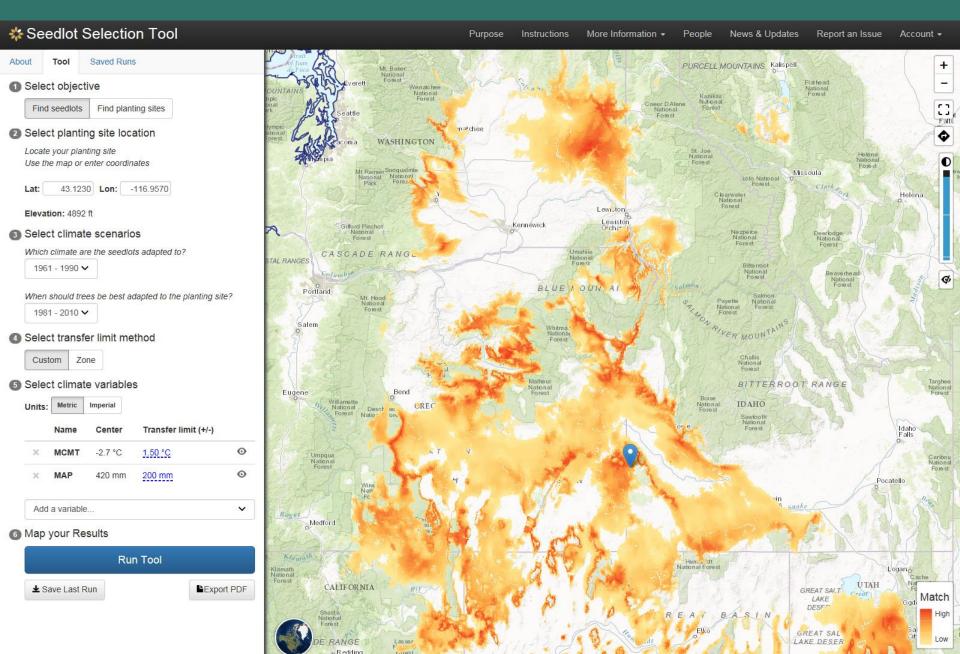




### Wider transfer limits



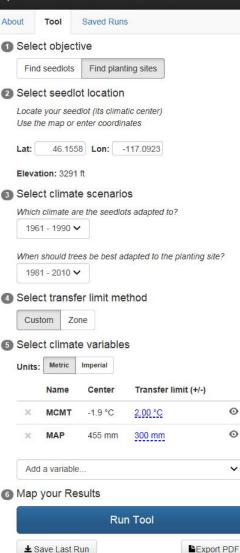
### Narrower transfer limits

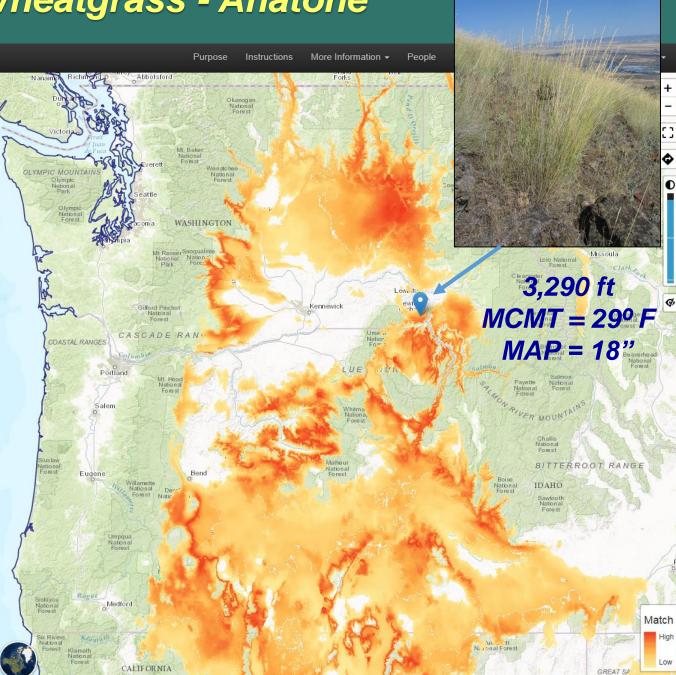


## Seed Needs Planning

### **Bluebunch Wheatgrass - Anatone**

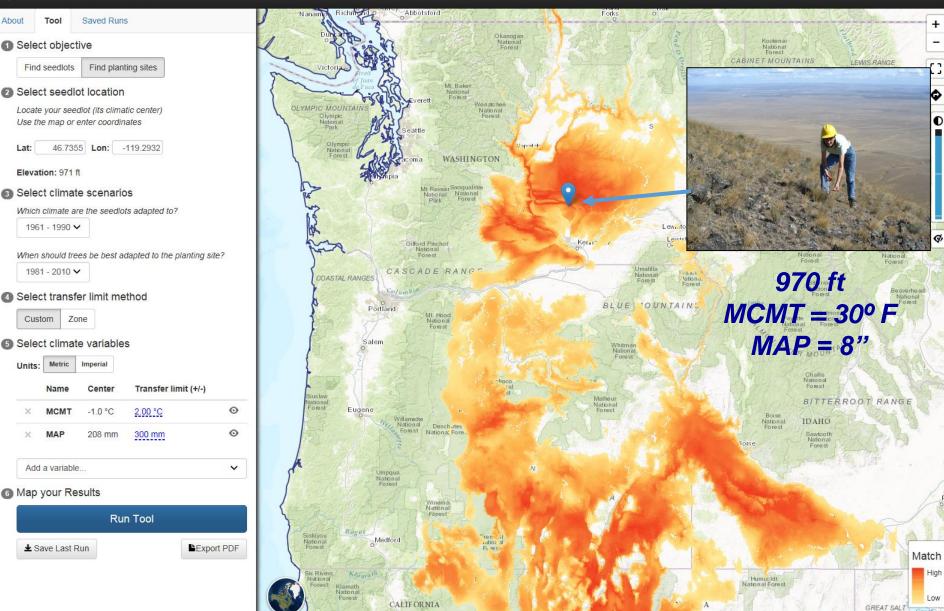
#### \* Seedlot Selection Tool





### Wahluke source – hot, dry source





Purpose

Instructions

More Information -

News & Updates

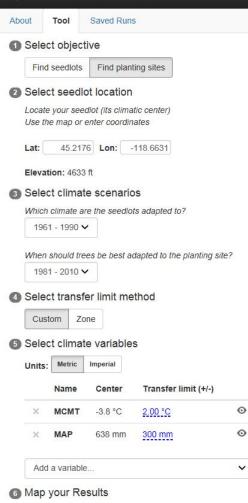
Report an Issue

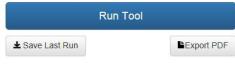
Account -

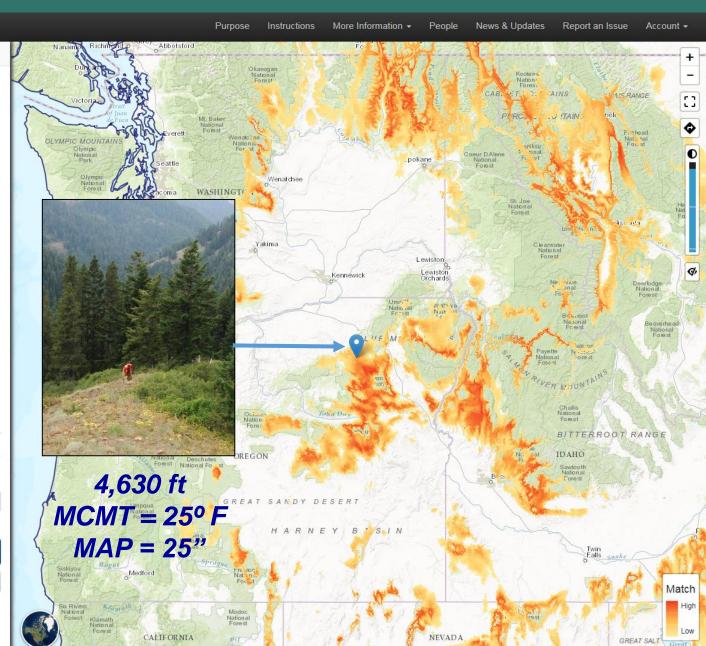
People

### Blue Mountains source – cool, wet

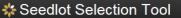
#### Seedlot Selection Tool

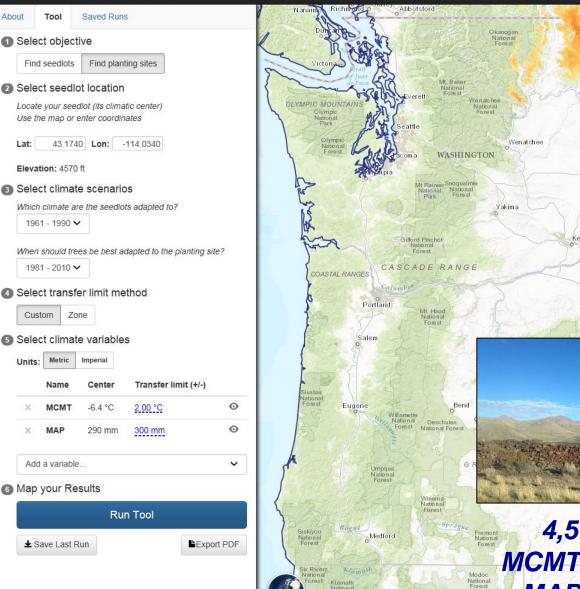


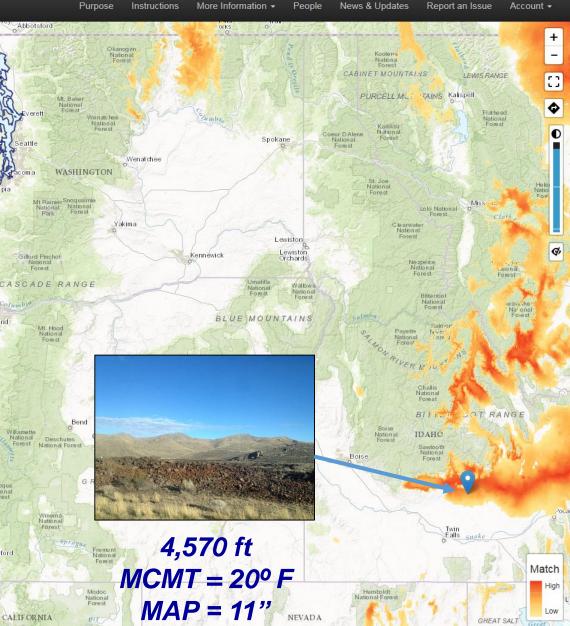




### Upper Snake River – cold, dry source



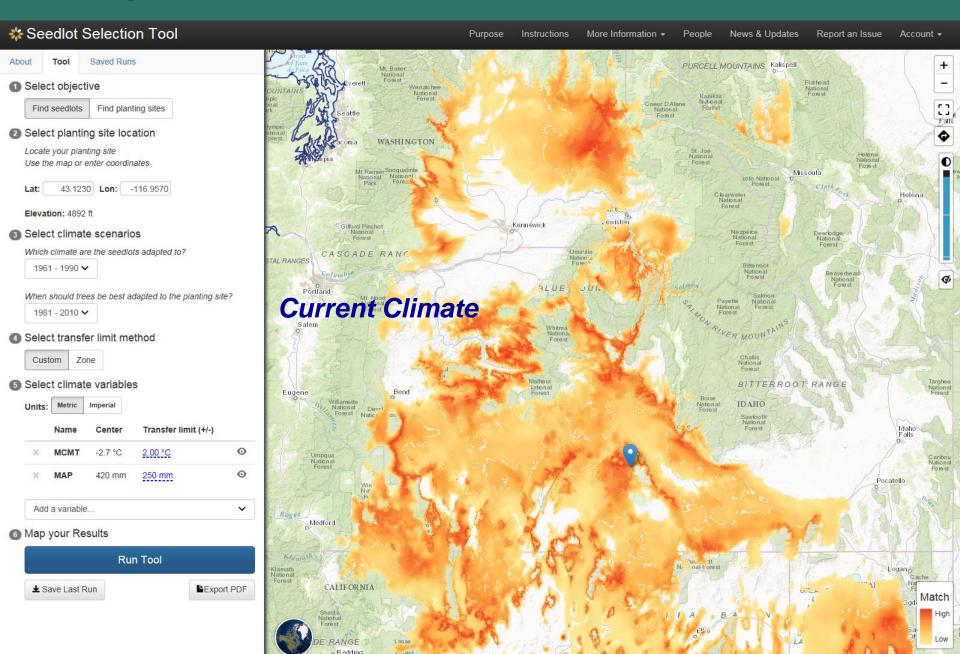




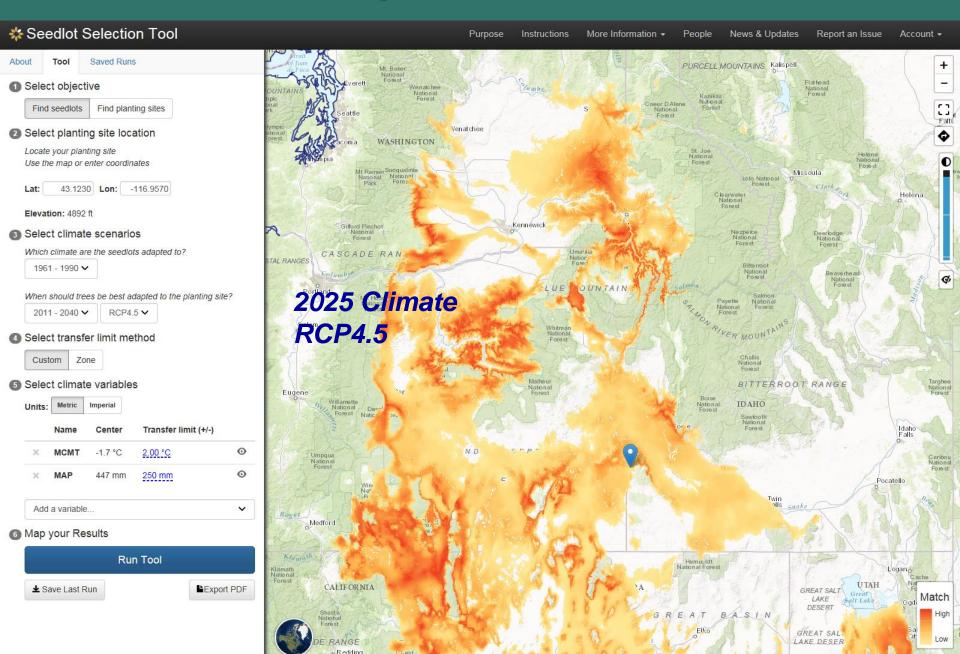
# Climate Change

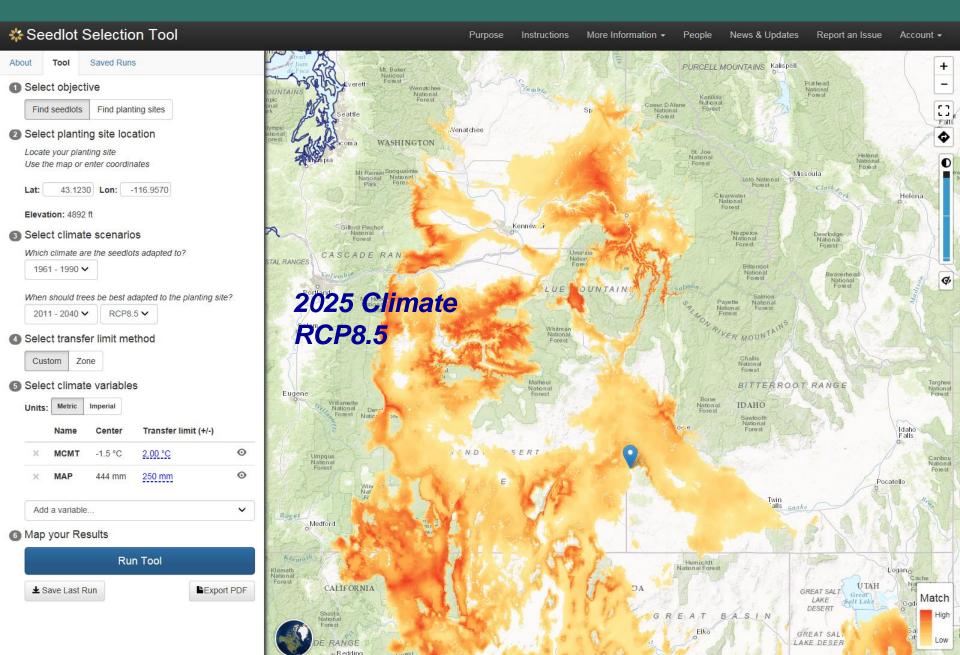
### *Two questions:*

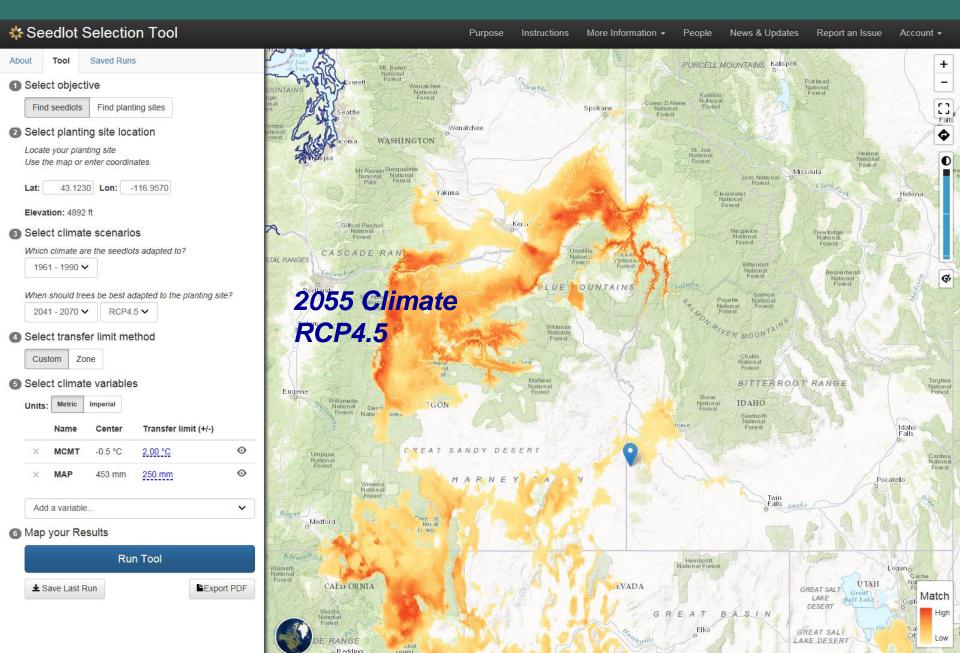
- 1. Are native populations adapted to current and future climates?
- 2. If not, how far do we have to go to find populations adapted to a planting site (assisted migration)?

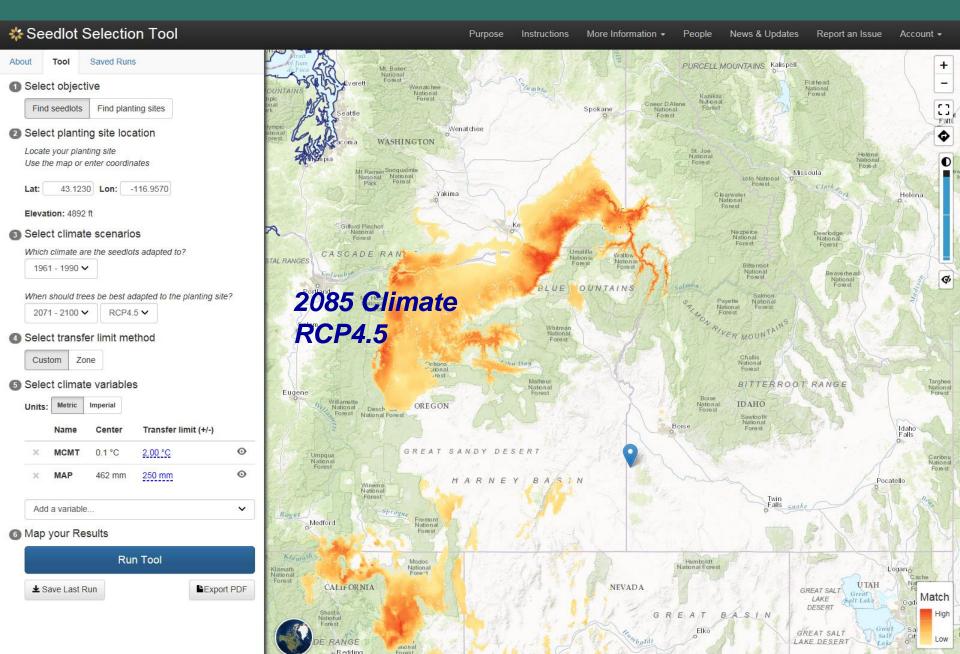


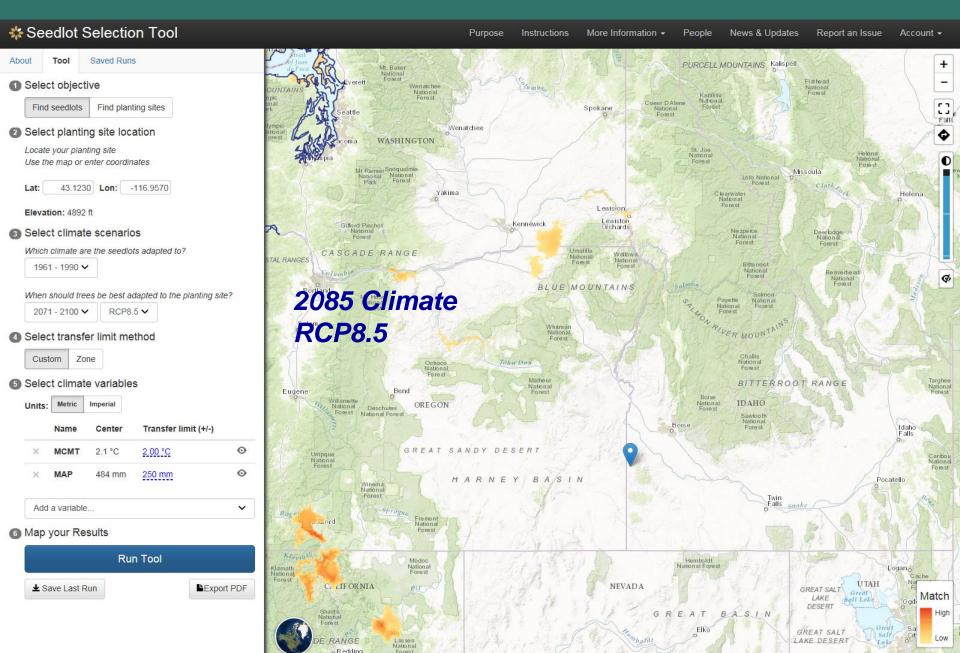
### Seed sources adapted to 2025 climate RCP4.5



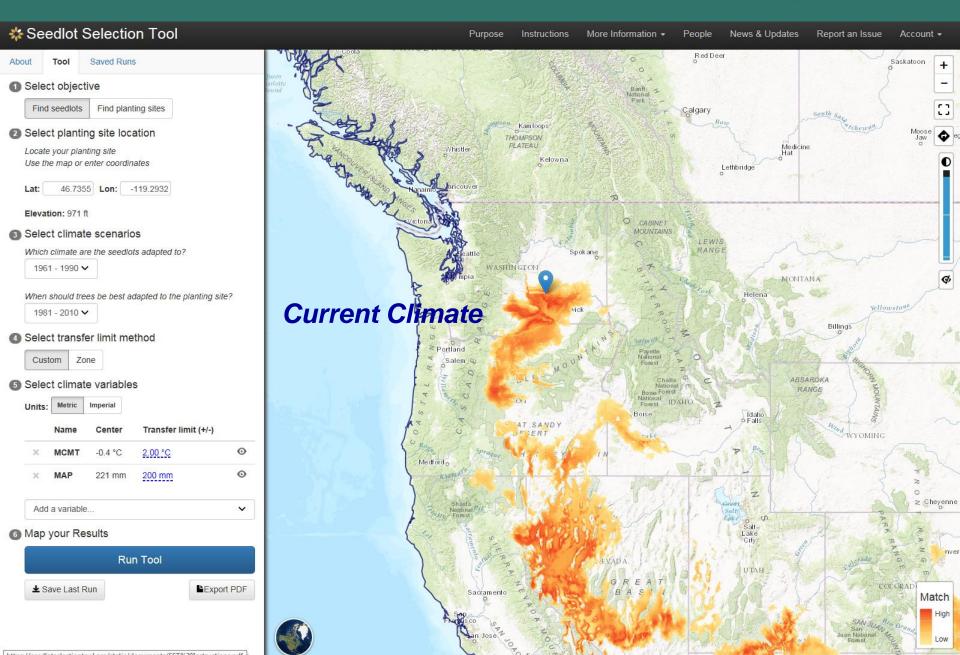


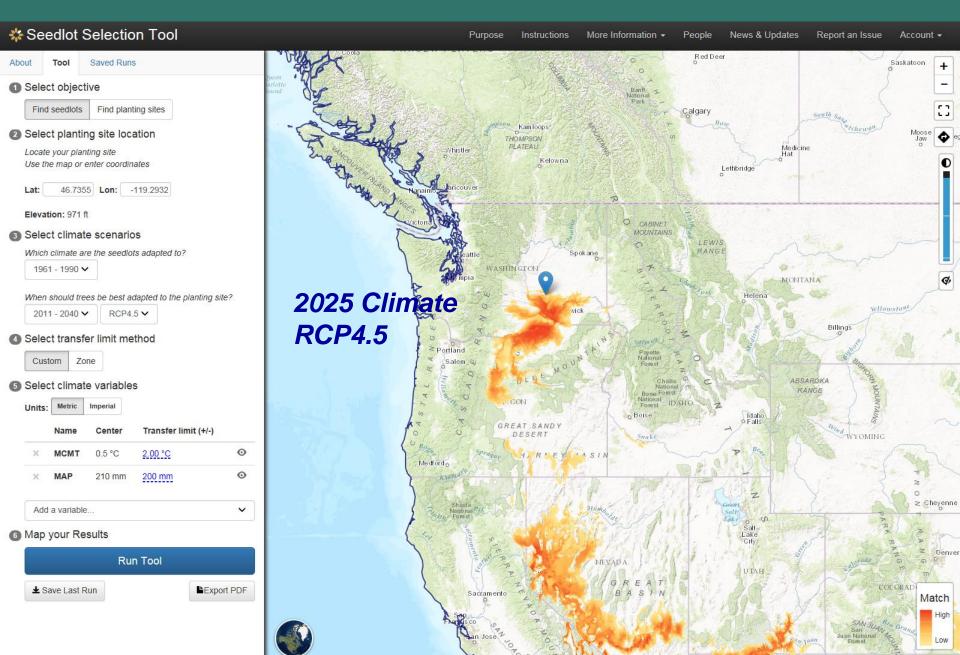


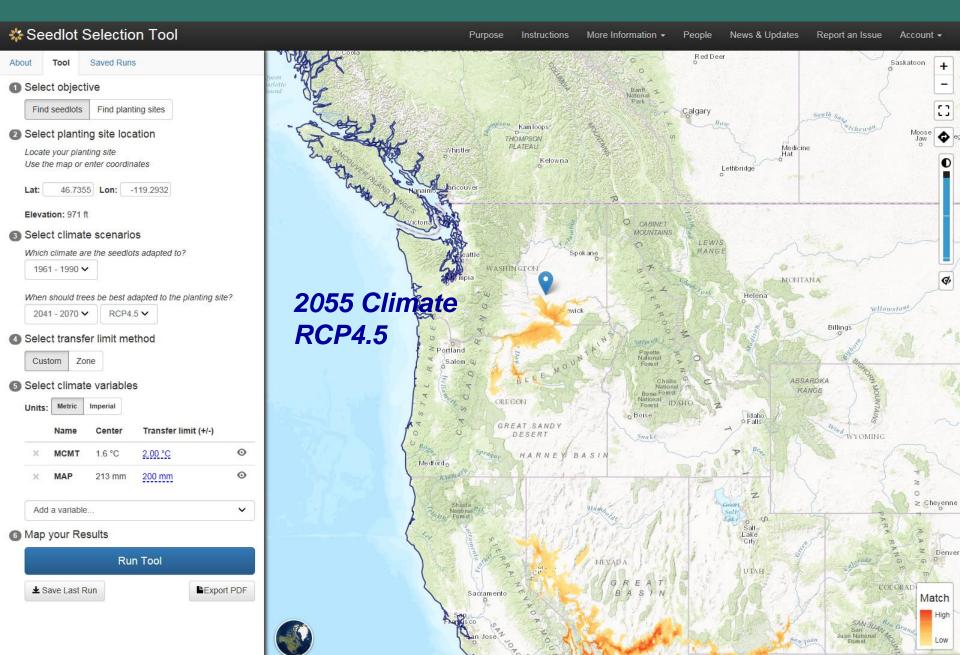


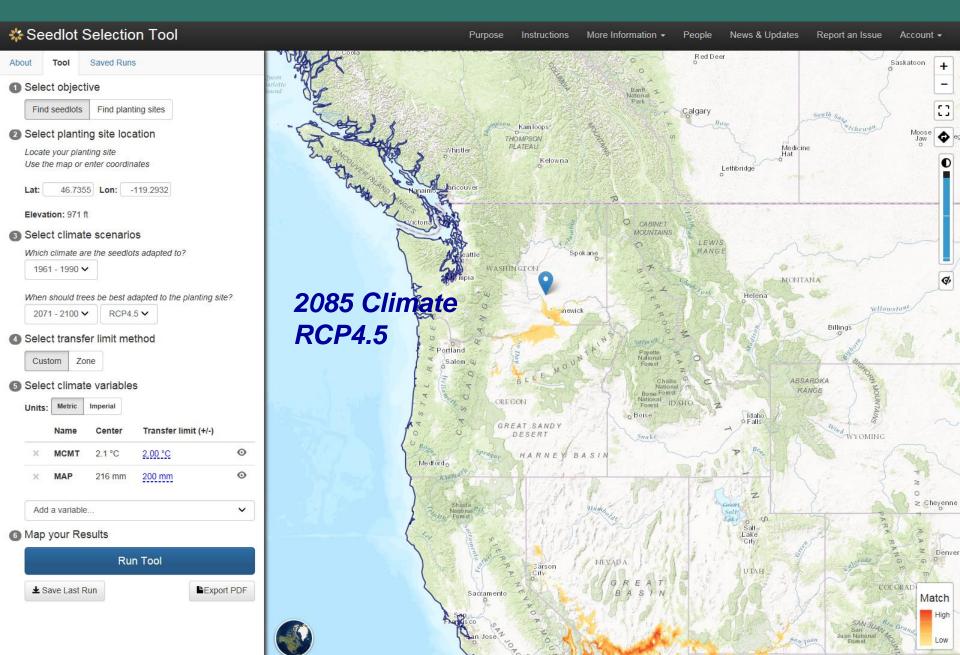


### Seed sources adapted to Wahluke planting site

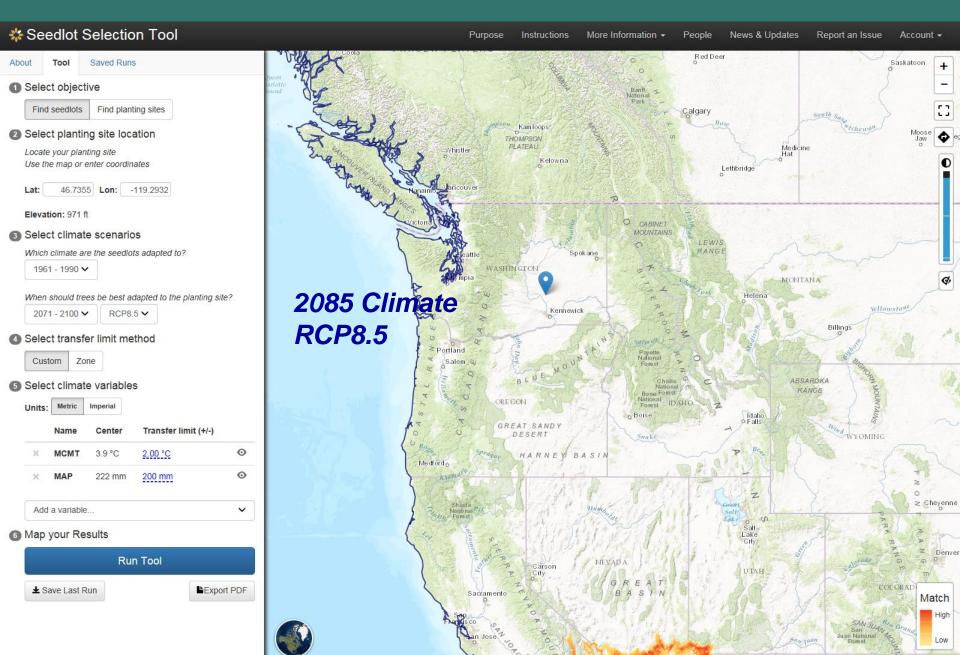




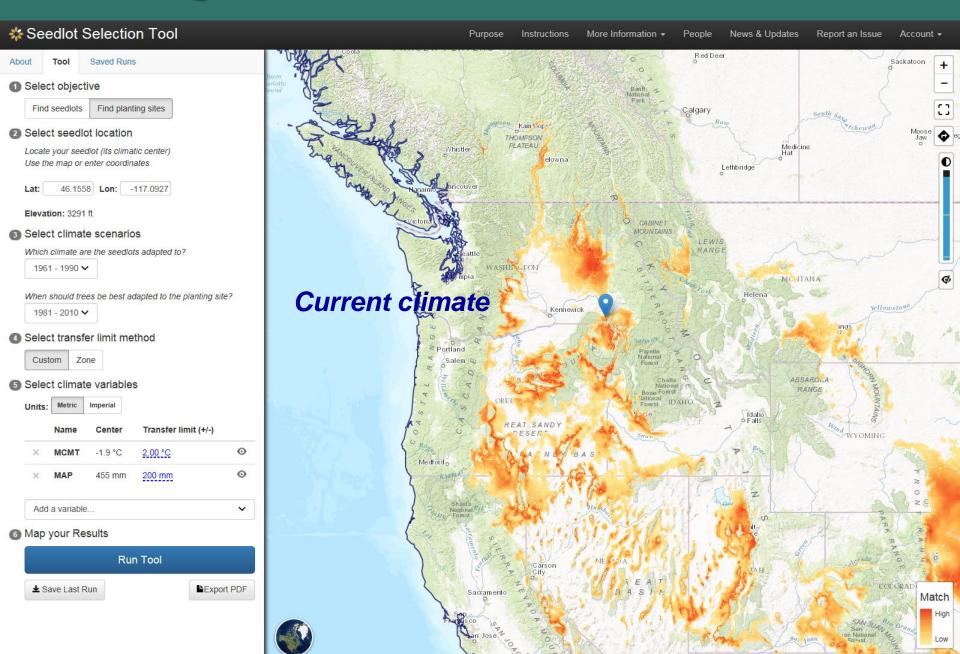


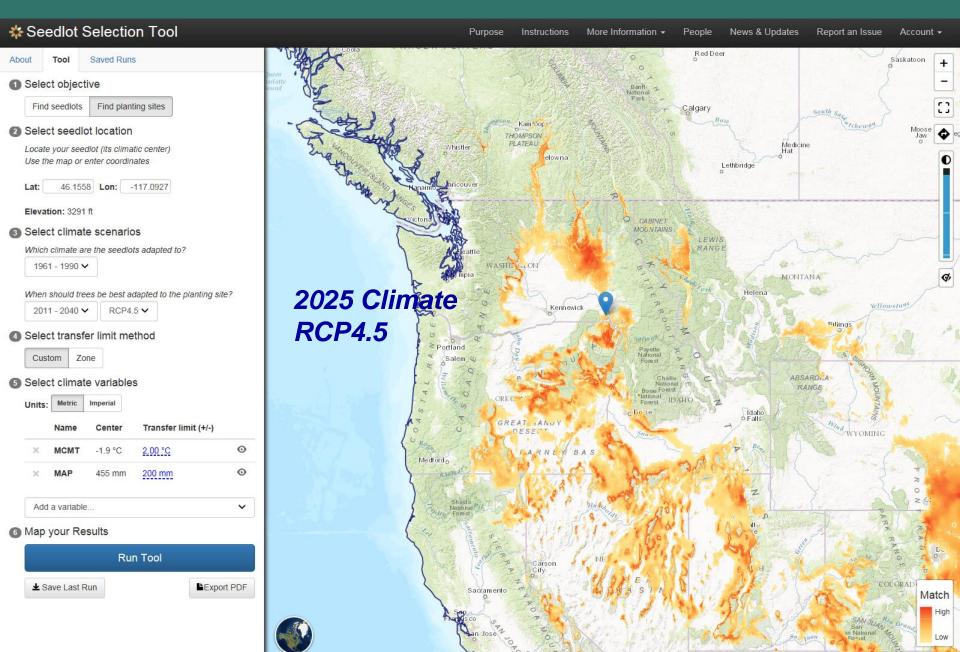


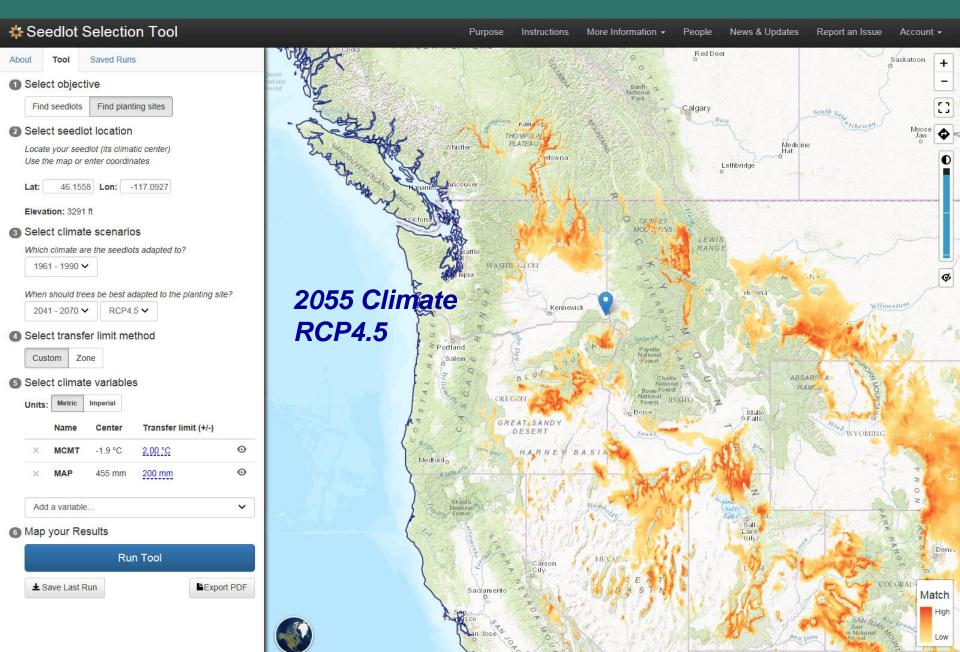
### 2085 climate RCP8.5

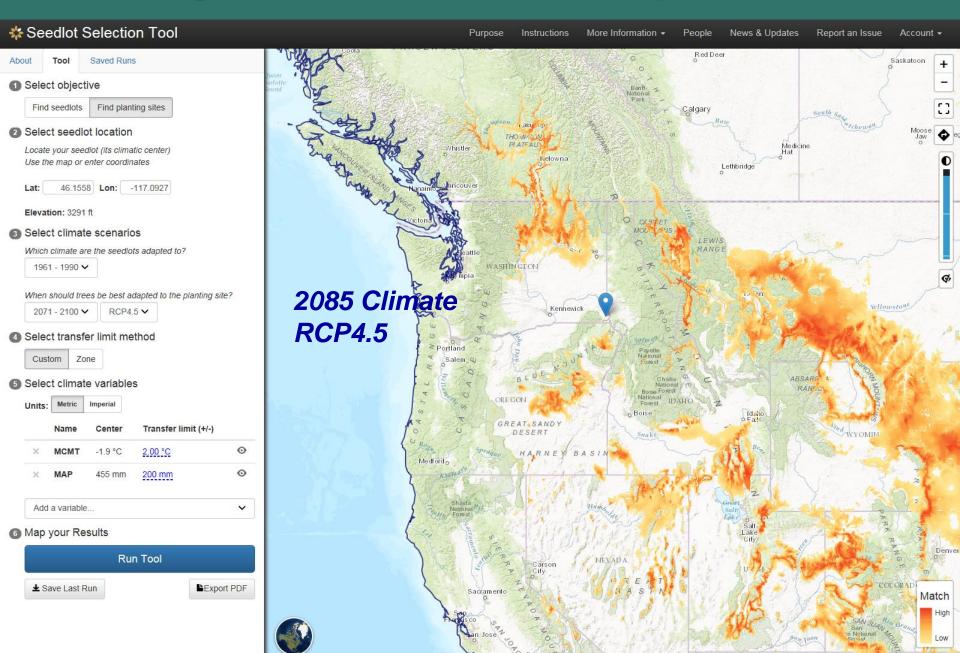


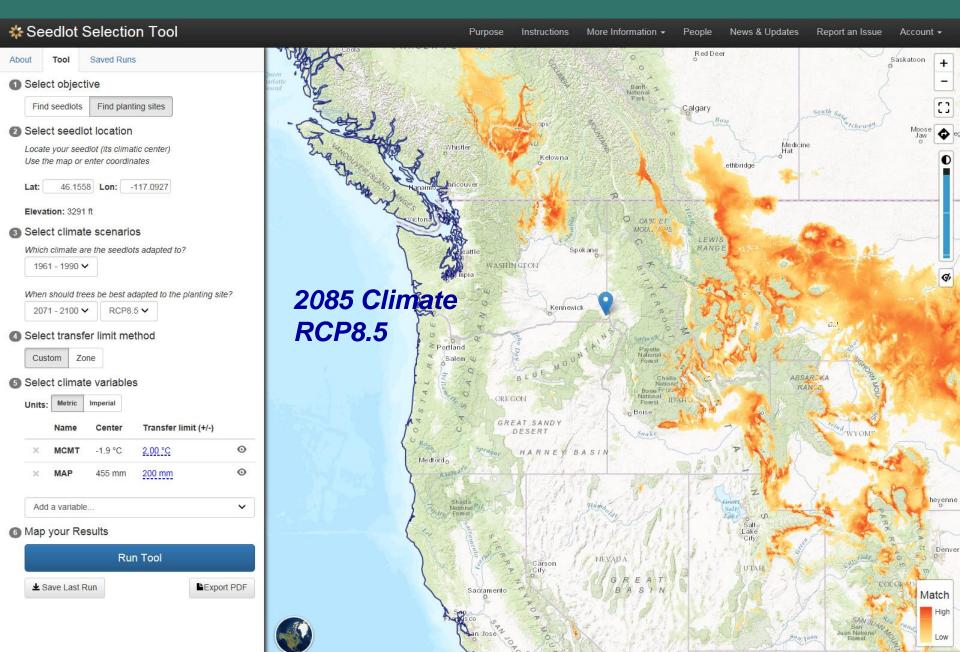
## **Planting sites for Anatone**











#### Do we really have to worry about climate change?

- 1. Are native populations adapted to current and future climates?
- 2. If not, how far do we have to go to find populations adapted to a planting site (assisted migration)?
- In the short-term (next decade, maybe two), local populations are adapted to the local climate
- Nevertheless, better-adapted populations may be found at lower elevations or further south
- In the long-term (by mid- to late-century), local populations are at high risk of maladaptation to projected climates

Consider the potential for evolution: Can populations migrate or evolve through natural selection fast enough to keep up with climate change?

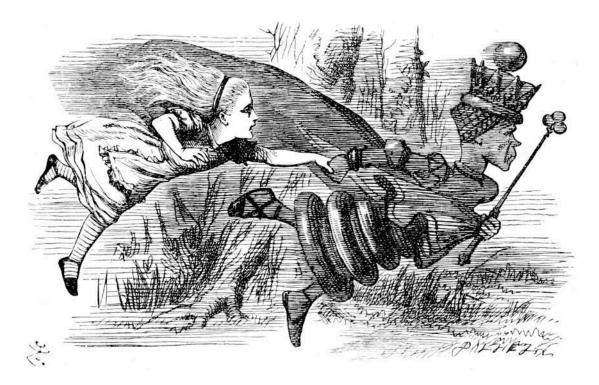
Depends upon:

- Generation turnover
- Migration rates
  - Seed dispersal
  - Fragmentation
- Genetic diversity
  - Outbreeding vs inbreeding
  - Population size
  - Gene flow



More concerned about species and populations that are long-lived, rare, inbreeding, fragmented

#### Answer:



"Now, here, you see, it takes all the running you can do, to keep in the same place."

The Red Queen from Lewis Caroll's Through the Looking-Glass

# Summary

- Powerful tool to explore where climates occur now and how those change in the future
- Allows user to determine appropriate seedlots or populations for reforestation or restoration
- Allows users to explore different assumptions
  - Climate variables important for adaptation for species of interest
  - Appropriate transfer limits for species of interest -- as well as risk level of user
  - Time periods of concern for adaptation
  - Future emission pathways
- Tool is only as good as the knowledge behind it
  - Climate interpolation
  - Climate change scenarios
  - How species are adapted to their environments

# Questions

https://seedlotselectiontool.org/sst/



The preceding presentation was delivered at the

#### **2017 National Native Seed Conference** Washington, D.C. February 13-16, 2017

This and additional presentations available at http://nativeseed.info





