

GENETIC INTROGRESSION AND HYBRIDIZATION AMONG WHITE OAK SPECIES: DEVELOPING APPROACHES TO MANAGEMENT THAT EMBRACE OAKS' COMPLEX GENETIC HISTORIES

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Oak species have long been thought to hybridize, and there is growing genomic evidence that this has led to genetic introgression among several groups of oak species. Here, we present results from our recent work characterizing the evolutionary histories of white oak species, including genomic evidence of introgression. We show evidence of past introgression among several species in the white oak clade, as well as relatively recent introgression with cooccurring species that differs across the range of *Quercus alba*. We discuss how the genetic interconnectivity of oaks might warrant special consideration in the way we approach their management and propose a path forward for research to better inform management approaches.

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