



First Friday All Climate Change Talks (FFACCTs)

Hosted by the USDA Forest Service

Eastern Forest Environmental Threat Assessment Center

June 2, 2017, 11:00 a.m. (ET)



Welcome and Introductory Comments

Michael Gavazzi, Biological Scientist, USDA Southeast Regional Climate Hub (SERCH)

Washington Office Update

Karen Dante, Climate Change Adaptation and Policy Specialist, Office of Sustainability and Climate

- Many presentations from a recent drought workshop held in Forest Service Region 3 were recorded and are available for viewing. Contact Karen (skdante@fs.fed.us) for more information.
- A drought workshop to be held on July 25 is a joint effort among Forest Service Region 5, USDA California Climate Hub, National Forest Foundation, CalFire, and Sierra Nevada Conservancy. It will focus on lessons learned from a multiyear drought and extensive tree mortality.

Climate Science Center Updates

Toni Lyn Morelli, Research Ecologist, Northeast Climate Science Center (NE CSC) & University of Massachusetts

- The NE CSC has published its [2016 annual report](#).
- [Registration](#) for the 2017 Regional Invasive Species & Climate Change Management Symposium is now open (and free). The two-day symposium will be held on the UMass Amherst campus July 27-28 and will include presentations by leading experts in invasive species and climate science as well as panels and hands-on workshops.
- The NE CSC just held its [Regional Science Meeting](#) involving more than 175 natural resource managers and natural scientists. As part of the meeting, the NE CSC kicked off the Northeast Refugia Research Coalition, which will bring together expert managers and researchers to identify climate change refugia and management strategies for cold water fish (e.g., brook trout), spruce-fir specialists (e.g., Bicknell's thrush, Canada lynx), moose, sugar maple, coastal sand plains, and vernal pool salamanders.
- The NE CSC is helping to write the Ecosystems chapter of the new National Climate Assessment. Contact Toni Lyn (tmorelli@usgs.gov) if you're an author on the Forests (or another) chapter and would like to talk about cross-referencing or case studies.

Ryan Boyles, Deputy Director, Southeast Climate Science Center (SE CSC)

- The SE CSC is wrapping up a listening tour with state and federal fish and wildlife personnel. Recent visits took place in Baton Rouge, Lafayette, and Atlanta. Information from the tour and surveys will be incorporated into a strategic plan to be drafted over the next few months.

Station and Regional Updates

Leslie Brandt, Climate Change Specialist (Northern Institute of Applied Climate Science - NIACS), Eastern Region

- NIACS and the USDA Northern Forests Climate Hub supported a recent training for National Guard resource managers held in Bloomington, IN. About 30 trainees from 27 states attended.
- The Great Lakes Indian Fish & Wildlife Commission is now represented on the NIACS steering committee.
- Staff from the Northern Forests Climate Hub and NIACS contributed to a paper, "[Adaptation pathways: ecoregion and land ownership influences on climate adaptation decision-making in forest management](#)," recently published in *Climatic Change*.

David Hollinger, Project Leader (Climate, Fire, and Carbon Cycle Sciences), Northern Research Station (NRS), and Director, USDA Northeast Regional Climate Hub

- [New 360-degree virtual field tours](#) are being posted weekly on the Northeast Regional Climate Hub website.
- Kate MacFarland, Forest Service Assistant Agroforester from the National Agroforestry Center, recently visited the Northeast Hub to discuss a mutual project on forest buffers around stream channels.
- A Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) proposal involving the Northeast Hub would fund weather stations on tribal lands as part of the [NRCS Soil Climate Analysis Network](#).
- The Hubbard Brook Experimental Forest recently hosted scientists from the Chinese Academy of Forestry. Their visit is part of continuing exchanges following a joint US-China workshop to facilitate technical and policy cooperation.



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Emrys Treasure, Regional Inventory, Monitoring, and Assessment Coordinator, Southern Region

- The revised El Yunque National Forest plan is expected to be complete at the end of 2017. Plan revision processes are ongoing for Nantahala-Pisgah National Forests. | The National Forests and Grasslands in Texas are entering the assessment phase of plan revision. Emrys is gathering relevant science from the Southern Research Station, Eastern Threat Center, and SERCH. Contact Emrys (etresure@fs.fed.us) with additional science for consideration.
- The Southern Region is focusing on longleaf pine restoration for climate change adaptation. The region is applying a similar approach to shortleaf pine restoration.
- Sarah Wiener from SRS and SERCH is assisting the Southern Region with development of a monitoring census to help define monitoring activities that may be important for informing understanding of climate variability and change.

Michael Gavazzi, Biological Scientist, USDA Southeast Regional Climate Hub (SERCH)

- SERCH and the National Climate Hubs are funding four projects to help improve the resiliency of working lands in the Southeast: 1) Developing management tools and providing information on how to manage risk to cropland managers, extension agents, agricultural businesses, and commodity groups (University of Georgia); 2) Improving adoption of water-saving, multiple inlet rice irrigation using a mobile app in eastern Arkansas (University of Arkansas); 3) Educating fire managers about using prescribed fire during drought conditions (Southern Regional Extension Forestry/University of Georgia); 4) Developing and evaluating climate change adaptation management for forests in the Gulf Coastal Plains and Ozark region (Northern Research Station, The Gulf Coastal Plains and Ozark Landscape Conservation Cooperative, University of Mississippi, and NE CSC).

Kier Klepzig, Assistant Director, Southern Research Station (SRS)

- Recent CompassLive articles featuring SRS climate research include:
 - A Purdue University-led study published in *Science Advances* found that [most trees have been shifting their ranges westward or northward in response to temperature and precipitation changes](#). Findings have generated coverage from *Nature*, *North Carolina State University*, the *Associated Press*, *The Atlantic*, and *The Christian Science Monitor*.
 - Interactions among drought, topography, and tree species' response to drought [could lead to complex shifts in species composition](#). Findings were published in *Ecohydrology*.
 - Researchers analyzed the traits of 339 native U.S. tree species and predictions of climate-related pressure and then [listed each species in one of seven vulnerability classes](#). Results were published in a special issue of *New Forests*.
 - [A NASA-funded project](#) will estimate how ecosystem productivity has changed since the 1980s, especially in light of urbanization and forest change. Researchers will also study how the combination of changes in climate, land use, and forest composition could affect productivity and water use in the future.
- Project Leader and Research Ecologist Jim Guldin will join the SRS [Center for Integrated Forest Science](#), which will serve as a research advisory board.
- Kier has accepted a new position as the Director of the Joseph Jones Ecological Research Center in Ichauway, Georgia. His new role begins in July.

Presentation

[“An empirical hierarchy of forest communities for assessing and projecting global change effects across the U.S.”](#)—Jennifer Costanza, North Carolina State University

The next FFACCTs will take place August 4.

Please send comments, feedback, and presentation suggestions to Stephanie Worley Firley, Eastern Threat Center, (sworleyfirley@fs.fed.us) and visit the [FFACCTs webpage](#) for additional information.