



# First Friday All Climate Change Talks (FFACCTs)

Hosted by the USDA Forest Service

Eastern Forest Environmental Threat Assessment Center

September 6, 2013—11:00 a.m. (ET)



**Opening Remarks: Kier Klepzig, Assistant Director, Southern Research Station**

## **Washington Office Updates (Research and Development)**

**Randy Johnson, National Program Leader, Genetics and Global Change Research**

- Dave Cleaves is working with field contacts on baseline carbon assessments. Numbers and trends will be available soon.
- The Forest Service is providing the Council on Environmental Quality with tools to explain carbon measurements and policy information to keep forest carbon stable.
- Eight USDA climate change hub proposals for seven regions are being evaluated. Governance, communication plans, strategies for informing congress, etc. are being developed.

## **Southeast Climate Science Center (SECSC)**

**Gerard McMahon, Director**

- Mitch Eaton will join the SECSC in late September or early October. He is a quantitative ecologist with experience in structured decision making.

## **South Atlantic Landscape Conservation Cooperative (SALCC) Update**

**Lori Barrow, Information Transfer Specialist/USDA Forest Service Liaison**

- Registration is open for [Conservation Blueprint design workshops](#) in Raleigh, NC (10/22-23) and Savannah, GA (11/19-20).
- The SALCC, SECSC, SRS, and United South and Eastern Tribes (USET) are exploring collaborative opportunities to protect and preserve traditional medicinal and cultural values. Lori will facilitate a presentation at the USET annual meeting in late October.
- Dr. Elsa Haubold has been selected to serve as the [LCC National Network Coordinator](#).

## **Station Updates**

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

- Kier and Barbara Bentz (Rocky Mountain Research Station) are updating a topic page about bark beetles for the [Climate Change Resource Center](#).
- Chief Tom Tidwell and Associate Chief Mary Wagner attended a field leadership forum in Asheville. Chief Tidwell discussed climate change as a big challenge for the agency.

**Dave Hollinger, Project Leader (Climate, Fire, and Carbon Cycle Sciences), Northern Research Station (NRS)**

- The NRS submitted two USDA climate change hub proposals to lead the midwestern (proposed director: Chris Swanston) and northeastern (proposed director: Dave Hollinger) climate change hubs and collaborate closely with Agricultural Research Service and Natural Resources Conservation Service.
- Lindsey Rustad (NRS research ecologist) will give a presentation about "Changing Climate, Changing Forests" ([GTR-NRS-99](#)) at the New England Governors and Eastern Canadian Premiers' Annual Conference.

## **National Forest System Updates**

**Leslie Brandt, Climate Change Specialist, Northern Institute of Applied Climate Science, Eastern Region**

- Scorecard responses have been completed for FY13. Much progress has been made in the areas of education and vulnerability assessments. The Eastern Region will begin addressing climate change monitoring in FY14; discussions are ongoing with the USA



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National Phenology Network to formalize a partnership and receive technical assistance.

- A project has begun in the Chicago area that will involve urban forestry and climate change adaptation.
- The [Forest Adaptation Planning and Practices](#) workshop held in August allowed managers to work with current projects to adapt them to climate change. Follow up courses will be offered.

### **David Meriwether, Ecosystems Management Coordinator, Southern Region**

- The Southern Region is focused on completing plan revision assessments for three early adopter National Forests with support from the SRS. Carbon assessment documents will be available for review in the next couple of months.
- The Southern Region will collaborate with the Eastern Region and SRS to address monitoring and assessment requirements for the new Planning Rule.
- Scorecard reports are complete.

### **Presentation**

"Climate Change-Induced Rain Increases Soil Erosion on Vulnerable Lands" – **Catalina Segura**, PhD, North Carolina State University post-doctoral fellow working with the Forest Service Eastern Forest Environmental Threat Assessment Center in Raleigh, NC ([archived presentation](#))

**\*\*\*The next FFACCTs will take place October 4. Please send comments, feedback, and presentation suggestions to Perdita Spriggs, Eastern Threat Center, ([pspriggs@fs.fed.us](mailto:pspriggs@fs.fed.us)) and visit the [FFACCTs webpage](#) for additional information.**