



# First Friday All Climate Change Talks (FFACCTs)

Hosted by the USDA Forest Service

Eastern Forest Environmental Threat Assessment Center

February 5, 2016, 11:00 a.m. (ET)



## FFACCTs Highlights – Opening remarks by Steve McNulty, Director, USDA Southeast Regional Climate Hub (SERCH)

### Washington Office Update

#### **Karen Dante, Climate Change Adaptation and Policy Specialist, Office of Sustainability and Climate Change (OSCC)**

- The Forest Service [has released](#) "Effects of Drought on Forests and Rangelands in the United States: A Comprehensive Science Synthesis." The [report](#) provides a national assessment of peer-reviewed scientific research on the impacts of drought on U.S. Forests and rangelands and will help the Forest Service better manage resources impacted by climate change.

### USDA Climate Hubs Update

#### **Randy Johnson, National Leader, and Rachel Steele, National Coordinator, USDA Climate Hubs**

- Four Climate Hub Director positions located in Davis, CA, Fort Collins, CO, Ames, IA, and El Reno, OK, [are open on USAJOBS](#) and close February 12. A Climate Hub Coordinator position located in Ames, IA, [is also open on USAJOBS](#) and closes February 16th.
- Seven Hub Coordinators and ten Fellows will be in place by the end of May.
- Hub liaisons from USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service, Farm Service Agency, Risk Management Agency, and Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service have been identified and preliminary work plans have been developed. More comprehensive work plans are due February 19th.
- [Two-page factsheets for each Hub region](#) summarize findings from the recently published national drought assessment
- The [Midwest](#), [Northwest](#), [Northern Plains](#), [Northeast](#), and [Northern Forests](#) Hubs will host regional building blocks workshops in March.

### Climate Science Center Updates

#### **Alex Bryan, Climate Scientist / Postdoctoral Fellow, Northeast Climate Science Center (NE CSC)**

- NE CSC fellow Jane Foster and principal investigator Tony D'Amato co-authored [a paper in \*Global Change Biology\*](#) examining the resiliency of boreal/temperate forests to climate change. Tony D'Amato co-authored another upcoming paper in *Global Change Biology* about challenges in forest management (specifically in the western United States) due to the combined impacts of drought, insect infestations, and drought.
- NE CSC fellow Wen Wang and principal investigator Frank Thompson co-authored [a paper in \*Ecosphere\*](#) on modeling shifts in forest composition in the U.S. Central Hardwoods due to succession, harvest, and climate change.
- NE CSC fellow Kyle Gill and Tony D'Amato co-authored [a paper in the \*Canadian Journal of Forest Research\*](#) about management of Jack Pine for climate adaptation along its southern range in Minnesota.
- As part of the [NE CSC seminar series](#), NE CSC fellow Bill DeLuca [will present a pilot application of \*Designing Sustainable Landscapes\*](#), a decision-support tool designed to inform landscape-level conservation that accounts for climate change and urban growth while maintaining connected and diverse ecosystems. The webinar will take place on February 16 at 3:30 pm ET.
- NE CSC's federal director Mary Ratnaswamy co-led "Applying Climate Science to State-Level Resource Management," a session at the [Midwest Fish and Wildlife Conference](#) which also included presentations by Alex Bryan and NE CSC research ecologist Toni Lyn Morelli.

#### **Jerry McMahan, Director, Southeast Climate Science Center (SE CSC)**

- The SE CSC will hold the on-site phase of an evaluation at the end of February. Steve McNulty will be among the participants providing feedback and ideas.
- Two research awards with fiscal year 2016 funds are under consideration, including a communication services planning grant and a connectivity and reserve design project.



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### Station Updates

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

- SRS scientists are among the co-editors and co-authors of the national drought assessment, which has generated significant publicity and media coverage.
- A Hub Fellow has been selected for the Southeast Regional Climate Hub. A Hub Coordinator position will soon be advertised and will be open to current federal employees.

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

- NRS scientists and partners have created an experimental ice storm on the Hubbard Brook Experimental Forest to simulate the effects of increasingly frequent and severe ice storms expected in a changing climate. A [news release](#) and [photo gallery](#) are available.
- NRS research ecologist and team leader Lindsey Rustad has been involved in a research coordination network following a workshop in Florida focused on integrating models and exploring climate feedback using data from long-term climate change experiments and measurements. A larger coordination network is planned.

### National Forest System Updates

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

- NIACS completed expert panels for Mid-Atlantic and New England vulnerability assessments in November and December.
- Todd Ontl, a new USDA Climate Hub Fellow, will be analyzing the outcomes of NIACS adaptation demonstration projects.
- The USDA Northern Forests Climate Hub and the Forest Climate Working Group will host a workshop on climate change mitigation in the forest sector, targeting innovators from USDA, state agencies, non-governmental organizations, and other groups who have experience developing forest management and conservation projects with greenhouse gas mitigation benefits. The workshop will be held March 29-30 at The Field Museum in Chicago, IL. Contact Danielle Shannon ([dshannon@mtu.edu](mailto:dshannon@mtu.edu)) for more information.
- NIACS is [leading an online adaptation training and has developed several new presentation recordings](#) on general climate change impacts.

#### **Emrys Treasure, Ecosystems Management Coordinator (detail), Southern Region**

- The Region continues to support the needs of national forests transitioning monitoring programs to the requirements of the 2012 Planning Rule, including requirements for monitoring measurable changes and other stressors. A preliminary version of a broad-scale monitoring strategy will be released soon for comments.
- The National Forests in Texas will begin the assessment phase of the plan revision process this year.
- Emrys has completed his detail with Southern Regional Office. An outreach notice has been posted for the Regional Assessment, Inventory, Monitoring, and Climate Change Coordinator position. Replies are due February 26.

### Presentation

"Toward implementation of adaptation strategies: climate-informed monitoring for a military installation in southern California" — Carolyn Enquist, U.S. Department of the Interior Southwest Climate Science Center

**The next FFACCTs will take place March 4.**

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