



# First Friday All Climate Change Talks (FFACCTs)

Hosted by the USDA Forest Service

Eastern Forest Environmental Threat Assessment Center

April 7, 2017, 11:00 a.m. (ET)



## Welcome and Introductory Comments

Joel Larson, Acting Director, USDA Southeast Regional Climate Hub

## Washington Office Update

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

- The Forest Service Eastern Region (Region 9) recently held drought workshops for the Midwest and Northeast. Karen attended the workshop held in New Hampshire with ~50 participants who explored climate considerations in real-life projects.
- 300 attendees joined the Office of Sustainability and Climate's "[Drought and Forest Ecosystems](#)" webinar on April 4.

## USDA Climate Hubs Update

**Rachel Steele, National Hub Coordinator, USDA Office of the Chief Economist**

**Dan Lawson, National Leader, USDA Climate Hubs (USDA Office of the Chief Economist)**

- The Hubs have completed their accomplishment report for the second quarter. Contact Rachel ([RSteele@oce.usda.gov](mailto:RSteele@oce.usda.gov)) for a copy.
- Northeast, Northwest, and Southeast Climate Fellows have completed a survey of USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service staff on their understanding and comfort level of addressing climate risk with stakeholders. Data are being analyzed and will determine how Hubs can support NRCS and other agencies.
- Ongoing engagement with the Government Accountability Office (GAO) is demonstrating how the Hubs work, their impacts, and how they measure success. GAO representatives will visit the Southern Plains Climate Hub next month.
- The Hubs are working with the Forest Service on ongoing regional drought workshops as well as the [National Drought Resilience Partnership](#) on issues of drought and water management at the national and regional level.

## Climate Science Center Updates

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

- The NE CSC will hold a [Regional Science Meeting](#) May 15-17. All are invited to participate, and registration is free.
- Forest Service Research Fisheries Biologist Keith Nislow will present "Drought in the Northeast and Implications for Ecosystems" during an [NE CSC webinar on April 12 at 3:30 ET](#). Toni Lyn recently presented a webinar on "[Using decision tools to assess vulnerability and inform management of wildlife in the Northeast](#)." Visit the [NE CSC website](#) for more recently recorded webinars.
- The NE CSC held the [Third Annual Five College Native American and Indigenous Studies Symposium](#) April 6-8.

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

- Recent publications from SE CSC-funded work find that [warmer, drier conditions lead to increases in gloomy scale insects](#), a pest for the widely planted red maple, as well as [limited work on methods to help cultural resource managers adapt to climate change](#).
- The SE SCSC has completed engagement workshops for the Southeast chapter of the [Fourth National Climate Assessment](#) (NCA4). Adam Terando is the federal coordinating lead author, and others are developing contributions to the draft chapter.
- The SE CSC is wrapping up a listening tour with southeastern fish and wildlife agencies. Next stops include Tallahassee, FL, followed by dates in Tennessee, South Carolina, Georgia, and Louisiana.

## Station and Regional Updates

**Todd Ontl, Fellow, USDA Northern Forests Climate Hub / Northern Institute of Applied Climate Science (NIACS)**

- Two recent Region 9 drought workshops were successful and well-attended.
- NIACS Deputy Director Maria Janowiak presented at a drought workshop in New Hampshire as well as at Acadia National Park, the Connecticut Land Conservation Conference, and the Michigan Society of American Foresters meeting. She also recently met with Massachusetts Trustees on climate adaptation.
- NIACS Climate Change Outreach Specialist Patricia Butler is helping the Pennsylvania Department of Conservation and Natural Resources prioritize climate impacts to be addressed and integrated into the Pennsylvania Bureau's adaptation and mitigation plan.
- Todd and Climate Change Outreach Specialist Kristen Schmitt presented a webinar to the Forest Service Intermountain Region



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(Region 4) on the principles of adaptation. A follow-up webinar is scheduled to address a restoration project in southern Utah.

- NIACS Director Chris Swanston will attend an NCA4 meeting for lead authors. Regional and stakeholder engagement workshops were held in March.

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

- The NE CSC partnered with the University of Delaware and other regional USDA and land grant collaborators to showcase climate-informed farm and forest demonstration sites through [a series of virtual field tours](#).
- The NE CSC partnered with the University of Maine to provide users with the most recent hourly predictions from the National Weather Service's operational forecast models for any location in the country. More information is available from [a recent webinar](#).
- Dave and NE CSC Coordinator Erin Lane are co-authoring chapters on agriculture and forestry for NCA4. Engagement workshops have been held.

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

- Emrys attended the recent Southeast Regional Engagement Workshop for NCA4 held at Emory University.
- The Francis Marion National Forest has released its final plan (the first under the 2012 Planning Rule) and Environmental Impact Statement. [A Record of Decision was signed at the end of March](#).
- Revision of the 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 Forest and Grasslands in Texas are entering the assessment phase of plan revision.
- The Southern Research Station's Santee Experimental Forest held a workshop on the Francis Marion National Forest on watershed response to longleaf pine restoration.
- Sarah Wiener from SRS and the Southeast Regional Climate Hub 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.

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

- SRS scientists Dave Wear and John Coulston recently presented "[U.S. forest carbon: trends and projections](#)" as part of the [Update to the Forest Service 2010 Resources Planning Act Assessment webinar series](#).
- Several SRS scientists contributed to the Department of Energy's (DoE) recently published [Billion-Ton Volume 2 report](#). DoE is planning an overview webinar on the report.
- Recent SRS research covered on [CompassLive](#) includes "[Where's the Carbon?](#)" based on an *Ecological Applications* paper, "[Ecosystem carbon density and allocation across a chronosequence of longleaf pine forests](#)."
- Kier participated in the recent workshop on watershed response to longleaf pine restoration. A paired watershed study on the Santee Experimental Forest will compare the effects of restoration with no restoration. Diverse partners are weighing in on the project.

### **Michael Gavazzi, Biological Scientist, Eastern Threat Center / USDA Southeast Regional Climate Hub (SERCH)**

- SERCH conducted a systematic feedback campaign with state forestry agencies across the Southeast and Southern Plains Hub regions on [an Emerald Ash Borer Alert](#), [a Fire Weather Alert](#), and thirteen state-level fact sheets on the interactions between climate and various forest health issues. Feedback will be used for ongoing product development, and the products will be released throughout 2017.
- A SERCH webinar through Virginia Cooperative Extension's 4-H program on April 10 provided an opportunity for information sharing, improving tools/outreach awareness, and gathering feedback.
- SERCH will participate in the [Southeast and Caribbean Climate Community of Practice Meeting](#) in Charleston, SC, April 24-26, which will focus on coastal issues throughout the region.
- Climate Specialist Aurelia Baca will present a webinar, "[Climate Change Considerations When Developing Updated Seed Zones](#)," on



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April 26 at 11:00 ET.

### **Presentation**

["Collaborating to Address Climate Change around the Globe"](#) — Sasha Gottlieb, Senior Program Specialist, U.S. Forest Service International Programs

**The next FFACCTs will take place May 5.**

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