



First Friday All Climate Change Talks (FFACCTs)

Hosted by the USDA Forest Service

Eastern Forest Environmental Threat Assessment Center

October 6, 2017, 11:00 a.m. (ET)



Welcome and Introductory Comments

Joel Larson, Acting Director, USDA Southeast Regional Climate Hub (SERCH)

Washington Office Update

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

- The OSC has pulled together a [Drought Gallery](#) with maps and factsheets based on the drought workshops held in each region along with synopses of the drought webinars.

Climate Science Center Updates

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

- The NE CSC is holding a special afternoon session on the impacts of climate change on sugar maple and maple sugaring at the [Forest Ecosystem Monitoring Cooperative's annual meeting](#) on December 15.

- The [Northeast Refugia Research Coalition website](#) is comparing maps of spruce-fir refugia across the Northeast and developing a plan for managing cold-water stream refugia for brook trout, etc. For more information or to join the coalition, Contact Toni Lyn (tmorelli@usgs.gov).

- The NE CSC recently hosted a webinar on winter severity, the loss of snow expected in the Great Lakes Region, and impacts on duck populations. [View the recorded webinar and see the upcoming webinar schedule](#).

- New publications on forest management include "[Competition amplifies drought stress in forests across broad climatic and compositional gradients](#)," "[Potential Effects of Foundation Species Loss on Wetland Communities: A Case Study of Black Ash Wetlands Threatened by Emerald Ash Borer](#)," and "[Harvesting influences functional identity and diversity over time in forests of the northeastern U.S.A.](#)"

- [A new study from NE CSC](#) scientists explores ecological thresholds or "tipping points" for 45 key coastal fish, wildlife, and plant species in response to sea-level rise and coastal storms. The study responds to a need identified by stakeholders across the Atlantic and Gulf Coast regions and offers insight on managing coastal resources in the face of environmental change.

Station and Regional Updates

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

- NIACS is working with Apostle Islands National Lakeshore on a park-specific vulnerability assessment and adaptation project. Contact Stephen Handler (sdhandler@fs.fed.us) for details.

- Frank Thompson (Northern Research Station) and Hong He (University of Missouri) are modeling adaptation scenarios for the Gulf Coastal Plains and Ozarks region using LANDIS. Frank is looking for local experts and managers to provide feedback on the scenarios as they work to parameterize them into the model. Contact Frank (frthompson@fs.fed.us) to get involved.

- NIACS is organizing a "Training in Advanced Climate Change Topics" for climate coordinators and resource specialists in the Eastern Region February 27-March 1 at the University of Minnesota. The course will include experts in climate impacts, carbon, and adaptation from federal agencies and the University of Minnesota. Contact Leslie (lbrandt@fs.fed.us) for details.

- The Wayne National Forest will begin its plan revision this year. NIACS and the Northern Research Station are working with national forest staff to ensure climate change is considered in the forest plan.

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

- As the National Forests and Grasslands in Texas work on a forest plan assessment as part of a plan revision, the Southern Region is looking for best available science sources on a wide range of climate related topics and hoping to build meaningful partnerships and collaborations.

- During forest plan revision processes, the Southern Region has found real success in applying tools and information from the Southern Research Station, Forest Inventory and Analysis, the Eastern Threat Center, the Southeast Regional Climate Hub, OSC, Resource Planning Act scientists, and the Gulf Coastal Plains and Ozarks Landscape Conservation Cooperative.

- El Yunque National Forest in Puerto Rico had nearly completed its plan revision before Hurricanes Irma and Maria hit. Currently, the focus is on the humanitarian response. All Forest Service employees have been accounted for, but there is a long road ahead to recovery, including assessing the impacts on El Yunque and implications for their revised forest plan.

- A topic of much work and discussion in the region relates to restoration, including longleaf and shortleaf restoration that is clearly aligned with increasing ecosystem resilience to many of the effects expected with climate variability and change.



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- Sarah Wiener from the Southern Research Station and SERCH will be helping the Southern Region design a “monitoring census” that will help staff better define monitoring activities that may be important in informing understanding of climate variability and change. The first interview and survey phase of that project is nearly complete. Analysis and interpretation of those data will be the focus throughout the fall and winter.

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

- Secretary Purdue visited the North Carolina State University Centennial Campus as part of his National Listening Session Tour. A panel discussion focused on Biotechnology, and the Secretary expressed his desire for USDA to better understand genetic opportunities and improve communication with the public about benefits of using genetically engineered food crops. He also stated that improving the National Institute of Food and Agriculture grant process was a priority.
- SERCH has completed a draft Southern Region Drought Adaptation factsheet that covers climate trends and forecasts as well as impacts and adaptation strategies for forest, agricultural, and grazing lands and aquatic and riparian ecosystems.
- Jennifer Moore Myers from SERCH recently gave a general session address at the 11th Minority Landowner’s Conference in Greensboro, NC. SERCH staff members also hosted an exhibition booth, which provided an opportunity to share the Hub mission and resources for making climate-smart management decisions and to interact with farmers to learn more about concerns and needs.

Presentation

[“Considering Forest and Grassland Carbon in Land Management”](#) – Presented by Maria Janowiak, Northern Institute of Applied Climate Science

The next FFACCTs will take place November 3.

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.