



First Friday All Climate Change Talks (FFACCTs)

Hosted by the USDA Forest Service

Eastern Forest Environmental Threat Assessment Center

August 7, 2015—11:00 a.m. (ET)



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

Washington Office (Research and Development) Update

Karen Dante, Climate Change Fellow, Climate Change Advisor's Office

- The newly formed Office of Sustainability and Climate Change (formerly Climate Change Advisor's Office and the Sustainable Operations Team) held a virtual meeting earlier this week to discuss the vision, program of work, staffing, and future communications.
- The Climate Change Hubs will host workshops this fall and next winter to train and educate all USDA employees on the Climate Smart Building Blocks for Agriculture and Forestry. The Forest Service has the lead of 4 of the 10 building blocks and will work with Regions where federal forests, private forests, urban forests and wood products serve an important role to the community.

USDA Climate Hubs Update

Rachel Steele, Office of the Chief Economist, USDA Climate Hubs

- The Northwest Regional Climate Hub vulnerability Assessment is out! Check it out and the other published regional VA's here: <http://climatehubs.oce.usda.gov/content/regional-vulnerability-assessments>. The climate assessments present climate adaptation strategies and options for mitigation. All regions will be available soon.
- Undersecretary Bonnie sent out a memo encouraging regional agency folks from NRCS, USFS, RD, FSA, RMA to attend their local Building Blocks for Climate Smart Agriculture workshop hosted by the climate hubs (attached). These workshops are meant to convey the best available information on climate change and mitigation opportunities and discuss the building blocks for climate smart agriculture. Where are the best opportunities to mitigate and what are some of the likely challenges and how will we overcome them in our region? Contact your regional hub's coordinator for details.

Northeast Climate Science Center (NECSC) Update

Toni Lyn Morelli, Program Manager, Northeast Climate Science Center

- NE CSC report "Integrating Climate Change into Northeast and Midwest State Wildlife Action Plans" has been taken up by many of the Midwestern and Northeastern SWAP teams and gotten lots of press: <http://necsc.umass.edu/news/ne-csc-releases-report-help-state-wildlife-managers-northeast-and-midwest-alleviate-impacts-cli> and <http://necsc.umass.edu/projects/integrating-climate-change-state-wildlife-action-plans>
- University of Wisconsin colleagues are working on a storm transposition project that is an interesting way to make future extreme events be felt here and now. Check out more at <http://necsc.umass.edu/news/assessing-vulnerability-through-storm-transposition>
- NE CSC and partners continue to work on scenario planning for moose and the North Woods with the Wildlife Conservation Society and other partners. http://ian.umces.edu/pdfs/ian_newsletter_459.pdf
- Check out our Early Career Climate Forum (ECCF) website and listserv - <https://www.eccforum.org/>

Southeast Climate Science Center (SECSC) Update

Cari Furiness, DOI Southeast Climate Science Center



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- The Center was represented at the [Rising Voices](#) workshop by Aranzazu Lascrain in ongoing activities for increasing Tribal Engagement. We are planning official consultations with several tribes in the SE CSC region in the fall and will sponsor a seminar in September on Traditional Ecological Knowledge.
- Jerry McMahon joined other Climate Science Center Directors at national meeting. Several centers, including SE CSC, are planning for upcoming review and renewals.
- There are two upcoming meetings at the end of August at NCSU and facilitated by SE CSC. The [Public meeting](#) sponsored by French Embassies in America and Canada, [French Ameri-Can Climate Talks](#), in prep for COP21 Paris talks – will be on August 27 (SE Climate Hub also involved in planning) and NCSU [Global Change Symposium](#) focused on NCSU community and close affiliates on 28 Aug.
- A long-term forest warming chamber study has been brought to completion, with comprehensive collection and study of insect and other ecosystem components in response to changing thermal regime. It has received media attention, including a National Geographic video. See [climate change feature](#) for details.
- Staff – Adam Terando has been invited to participate in an IPCC Workshop in Brazil. Mitch Eaton has a recent paper on decision science in (open access) [Sustainability](#).

Station Updates

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

- SRS scientists have a paper accepted in Global Change Biology that analyzes how six southern Appalachian forest tree species respond to climate variability according to site conditions. The paper by the research group at Coweeta, led by Kitty Elliott, worked in reference areas with no human disturbance since 1923 or longer using on-site climatic data from 1935 to 2003. There is much uncertainty in how the future precipitation regimes will change in a warmer, higher-CO₂ world for these humid, heavily forested regions. Results show future growth for southern Appalachian forests would be best predicted while considering all interacting variables influencing site moisture conditions (differences in solar radiation, cold air drainage, soil moisture, seasonal temperature regimes, and atmospheric drying potentials).
- Tribal collaboration between SRS and the Eastern Band of Cherokee Indians (EBCI) is underway, on Climate Change Adaptation and Seed Banking, to improve the integration of traditional and western systems of knowledge for addressing climate and landscape change in the Southern Appalachians. The MOU is between EBCI and SRS with partners USGS-North Carolina Water Science Center and The North Carolina Arboretum and Germplasm Repository. Educational modules are also being developed for use by youth at the Snowbird Cherokee Center.
- SERCH just released the Climate Hubs Tool Shed that includes tools that are directly relevant to climate variability and change, as well as tools that assist in managing interacting factors such as drought, pests, and extreme weather. For more information on how to use the site, please visit the [Tool Shed](#) page.
- SERCH will Host Webinars for Climate Learning Network. The series is titled “A Method for Building Trust and Collaboration in Addressing Climate Change Impacts.” The Climate Learning Network is hosting the webinar as part of a six-part series. The full series and registration links can be [viewed here](#).

Frank Thompson, Research Wildlife Scientist, Sustainable Management of Central Hardwood Ecosystems and Landscapes, Northern Research Station



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- Station scientists Eric Gustafson, Steve Shifley, and Frank Thompson each made invited presentations in a session on modeling forest ecosystems and landscapes under changing climate as part of the Joint Sino-US Workshop on Forest, Soil, and Landscape Modeling in Changchun, China.
- Station scientists, including Louis Iverson, Eric Gustafson, and Bill Dijk, along with some Station cooperators made presentation related to modeling ecosystems and landscapes under a changing climate at the 2015 International Association for Landscape Ecology 2015 World Congress in Portland Oregon. Selected papers from this session and the China Workshop will appear in a special section of the Journal Landscape Ecology in 2016.
- A paper on climate change impacts on central hardwood forests resulting from collaboration between the USFS Northern Research Station, Region 9 USFS, University of Missouri, Gulf Coast Plains and Ozarks LCC, and the USGS Northeast Climate Science Center will appear in the next issue of the Journal Ecosphere: Wen J. Wang, Hong S. He, Frank R. Thompson III, Jacob S. Fraser, Brice B. Hanberry, and William D. Dijk. 2015. The importance of succession, harvest, and climate change in determining future forest composition changes in U.S. Central Hardwood Forests. Ecosphere: In Press

National Forest System Updates

Leslie Brandt, R9/Northern Institute of Applied Climate Science-Eastern Region & the Northern Forests Sub Hub

- NIACS: CDs from the 2nd CCRC climate education module on climate change effects on forests and grasslands is available on hard-copy CD-ROM. Anyone can contact PNWRS publishing and request copies. The GTR number is PNW-GTR-916. If anyone is interested in the first module on basic climate science, you can also request a CD-ROM of that through PNWRS publishing as GTR-PNW-902.
- Chippewa: Landis modeling on climate change is wrapping up. There will be a meeting on November 5 to roll out the results and show a visualization tool. Partners from the area will also be in attendance. Chippewa also finished up its 4th demonstration project-the Nona project.
- Wayne: this week, Patricia Butler from NIACS came out to assist with the adaptation workbook for the Buckeye Habitat Improvement project. There was also an all-employee climate change training event
- Northwoods forests in MN, WI and MI are planning a monitoring workshop this fall to help with planning rule and element 8 goals. If this is successful, we may expand to other ecoregions
- R9: Next week, we will be discussing climate change considerations in project-level NEPA on our regional NEPA call.

David Meriwether, Ecosystems Management Coordinator, Southern Region

- Ongoing scorecard reporting by NF supervisors and forest Climate Change Coordinators is due Sept 1. These will be used for planning around future support needed.
- Reviewing SE vulnerability assessment. Looking for vulnerability report from southern plains to cover TX and OK pinelands.
- Working on forest monitoring for climate change and other needs related to 2012 Planning Rule. Drafting broader scale monitoring strategies and that will be out this fall.
- A Joint leadership meeting was held between R8 and SRS in July. Three joint teams are being established – priorities, tech transfer and social sciences – each should touch on c in some way.
- This is last call for Dave as coordinator. He is taking on new role as Director of Resource Information Management. Peter Gaulke will serve as CC coordinator until the vacant position is filled.

[Thanks Dave!]



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Presentation

"Coping with Drought and Climate Change on the diverse working landscapes of California" by **Peter Stine**, Director of Partnerships and Collaboration for the Pacific Northwest Research Station and USDA California Climate Sub Hub.

Q&A

Round Robin Discussion

Access Relay Conference Captioning for this event by clicking on the link below:

<http://www.fedrcc.us//Enter.aspx?EventID=2664366&CustomerID=321>

The next FFACCTs will take place *September 4, 2015* with a presentation by **Dave Nowak**, Northern Research Station. See <http://www.forestthreats.org/news/upcoming-events/ffaccts> for details.

*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.*