



First Friday All Climate Change Talks (FFACCTs)

Hosted by the USDA Forest Service

Eastern Forest Environmental Threat Assessment Center

November 4, 2016, 11:00 a.m. (ET)



FFACCTs Highlights – 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

- Responses have been collected for the final year of the Climate Change Performance Scorecard. Results indicate that all units met the goal (a 'yes' to at least seven of ten scorecard questions, with at least one 'yes' in each dimension, including organizational capacity, engagement, adaptation, and mitigation). The draft Climate Action Card has been presented in listening sessions. The next session (focused on National Forest System units) will be held November 10 from 2:00 – 3:30 ET from the Big Horn Sheep (4SC) conference room, or attendees may join virtually:

Conference call: 1.888.844.9904, Passcode: 9212543

Adobe Connect: <https://usfs.adobeconnect.com/climatecardnov10/WO>

USDA Climate Hubs Update

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

- Dan Lawson (USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service) began his role as National Leader for the USDA Climate Hubs on November 1.
- The Hubs website upgrade has been approved. A more flexible site is forthcoming.
- [Adaptation Resources for Agriculture: Responding to Climate Variability and Change in the Midwest and Northeast](#) has been published.

Climate Science Center Updates

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

- The NE CSC hosted [National CSC training for students and early career professionals](#) November 2-3.
- Per the request of U.S. Forest Service regional ecologist Hugh Safford, Toni Lyn Morelli organized and moderated a session at the [44th Natural Areas Conference](#) entitled "[Co-production of Knowledge: Managers and Scientists Working Together for Effective Conservation in the Face of Climate Change](#)" and presented on managing climate change refugia. Other presenters included representatives from federal and state resource management agencies.
- The [Massachusetts Climate Action Tool](#) (focused on fisheries and marine ecosystems) is now featured on the [US Climate Resilience Toolkit](#).
- The NE CSC and the Great Lakes Integrated Sciences and Assessment program recently co-hosted the [Great Lakes Adaptation Forum](#). Over 100 managers and researchers from across the region and across all sectors (natural resources, urban infrastructure, human health, etc.) were in attendance.

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

- The SE CSC is preparing for a Workshop on Ecological Drought in the Southeast scheduled for November 16-17. Participants from the U.S. Forest Service, U.S. Geological Survey, U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, and Landscape Conservation Cooperatives are confirmed. The goal of the workshop is to review drought impacts to southeastern ecosystems and to identify and articulate three science challenges to address in the next five years.

Station and Regional Updates

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

- The Hub is preparing for the Fall Directors Forum in Las Cruces, NM.



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- The Hub will finalize plans for the upcoming year during a meeting in early December.
- The Hub's [most recent newsletter](#) focuses on drought in the Northeast.
- Forest Service representatives including Lindsey Rustad and John Campbell (NRS Hubbard Brook Experimental Forest), Carl Trettin and Ben Rau (SRS Santee Experimental Forest), Steve McNulty (SERCH), Cindi West (Office of Sustainability and Climate Change), and Brad Kinder (International Programs) recently participated in a joint US-China workshop to facilitate technical and policy cooperation.

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

- NIACS Director Chris Swanston gave a keynote presentation, "Forest Management and Climate Change Adaptation," at the [44th Natural Areas Conference](#).
- NIACS and Hub staff participated in the recent [Great Lakes Adaptation Forum](#). Swanston gave a keynote presentation about NIACS adaptation work across the region; Stephen Handler organized a forestry session with private, state, tribal, and county forest projects; and Danielle Shannon led a session about the new Great Lakes Restoration Initiative 'Water Initiatives' project.
- Maria Janowiak and Kristen Schmitt from NIACS each led sessions at the [Land Trust Alliance Rally 2016 meeting](#).
- Climate change specialist Leslie Brandt, who was a keynote speaker at the recent [Connecticut Urban Forest Conference](#), is the lead author on two papers now available in Treearch: "[A framework for adapting urban forests to climate change](#)" (*Environmental Science & Policy*) and "[Integrating science and management to assess forest ecosystem vulnerability to climate change](#)" (*Journal of Forestry*).
- Janowiak and Patricia Butler from NIACS presented at the [Society of American Foresters 2016 National Convention](#) last week.

Steve McNulty, Director, USDA Southeast Regional Climate Hub (SERCH)

- SERCH is working with the Southern Region to develop a drought workshop to be held November 18-19. The workshop will identify the main drought-related concerns in southeastern forests and explore the issue of drought in relation to other stressors.

William Gould, Research Ecologist, International Institute of Tropical Forestry, and Director, USDA Caribbean Climate Hub

- The Hub has published its 2016 report summarizing accomplishments focused on research translation and development of educational and communication products and outreach activities to support climate change adaptation and mitigation. Highlights include the [ADAPTA project](#), [educational factsheets available in English and Spanish](#), [a podcast series](#), and new climate research. The report also lists 2017 priorities.

Presentation

["Elements of success for climate adaptation planning: perspectives from the NASA Landscape Climate Change Vulnerability Project"](#)

— Bill Monahan, Quantitative Analysis Program Manager, U.S. Forest Service Forest Health Technology Enterprise Team

The next FFACCTs will take place December 2.

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.