



## First Friday All Climate Change Talks (FFACCTs)

*Hosted by the USDA Forest Service*

*Eastern Forest Environmental Threat Assessment Center*

*February 1, 2013—11:00 a.m. (ET)*



### **FFACCTs Highlights – Opening remarks by Steve McNulty, Ecologist and Team Lead, Eastern Threat Center**

#### **Washington Office Updates (Research and Development)**

##### **Greg Kujawa, Senior Staff Assistant, Climate Change Advisor's Office**

- Climate change is on the Obama Administration's agenda. USDA Secretary Vilsack is heading up a council on drought and is interested in ramping up climate change-related activities.
- A new Washington Office-level network of climate change contacts will expand upon and complement the existing climate change coordinator network to enhance communication and cooperation across the agency. Program contacts are being identified, and working groups will form around specific topics and tasks.
- A recent email from National Climate Change Advisor Dave Cleaves contained instructions and a response form for comments on the draft National Climate Assessment. Comments are due to Toral Patel-Weynand ([tpatelweynand@fs.fed.us](mailto:tpatelweynand@fs.fed.us)) in late February.
- The interagency land management adaptation group continues to organize and focus on projects, including defining common planning scenarios across agencies, more guidance for vulnerability assessments, and climate change impact monitoring.

#### **South Atlantic Landscape Conservation Cooperative (SALCC) Updates**

##### **Lori Barrow, Information Transfer Specialist/USDA Forest Service Liaison**

- Lori recently joined the SALCC to provide communications support and facilitate interagency use of the Template for Assessing Climate Change Impacts and Management Options (TACCIMO).
- A new [project page](#) on the SALCC website provides project details, contacts, information about funding sources, and more.

#### **Station Updates**

##### **Kier Klepzig, Assistant Director, Southern Research Station**

- The SRS science log, CompassLive, features recent articles about [TACCIMO's scientific literature database milestone](#) and [SRS scientists' contributions to the draft National Climate Assessment](#). Subscribe to receive weekly email updates at [www.srs.fs.usda.gov/compass](http://www.srs.fs.usda.gov/compass).
- Despite budget challenges, SRS has maintained its international mission with funding from USAID and support from FS International Programs, including research ecologist John Stanturf's carbon monitoring in Ghana, Zambia, and Malawi, and assessments and modeling in Ghana and Liberia.
- Steve McNulty was honored with the 2012 Research & Development Deputy Chief's Distinguished Science Award. Congratulations!

##### **Richard Birdsey, Program Manager (Climate, Fire, and Carbon Cycle Sciences), Northern Research Station**

- The Research Stations should 'compare notes' from international activities. Rich recently returned from Mexico where efforts are establishing monitoring, reporting, and verification systems to support REDD (Reducing Emissions from Deforestation and Degradation) programs. Chip Scott (Forest Inventory and Analysis National Inventory and Monitoring Applications Center) is providing FIA support for international forest inventories targeted at USAID monitoring, reporting, and verification.
- NRS has made strategic investments over the years in climate change research. Key programs that will hopefully continue include the National Soil Carbon Network and advanced monitoring at flux tower sites around the country.
- Rich will attend the North American Carbon Program's biennial all-investigators meeting in Albuquerque where he will co-chair breakout sessions on improved carbon and disturbance monitoring.
- Research plant pathologist Walter Shortle is engaging in discussions with the American Chemical Society (ACS) about opportunities for FS research contributions to the ACS Climate Science Toolkit. Contact Rich [rbirdsey@fs.fed.us](mailto:rbirdsey@fs.fed.us) or Walter [wshortle@fs.fed.us](mailto:wshortle@fs.fed.us) for more information.



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### **National Forest System Updates**

#### **David Meriwether, Ecosystems Management Coordinator, Southern Region**

- Work is focused on incorporating climate change and carbon into assessments as part of Planning Rule implementation for early adopter forests. Information from TACCIMO is going out to the forests now. A meeting for the Nantahala-Pisgah National Forests was held in Asheville.

### **Presentation**

- "Forest Adaptation in Action: The Next Phase of the Climate Change Response Framework"— Maria Janowiak, Northern Research Station Climate Change Adaptation and Carbon Management scientist at the Northern Institute of Applied Climate Science, Houghton, MI

### **Round Robin**

- Connie Carpenter (FS International Institute of Tropical Forestry): Connie will share Maria's presentation with the Caribbean Landscape Conservation Cooperative, which is being chartered. Rich Birdsey can share information about mangrove research with Connie. Lisa can share TACCIMO's comprehensive literature review of climate change impacts in the Caribbean.

- Steve McNulty: NRS researcher Lindsey Rustad will join the Eastern Threat Center as an adjunct scientist to represent the Center during meetings and look for opportunities for interactions with NRS.

***\*\*\*The next FFACCTs will take place March 1. Please send comments, feedback, and presentation suggestions to Perdita Spriggs, Eastern Threat Center, ([pspriggs@fs.fed.us](mailto:pspriggs@fs.fed.us)) and visit the [FFACCTs webpage](#) for additional information.***