



First Friday All Climate Change Talks (FFACCTs)

Hosted by the USDA Forest Service

Eastern Forest Environmental Threat Assessment Center

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



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

Washington Office (WO) Update

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

- The Office of Inspector General is auditing the Forest Service's efforts to address climate change, and the Climate Change Performance Scorecard has been the primary focus of the Audit Team. The Audit Team conducted interviews at the WO and assessed how the Scorecard and other climate activities are embedded into the priorities of Regions 2 and 3. A report on their results will be released this fall.
- The Office of Sustainability and Climate Change is developing a new Climate Change Performance Scorecard for Fiscal Years 2017-2022 (subject to change). A core team of Forest Supervisors, District Rangers, WO staff, and regional climate coordinators is beginning to flesh out the new Scorecard elements.

USDA Climate Hubs Update

Rachel Steele, National Coordinator, USDA Climate Hubs

- Workshops on [Building Blocks for Climate Smart Agriculture & Forestry](#) will be held in [Casper, WY](#), Chicago, IL, and Baltimore, MD, during March.
- Staffing efforts are underway for recently advertised Climate Fellow and Director positions.

Climate Science Center Updates

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

- Toni Lyn is participating in pilot [Resilience Dialogues](#) taking place in five cities to connect community leaders with climate scientists and adaptation experts.
- The NE CSC is building collaborations with snowshoe hare and mesocarnivore researchers across the United States.
- A [special issue of the journal Climatic Change](#) on the National Climate Assessment features contributions from the NE CSC.
- The [Climate Action Tool](#) is expanding. It is currently specific to Massachusetts, but provides a useful framework for other states.
- The NE CSC is organizing a symposium, "[Documented and Documenting the Effects of Climate Change on Inland Fish and Fisheries](#)," for the American Fisheries Society annual meeting. Abstracts must be received by March 13th. Contact Toni Lyn (tmorelli@usgs.gov) for more information.

Jerry McMahan, Director, Southeast Climate Science Center (SE CSC)

- The SE CSC, co-located with North Carolina State University (NCSU) and at the end of a five-year cooperative agreement with NCSU, recently held the on-site phase of an evaluation. A report from the review team is expected soon.

Station Updates

David Hollinger, Project Leader (Climate, Fire, and Carbon Cycle Sciences), Northern Research Station (NRS)

- A recent *Press of Atlantic City* [article](#) discusses climate change effects on the Pinelands and Forest Service research.
- Treatments have been completed for NRS and partners' [ice storm experiment](#) on the Hubbard Brook Experimental Forest.
- Landscape ecologist Louis Iverson and team have updated the [Climate Change Tree and Bird Atlases](#). They also recently published "[Potential Species Replacements for Black Ash \(*Fraxinus nigra*\) at the Confluence of Two Threats: Emerald Ash Borer and a Changing Climate](#)" in the journal *Ecosystems*.



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

- Steve participated in a meeting in coastal North Carolina's Hyde County where increasing surface water wetness and saltwater intrusion are problematic. Recent analyses identified costly infrastructure needs and limitations.
- Hard copies of the recently published [national drought science synthesis report](#) are available. Contact co-editors Jim Vose (jvose@fs.fed.us) or Charlie Luce (cluce@fs.fed.us) for more information.

National Forest System Updates

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

- The USDA Midwest Regional Climate Hub recently hosted a training in Madison, WI, to highlight information, resources, and strategies that can help producers prepare for and respond to changing weather and climate.
- The USDA Northern Forests Climate Hub is partnering with the Forest-Climate Working Group to host the upcoming forest carbon "[perspectives from the field](#)" workshop in Chicago, IL, March 29-30. Contact Danielle Shannon (dshannon@mtu.edu) for details.
- NIACS and the Holden Arboretum will lead a workshop for urban foresters in Northeast Ohio on climate change vulnerability and adaptation April 20-21. Contact Leslie (lbrandt@fs.fed.us) for details.
- Ducks Unlimited, the Shawnee National Forest, several U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service refuges, and NIACS successfully received a grant from the [Wildlife Conservation Society \(WCS\) Adaptation Fund](#) to work on climate change adaptation in bottomland forests. The Request for Proposals for 2016 WCS grants was also just announced.
- NIACS climate change specialist Stephen Handler went on a "climate change road show" on the Superior National Forest to share climate change impacts information and adaptation strategies to two district offices, the Forest Supervisor's office, and more than 60 staff members.

Emrys Treasure, Biological Scientist, Eastern Forest Environmental Threat Assessment Center (recently served as Ecosystems Management Coordinator [detail], Southern Region)

- The first version of the Southern Region's [broad-scale monitoring strategy](#) has been published.
- The Region continues to support the needs of national forests undergoing forest plan revisions ([Francis Marion](#), [Nantahala-Pisgah](#), and [El Yunque](#)).
- The National Forests in Texas will begin the assessment phase of the plan revision process this year.

Presentation

["How to Prioritize Management Action in a Changing Climate: A Look at 'Climate Refugia'"](#) — Toni Lyn Morelli, Research Ecologist, Northeast Climate Science Center & University of Massachusetts

The next FFACCTs will take place April 1.

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.