



First Friday All Climate Change Talks (FFACCTs)

Hosted by the USDA Forest Service

Eastern Forest Environmental Threat Assessment Center

September 2, 2016, 11:00 a.m. (ET)



FFACCTs Highlights – Steve McNulty, Director, USDA Southeast Regional Climate Hub

Washington Office Update

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

- The Forest Service's 2010 Climate Strategy is being updated, and there will be opportunities to provide input at a later date. Contact Anne Marsh (annemarsh@fs.fed.us) for more information.
- Forest carbon disturbance assessments have been developed to help national forests make progress on Element 9 (Carbon Assessment and Stewardship) of the Climate Change Performance Scorecard. Final drafts will be available soon.
- The OSCC will hold a drought vulnerability and adaptation webinar on October 4 from 1-3 PM (ET). Regional workshops will follow in 2017.

USDA Climate Hubs Update

Randy Johnson, National Leader, USDA Climate Hubs

- The Hubs are preparing for changes with the new fiscal year, including new liaisons and national lead.
- An agricultural adaptation workbook (modeled on the [Adaptation Workbook](#) for forests) has been sent to the editor and will be available soon.

Climate Science Center Updates

Alex Bryan, Climate Scientist / Postdoctoral Fellow, Northeast Climate Science Center (NE CSC)

- NE CSC and Forest Service scientists collaborated on "Managing Climate Change Refugia for Climate Adaptation," [recently published in PLoS ONE](#). The paper was covered in an [August 10 news release](#).

Station Updates

Emrys Treasure, Coordinator, USDA Southeast Regional Climate Hub (SERCH)

- Agreements have been finalized to support expansion of the Fire Weather Portal & Alerts (North Carolina State University and the State Climate Office of North Carolina), the Forest Health portal (University of Georgia/Southern Regional Extension Forestry), and the AgroClimate project (University of Florida), as well as demonstrations of how cover crop and soil health efforts improve climate variability resiliency (University of Tennessee).
- SERCH is scheduling its first Federal Steering Committee meeting this month. Representatives from partner and stakeholder federal agencies will help to guide and connect SERCH with their activities and needs, among other opportunities for collaboration and feedback from extension networks.
- [Subscribe to LIGHTS](#) to receive a Monthly Drought Outlook alert. This email alert service ([recently featured on the USDA blog](#)) notifies users when their location is expected to experience a change in drought conditions in the next month.
- [Sign up for a new quarterly newsletter from SERCH](#), which will be available soon.

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

- Research Forester Bob Haight co-authored "Model-based scenario planning to develop climate change adaptation strategies for rare plant populations in grassland reserves," [recently published in Biological Conservation](#).
- A new project funded by the National Science Foundation will address climate issues in the context of household, food, energy, and water budgets.
- Researchers with the [Spruce-Peatland Response Under Climate and Environmental Change \(SPRUCE\) Experiment](#) have found that old carbon is stable with regard to current warming. A paper has been submitted to *Nature Communications*.
- Research at [Hubbard Brook Experimental Forest](#) includes ice storm and drought experiments as well as soil warming and frost experiments simulating climate change across seasons.



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- Samples from the Hubbard Brook archive were used in a recent study concluding that precipitation changes in the Northeast are linked to Arctic warming.
- An agricultural adaptation workbook is undergoing final edits and will be released September 20 at the [National Small Farm Conference](#) and as a technical bulletin.
- The next issue of the [Northeast Regional Climate Hub newsletter](#) will be published in October

Bill Gould, Research Ecologist, International Institute of Tropical Forestry (IITF), and Director, USDA Caribbean Climate Hub

- Climate modelers from the Southeast Climate Science Center and North Carolina State University are wrapping up a project to develop high resolution, dynamically downscaled climate data for Puerto Rico and the U.S. Virgin Islands. A workshop for data users was recently held.
- Bill participated in a recent workshop offered by the Science Trust for Puerto Rico focused on agriculture and agribusiness.
- The Caribbean Climate Hub co-sponsored workshops on the U.S. Drought Monitor that were recently held in the U.S. Virgin Islands and Puerto Rico.
- Agency leaders from USDA presented incentives and opportunities (some aligned with climate change issues) to stakeholders during a recent Strikeforce meeting.
- The Caribbean Climate Hub has assembled a federal steering committee of USDA regional leaders and is assembling a broader advisory board.
- Agreements being finalized for the new fiscal year will allow for adaptation demonstration workshops (technical and field-based components) that will be recorded and included in Extension curriculum and a project with the National Weather Service to build a seasonal agricultural outlook.
- IITF supported the creation of "[Poetic Science: Artistic-Scientific approximations about El Yunque](#)," an exhibit opening September 8 at the National Museum of Puerto Rican Arts and Culture in Chicago.

National Forest System Updates

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

- Climate Change Specialist Stephen Handler will travel to Minnesota to work with the North-Central Landscape Planning Committee, a multi-organization, landscape-scale effort led by Minnesota Forest Resources Council. The Chippewa National Forest within this landscape is involved in preparing the new landscape plan which will include climate change information.
- An Adaptation Workshop with Heart of the Lakes and Inter-Tribal Council of Michigan [will be held September 27-28](#) in Boyne Falls, MI.
- "Preparing Urban Forests in the Twin Cities for Climate Change" training [will be held November 15-16](#) in St. Louis Park, MN.
- NIACS has organized two sessions at the [Great Lakes Adaptation Forum](#), including "Natural Resources: Climate-Informed Forest Management – Real-World Adaptation Stories from the Woods" (panel and training session) and "Northern Institute of Applied Climate Science (NIACS) and USDA Northern Forests Climate Hub (NFCH): Making Climate-Informed Decisions for Watershed Management."

Emrys Treasure, Coordinator, USDA Southeast Regional Climate Hub (recently served as Ecosystems Management Coordinator [detail], Southern Region)

- Emrys has been selected for the Regional Inventory, Monitoring and Assessment Coordinator position and will begin his new role on October 2.
- The Southern Region is preparing for the final year of reporting under the existing Climate Change Performance Scorecard and will develop regional summaries to improve understanding of regional capacity and direction on climate change.
- The region continues to focus its climate change efforts on national forests involved in the forest plan revision process. The Francis Marion National Forest [has released its draft Record of Decision, Revised Plan, and Final Environmental Impact Statement](#).
- The Southern Region will host a drought vulnerability and adaptation workshop in January.



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Presentation

["How will climate change affect fire regimes in the western US?"](#) — Sean Parks, Research Ecologist, Aldo Leopold Wilderness Research Institute, Rocky Mountain Research Station

- See also "How will climate change affect wildland fire severity in the western US?" [in *Environmental Research Letters*](#).

The next FFACCTs will take place October 7.

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.