



First Friday All Climate Change Talks (FFACCTs)

Hosted by the USDA Forest Service

Eastern Forest Environmental Threat Assessment Center

December 1, 2017, 11:00 a.m. (ET)



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

Washington Office (WO) Updates

Anne Marsh, National Program Lead, Bioclimatology and Climate Change (Sustainable Forest Management Research)

- Draft versions of [Volume II of the Fourth National Climate Assessment](#) and [Second State of the Carbon Cycle Report](#) are available for public review and comment through January.
- USDA's climate change science strategy is currently under review by the Secretary's Office.

Karen Dante-Wood, Natural Resource Specialist, Office of Sustainability and Climate (OSC)

- The OSC has asked regional climate change coordinators to work with national forests and grasslands and respective staff to provide examples of how climate information is used across Agency operations (planning, program, and project development/implementation) to illustrate the Agency's response to the Forest Service Strategic Plan. Findings will be compiled in the coming weeks.
- The OSC's [next webinar on "Climate, Megafires, and Conservation Financing"](#) will be held on December 11 at 1:00 ET.

USDA Climate Hubs Update

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

- The Climate Hubs held a national directors' meeting in Chicago this week.

Climate Science Center Updates

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

- A NE CSC [webinar on "Engaging managers in forest adaptation science and application in the northern forest region"](#) will be held on December 6 at 3:30 ET.
- Recent webinars on ["Implications of climate change for invasive species"](#) and ["What are the impacts of climate change on maple syrup production and can we manage for them?"](#) are archived on the [NE CSC website](#)
- The NE CSC is holding a special afternoon session on the impacts of sugar maple and maple sugaring at [the Forest Ecosystem Monitoring Cooperative's annual conference](#) on December 15.
- A [special issue of Frontiers in Ecology and the Environment on the new field of Translational Ecology](#) is now online. Toni Lyn co-authored four of the papers.
- The [Northeast Refugia Research Coalition](#) is moving forward on comparing maps of spruce-fir refugia across the Northeast, as well as developing a plan for managing cold-water stream refugia for brook trout, etc. Contact Toni Lyn (tmorelli@usgs.gov) to join the Coalition.

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

- As part of strategic planning, the SE CSC is drafting goals and objectives associated with stakeholder interests related to climate impacts, ecosystem services, and adaptation. Contact Ryan (rboyles@usgs.gov) to see the draft document.
- An upcoming workshop in Tennessee will examine specific ways to incorporate ecosystem services and participatory engagement in the design and implementation of adaptation strategies.
- The SE CSC is seeking feedback during its planning cycle. A Request for Proposals should be out in March. Contact Ryan (rboyles@usgs.gov) with project ideas.

Station Updates

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

- Several NRS units are applying research to assist the Wayne National Forest on plan revision. They are using models and technology and focusing on climate change as a driver of forest dynamics.



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Michael Gavazzi, Biological Scientist, USDA Southeast Regional Climate Hub (SERCH)

- SERCH staff met with Casey Cox from the Flint River Soil & Water Conservation District, which just put an agreement in place for their Regional Conservation Partnership Program, "Climate Resiliency in AL, FL, and Georgia." They plan to allocate \$3 million over 5 years toward financial and technical assistance through the Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS). The Hub's current role is to connect shareholders and provide input on conservation practices being offered.
- SERCH staff met with Clyde Fraise, lead of the University of Florida's AgroClimate project. The project will use results from a Hub survey of the Farm Service Agency and NRCS to drive tool development and take advantage of any educational opportunities.

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

- Drought assessment reports are under review. Steve led the report for the Southeast.

Nora Alvarez-Berrios, Fellow, USDA Caribbean Climate Hub

- Washington Office leadership recently visited Puerto Rico to meet employees and learn about hurricane damage and discuss experiences and opportunities.
- The Hub has developed a [Hurricane Recovery Resources package](#) for farmers and landowners. It is also available in hard copy.
- The Hub has begun a project collecting photos and anecdotes from hurricane-damaged areas. Beginning in February, the Hub will begin a post-hurricane damage assessment for the agricultural sector using aerial photography interpretation and field visits.
- About 80 participants attended a recent workshop on recovering wood from fallen trees.

National Forest System Updates

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

- NIACS will offer a training for climate change coordinators and resource specialists February 27–March 1 in Minneapolis, MN. A few slots are still available. Contact Leslie (lbrandt@fs.fed.us) for details.
- Kristen Schmitt (Climate Change Outreach Specialist) and Leslie visited two national wildlife refuges and the Shawnee National Forest to make a video on a Wildlife Conservation Society-funded adaptation project for bottomland hardwood forest adaptation. The project includes planting future adapted trees, planning for changes in waterfowl migration, and accommodating larger stream flows.

Presentation

"[Introducing LanDAT: a new tool for assessing landscape change and resilience](#)" — Danny C. Lee, Director, and Lars Pomara, Ecologist, Eastern Forest Environmental Threat Assessment Center
(<https://landat.org/>)

Please visit the [FFACCTs webpage](#) for additional information.