



# First Friday All Climate Change Talks (FFACCTs)

Hosted by the USDA Forest Service

Eastern Forest Environmental Threat Assessment Center

October 7, 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**

- Responses have been collected for the final year of the Climate Change Performance Scorecard. Results will be reported soon. The new Climate Action Card will focus on implementation. Field units will soon receive invitations to listening sessions on the Climate Action Card.
- The recent “Responding To Drought and Water Challenges - National Kickoff Meeting” webinar featured presentations on Forest Service research and drew about 400 attendees. [A recording of the webinar is available.](#)

### USDA Climate Hubs Update

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

- An agricultural adaptation workbook was recently presented at the [National Small Farm Conference](#). The final workbook will be published soon.
- The Hubs are finalizing work plans for Fiscal Year 2017 and preparing for the Fall Directors Forum in Las Cruces, NM.

### Climate Science Center Updates

#### **Ryan Boyles, Deputy Director, Southeast Climate Science Center**

- The [Southeast Conservation Adaptation Strategy](#) will be presented at the upcoming [Southeastern Association of Fish & Wildlife Agencies conference](#).
- A southeastern U.S. ecosystem drought workshop will be held November 16-17 and will set some of the strategic science needs for the next five years.

### Station Updates

#### **Kier Klepzig, Assistant Director, Southern Research Station (SRS)**

- SRS Project Leader Jim Vose and Research Ecologist John Stanturf were among the presenters during the recent “[Responding To Drought and Water Challenges - National Kickoff Meeting](#)” webinar.
- [CompassLive](#) highlights recently published SRS climate research, including [a Nature Climate Change paper](#) describing how low relative humidity combined with high air temperature may play an increasingly significant role in tree stress in the future, [a Global Change Biology paper](#) on the effect of cold air movement on ecosystem productivity, and [a special issue of Forests](#) developed and edited by Research Hydrologist Ge Sun and Project Leader Jim Vose examining the interactions between forests, water, climate change, and humans.

#### **Steve McNulty, Director, USDA Southeast Regional Climate Hub**

- SRS, NRS, and Washington Office representatives will meet with Chinese delegates as part of a larger initiative with China addressing climate change and forests. Steve will give a presentation on climate change and the work of the USDA Climate Hubs. Brad Kinder with Forest Service International Programs will provide a recap next month.

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

- NRS Research Ecologists Lindsey Rustad and John Campbell will represent the Forest Service experimental forest network during the meeting with Chinese delegates. Five Chinese scientists will visit NRS and Hubbard Brook Experimental Forest in November.
- A National Science Foundation film crew is covering the NRS [Ice Storm Project](#) and early results.
- The Northeast Regional Climate Hub will participate in the upcoming [Northeast Drought & Climate Outlook Forum](#), which will address agricultural impacts from the ongoing drought in the Northeast. The hub’s quarterly newsletter, to be published at the end



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of October, will focus on the northeastern drought.

### **Nora Álvarez-Berríos, Fellow, Caribbean Climate Hub and International Institute of Tropical Forestry**

- The Caribbean Climate Hub recently co-hosted a drought users' forum for the U.S. Virgin Islands and Puerto Rico.
- The hub has released a new [podcast](#) about water and soil conservation.

### **National Forest System Updates**

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

- NIACS and NRS recently released an updated and expanded edition of [Forest Adaptation Resources: Climate Change Tools and Approaches for Land Managers](#), which serves the entire Midwest and Northeast and contains additional resources to support the development of vulnerability assessments as well as adaptation in urban forests.
- NIACS recently held a [Forest Adaptation Planning and Practices](#) workshop in conjunction with Heart of the Lakes and the Inter-Tribal Council of Michigan. NIACS also recently participated in the [Wisconsin Initiative on Climate Change Impacts](#) Natural Communities Working Group adaptation workshop.
- Climate Change Outreach Specialist Kailey Marcinkowski used the Climate Change Resource Center's (CCRC) "[Climate Change Science and Modeling](#)" module to provide basic climate change training for the Department of Navy Environmental Training Course at Naval Station Newport (Rhode Island).
- An urban forestry workshop will be held November 15-16 in the Twin Cities. Contact Leslie ([lbrandt@fs.fed.us](mailto:lbrandt@fs.fed.us)) for details.
- The CCRC has published six topic pages in Spanish, including [Ecosystem Services](#), [Biodiversity](#), [Forests and Carbon](#), [Urban Forests](#), [Air Pollution](#), and [Tropical Islands](#). The remaining topic pages will be translated by early 2017.

#### **Emrys Treasure, Regional Inventory, Monitoring, Assessment, and Climate Change Coordinator, Southern Region**

- The Southern Region has completed its reporting under the existing Climate Change Performance Scorecard and is developing 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 Revised Plan and Final Environmental Impact Statement](#), the first completed under the new (2012) Planning Rule. El Yunque National forest [has released its Draft Plan and Draft Environmental Impact Statement](#). The [Nantahala-Pisgah National Forests](#) are undergoing plan revision, and National Forests in Texas will soon begin the assessment phase of plan revision.

### **Presentation**

"[Large-scale view of USDA agricultural incentives programs for Puerto Rico and the U.S. Virgin Islands and their contribution to climate change adaptation](#)" — Nora Álvarez-Berríos, Fellow, Caribbean Climate Hub and International Institute of Tropical Forestry

**The next FFACCTs will take place November 4.**

***Please send comments, feedback, and presentation suggestions to Stephanie Worley Firley, Eastern Threat Center, ([sworleyfirley@fs.fed.us](mailto:sworleyfirley@fs.fed.us)) and visit the [FFACCTs webpage](#) for additional information.***