



First Friday All Climate Change Talks (FFACCTs)

Hosted by the USDA Forest Service

Eastern Forest Environmental Threat Assessment Center

May 6, 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)

- On May 12th, Secretary Vilsack will discuss USDA's building blocks for Climate Smart Agriculture and Forestry and other actions that USDA is taking to help farmers, ranchers, and forest landowners respond to climate change.
- Five two-day workshops are being held in Region 4 to develop a region-wide vulnerability assessment and adaptation plan. For more information and to attend, see the [Intermountain Adaptation Partners website](#) or contact Natalie Little (nlittle@fs.fed.us).

USDA Climate Hubs Update

Rachel Steele, National Coordinator, USDA Climate Hubs

- Workbooks on agricultural adaptation in the Northeast and Midwest are undergoing peer review.
- The Building Blocks for Climate Smart Agriculture and Forestry workshop originally scheduled for May 17-18 in Las Cruces, NM, has been postponed. The Southern Plains Climate Hub will hold its final Building Blocks workshop May 16 in El Reno, OK. The Northern Forests Climate Hub will host the second part of a Building Blocks workshop in Washington, DC, on July 7. Contact Rachel (RSteele@oce.usda.gov) for information.
- Climate Hub Fellows will meet with various agency representatives in Washington, DC, the week of July 11.

Climate Science Center Updates

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

- The NE CSC recently held a two-day workshop on ecological drought. A newsletter on the topic is forthcoming.
- The NE CSC is formalizing a multi-institution, multi-disciplinary, multi-taxa look at the effects of climate change on spruce-fir ecosystems. Contact Toni Lyn (tmorelli@usgs.gov) to discuss questions or management challenges.
- Erika Lentz from U.S. Geological Survey's (USGS) Woods Hole Coastal and Marine Science Center recently [presented a webinar on a decision support project on coastal landscape change](#).

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

- This summer, the SE CSC will be planning a workshop on ecological drought, to be held in December.
- A new USGS report, "[An Evaluation of 20th Century Climate for the Southeastern United States as Simulated by Coupled Model Intercomparison Project Phase 5 \(CMIP5\) Global Climate Models](#)," has been published.
- The SE CSC has been involved in planning efforts related to development of a strategic science communication plan.
- [Applications are being accepted for hosting CSCs](#) in the Southeast, Alaska, Northwest, and Midwest. The closing date is July 19.

Station Updates

Kier Klepzig, Assistant Director, Southern Research Station

- An [article recently published in Nature Scientific Reports](#) describes how [more productive national forests and grasslands could yield less water in a future climate](#). Results are derived from the [Water Supply Stress Index](#) model's simulated changes in water and carbon cycles based on projections from 20 global climate models.

Sarah Wiener, Climate Hub Fellow, and Emrys Treasure, Coordinator, USDA Southeast Regional Climate Hub (SERCH)

- SERCH staff members are pulling together a steering committee and developing this year's partnership agreements.
- Glenn Fowler, USDA Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS) risk analyst, has joined the SERCH team as an APHIS liaison. John Lee joined the SERCH team as a USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) liaison on detail from his position as NRCS Arkansas state agronomist.
- [Subscribe to SERCH LIGHTS](#) to receive monthly alerts about drought and changes in climate-related conditions.



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Isabel Parés, Caribbean Climate Hub Coordinator, International Institute of Tropical Forestry

- The Caribbean Climate Hub is [developing communication products and materials](#) for May, including [short video interviews](#) with experts and partners on science communication, knowledge coproduction, and climate change impacts in the U.S. Virgin Islands.
- The Hub is developing a series of podcasts with the Agricultural Experiment Station in San Juan, PR. The podcasts address agriculture and new technologies for climate change adaptation and mitigation. The [first podcast](#) is now online.
- Memoranda of Understanding in development with universities and non-governmental organizations will establish on-farm climate adaptation demonstration projects and deliver climate science through workshops and distance learning modules.

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

- Forest Service Chief Tom Tidwell led a session on the Forest Service's work to improve life over the next 100 years during a joint leadership team meeting involving the Northern Research Station, Region 9, Forest Products Laboratory, and Northeastern Area.
- *Rolling Stone* magazine recently published [an article about wildland fire and climate change in the New Jersey Pine Barrens](#).
- The Northeastern Climate Hub is contributing to an agricultural adaptation workbook and has launched webinars about [on-farm climate change resilience](#) and [climate change impacts on nutrient runoff](#).

National Forest System Updates

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

- The Northern Forests Climate Hub is [actively working with Natural Resources Canada and the Canadian Forest Service](#) to share scientific and technical expertise on climate change adaptation, resources, and tools. These meaningful connections and partnerships will aid natural resource professionals in making climate-informed decisions in management and planning activities.
- NIACS and the Northern Forests Climate Hub hosted the first-ever climate change adaptation workshop for APHIS on April 19 and 20. The workshop highlighted issues affecting APHIS mission areas and a process for considering climate change adaptation on a project or program basis.
- The WICCI (Wisconsin Initiative on Climate Change Impacts) Forestry Working Group and NIACS organized three Forestry Roundtables in Wisconsin in early April. WICCI members are using feedback from the Roundtables to prioritize work for the rest of the year. Contact Stephen Handler (sdhandler@fs.fed.us) with any questions.
- At the Department of Defense Navy environmental course in San Diego last month, Kailey Marcinkowski presented climate change information using the [Climate Change Resource Center's](#) basic climate change module and spoke about regional effects and tools.
- Leslie Brandt led a climate change adaptation workshop with Ohio's Holden Arboretum last month. A demonstration project focused on private woodlot owners and urban forestry is in development.

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

- The Francis Marion National Forest (FMNF) released its [draft plan and Environmental Impact Statement](#), which addresses climate change and sea level rise and is connected to a monitoring-driven adaptive management framework. FMNF is likely to be the first national forest to complete a revised forest plan under the new Planning Rule; similar work is also under way on the El Yunque, Nantahala-Pisgah, and National Forests in Texas.
- The Southern Region has developed a [broader-scale monitoring strategy](#) that is relevant to more than a single plan area. National forests across the region are rolling out their updated monitoring programs.
- Tyasha Blount-Dillon was selected as the Sustainable Operations Coordinator position in the Regional Office.
- Mary Long, regional conservation planner, will begin a 120-day detail to OSCC on May 15. She will be working on the National Drought Resilience Partnership, focusing on vulnerability assessments and workshops.

Presentation

["PINEMAP: Mapping the future of southern pine management in a changing world"](#) — Timothy Martin, Professor of Tree Physiology, University of Florida



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The next FFACCTs will take place June 3.

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.