



First Friday All Climate Change Talks (FFACCTs)

Hosted by the USDA Forest Service

Eastern Forest Environmental Threat Assessment Center

August 5, 2016, 11:00 a.m. (ET)



FFACCTs Highlights – Kier Klepzig, Assistant Director, Southern Research Station

Washington Office (WO) Update

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

- Drought vulnerability and adaptation workshops resulting from an action plan and goals of the [National Drought Resilience Partnership](#) will begin later this year.
- The new Climate Action Card (formerly known as the Climate Change Performance Scorecard) has been drafted and goes beyond National Forest System units to include the Washington Office, Research and Development, and State and Private Forestry. OSCC Executive Director Cindi West will present the draft to leadership soon, and the OSCC will engage with Forest Service employees to collect feedback through an iterative revision process.

USDA Climate Hubs Update

Randy Johnson, National Leader, USDA Climate Hubs

- USDA Climate Hubs are working with OSCC staff to develop drought vulnerability and adaptation workshops.
- An agricultural adaptation workbook (modeled on the [Adaptation Workbook](#) for forests) will be released soon.
- Hub representatives recently visited with university staff in Alaska, where a climate hub presence has formed.

Climate Science Center Updates

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

- The NE CSC recently held a workshop on invasive species and climate change. A risk management working group has come together; a website and listserv will be operational soon.
- Linda Deegan, a NE CSC principal investigator, is the lead author on a paper in *Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences* (in press) that provides a global assessment of the effects of climate change on forests, including responses in coastal forests.
- The NE CSC continues to develop the Massachusetts Wildlife [Climate Action Tool](#).
- Toni Lyn co-authored a paper on climate change refugia and their use as a prioritization tool for managers to be published soon in *PLOS ONE*.

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

- Two reports on climate-sensitive ecosystems will be published soon.
- The SE CSC has published a new fact sheet, "[Turning Uncertainty into Useful Information for Conservation Decisions](#)."
- The SE CSC and partners will host a workshop on ecological drought in November.
- Global Change Fellows took an introductory course on Structured Decision Making at the [National Conservation Training Center](#).

Station Updates

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

- "[Measure Locally, Respond Globally](#)," a conference for journalists that addresses how to plan, adapt, and develop new businesses around the issue of climate change, will take place in Asheville, NC August 15-16. Attendees will tour the [Coweeta Hydrologic Laboratory](#), and several SRS scientists will participate in a "dinner with an expert" event.
- SRS recently published the [2015 Forest Health Monitoring national report](#).
- Recent climate-related articles from *CompassLive* include "[Watersheds of the Future Could Mirror a Variable Climate](#)" and "[It's Complicated: The Relationship between Climate and Seed Production in Longleaf Pine](#)."
- Kier will meet soon with personnel at [The Collider](#) in Asheville, a space that links business and science around environmental and climate change adaptation and resilience.



First Friday All Climate Change Talks (FFACCTs)

Hosted by the USDA Forest Service

Eastern Forest Environmental Threat Assessment Center

August 5, 2016, 11:00 a.m. (ET)



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

- Agreements for FY16 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 recently held its first Stakeholder Committee meeting with representatives from local governments in the SERCH region to help connect needs and activities, 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.

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

- Following a three-year project to develop high resolution, dynamically downscaled climate data for Puerto Rico and the U.S. Virgin Islands, two upcoming workshops will further communication between climate modelers and other users.
- A workshop on the U.S. Drought Monitor will be held in the U.S. Virgin Islands, where there has previously been no official drought monitoring, presenting documentation challenges for agricultural producers with drought-related damages.
- The hub is developing communications products to reach various stakeholders in climate change adaptation and mitigation practices, including [a video series and podcasts](#).

National Forest System Updates

Todd Ontl, Fellow, USDA Northern Forests Climate Hub

- Staff from the Northern Institute of Applied Climate Science (NIACS) provided climate information and presentations for three recent tribal organization events, including a climate change educational event hosted by G-WOW, a partnership among the Great Lakes Indian Fish and Wildlife Commission, Forest Service, National Park Service, and University of Wisconsin Extension; "Partners in Action," a Bureau of Indian Affairs conference held in Sault Sainte Marie, MI, that focused on sharing information on issues and service programs of interest to tribes in the region; and an adaptation planning course run by the Institute for Tribal Environmental Professionals in Red Cliff, WI.
- A new topic page on the Climate Change Resource Center site [describes climate change considerations in National Environmental Policy Act \(NEPA\) analysis](#).
- Maria Janowiak, Deputy Director of NIACS, recently conducted a workshop on the development of adaptive silviculture for climate change on property managed by Dartmouth College. Managers from White Mountain National Forest were among the participants.

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

- The region continues to focus its climate change efforts on national forests involved in the forest plan revision process. The Francis Marion National Forest is [preparing to release its final plan and Environmental Impact Statement](#), which includes plan direction addressing climate change and sea level rise connected to a monitoring-driven, adaptive management framework. The Francis Marion is likely to be the first national forest to complete a revised forest plan under the new Planning Rule. Similar work is also underway on El Yunque, Nantahala-Pisgah, and National Forests in Texas.
- The new regional Inventory, Monitoring, and Climate Change Coordinator will likely be selected by the end of August.
- The Southern Region will host the first OSCC drought vulnerability and adaptation workshop in mid-October. More information will be available soon.
- The Council on Environmental Quality has released [finalized guidance on strengthening climate change considerations](#) in federal land management through the NEPA review process.



First Friday All Climate Change Talks (FFACCTs)

Hosted by the USDA Forest Service

Eastern Forest Environmental Threat Assessment Center

August 5, 2016, 11:00 a.m. (ET)



Presentation

"Plant Protection and Quarantine Efforts to Address Climate Change" — Glenn Fowler, Risk Analyst and Liaison to SERCH, USDA Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS) Plant Protection and Quarantine

The next FFACCTs will take place September 2.

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.