



First Friday All Climate Change Talks (FFACCTs)

Hosted by the USDA Forest Service

Eastern Forest Environmental Threat Assessment Center

November 6, 2015—11:00 a.m. (ET)



FFACCTs Highlights – Opening remarks by Kier Klepzig, Assistant Director, Southern Research Station (SRS)

Washington Office Update

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

- The OSCC is leading the effort to revise the Climate Change Performance Scorecard. Action-oriented, outcome-oriented, and program-oriented alternatives were presented during recent webinars for field regional climate coordinators and field officers/line officers. Feedback will guide development of a preferred framework, followed by additional webinars and opportunities for broader involvement.
- A press release and information about the Climate Adaptation Leadership Awards will be available soon. The awards, created in response to the Council on Environmental Quality's [Climate and Natural Resources Priority Agenda](#), will be presented next spring.

USDA Climate Hubs Update

Randy Johnson, National Leader, USDA Climate Hubs

- Regional Climate Hub leaders met and exchanged ideas during their recent annual meeting in Washington, DC.
- All regional Vulnerability Assessments [have been posted](#). Some will be developed as peer-reviewed journal articles to further assist users and support the National Climate Assessment.
- Workshops on [Building Blocks for Climate Smart Agriculture & Forestry](#) are ongoing.
- Applications are due November 20 for the [Climate Hubs Fellows Program](#).

Northeast Climate Science Center (NE CSC) Update

Toni Lyn Morelli, Research Ecologist, Northeast Climate Science Center & University of Massachusetts

- The NE CSC-funded project on "Climate Effects on the Culture and Ecology of Sugar Maple," led by Kristina Stinson and Toni Lyn Morelli, will hold an initial stakeholder workshop at UMass (and online) for key maple producers and managers on December 7; please contact Toni Lyn (tmorelli@usgs.gov) with ideas for participants.
- New publications of interest from NE CSC principal investigator Tony D'Amato and colleagues include:
 - Clark, J.S., L. Iverson, et al. The impacts of increasing drought on forest dynamics, structure, and biodiversity. *Global Change Biology*.
 - Looney, C.E., A.W. D'Amato, B.J. Palik, and R.A. Slesak. 2015. [Overstory treatment and planting season affect survival of replacement tree species in emerald ash borer-threatened *Fraxinus nigra* forests in Minnesota, USA](#). *Canadian Journal of Forest Research* 45: 1728-1738.

- Upcoming webinars include "[Assessing Climate Change Vulnerability of Grassland Birds Using Demographically Informed Species Distribution Models](#)" (November 18, 3:30 pm ET) and "[Massachusetts Wildlife Climate Action Tool](#)" (December 2, 3:30pm ET).

Station Updates

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

- The Southeast Regional Climate Hub's [Vulnerability Assessment](#) has been published.
- The Appalachian Landscape Conservation Cooperative has released [Ecosystem Benefits and Risks](#) and a companion [Guide to Ecosystem Services](#), online tools developed collaboratively with the Eastern Threat Center and the University of North Carolina Asheville's National Environmental Modeling and Analysis Center.
- Forest Service Associate Chief Mary Wagner recently met with SRS employees in Asheville and engaged in discussions about climate change research and Hub activities.
- The Eastern Threat Center will host the [2016 meeting](#) of the US-International Association for Landscape Ecology, themed "Landscape Change," in Asheville, April 3-7. [Abstract submissions](#) are due December 15.



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National Forest System Updates

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

- A climate-informed monitoring workshop held last month at Great Lakes National Forest led to development of climate change monitoring questions to support training requirements.
- Scientist Maria Janowiak attended the Society of American Foresters annual convention and participated on a panel, gave a talk on climate inventories, and presented a poster on vulnerability assessment.
- Climate Change Outreach Specialist Patricia Butler recently led training for personnel from the Wayne National Forest and Ohio Division of Forestry who are applying the [Adaptation Workbook](#) to oak-hickory management projects.
- Forest Adaptation Planning and Practices training workshops will be held in [North Woodstock, NH](#), November 18-19, and [Smithfield, RI](#), November 20-21.

Emrys Treasure, Ecosystems Management Coordinator (detail), Southern Region

- The forests and the region have completed Scorecard reporting from last year and are working on a regional summary to identify needs, opportunities, and actions for this year.
- Work is underway to support the needs of national forests transitioning monitoring programs to the requirements of the 2012 Planning Rule, including monitoring measurable changes related to climate change and other stressors. The region is leveraging the Rule's broader-scale monitoring concept through development of a strategy to collect, analyze, and deliver information that is relevant to more than a single plan area. Contact Emrys (etreasure@fs.fed.us) with ideas or to indicate interest.
- The Francis Marion National Forest released its [Draft Revised Land and Resource Management Plan and Draft Environmental Impact Statement](#), which address climate change and sea level rise through a monitoring-driven adaptive management framework.

Presentation

"Supporting Tribal Climate Change Adaptation Planning through Community Participatory Strategic Foresight Scenario Development" — Mike Dockry, Research Natural Resource Specialist, Northern Research Station

The next FFACCTs will take place December 4.

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.