



# First Friday All Climate Change Talks (FFACCTs)

Hosted by the USDA Forest Service

Eastern Forest Environmental Threat Assessment Center

December 4, 2015—11:00 a.m. (ET)



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

### Washington Office Update

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

- Staff from Forest Service International Programs and other USDA representatives are attending the 2015 Paris Climate Conference (COP21). USDA Secretary Vilsack [released](#) the “[Climate Change, Global Food Security and the U.S. Food System](#)” report (part of the National Climate Assessment). More information from COP21 will be provided soon.
- Southern Research Station scientists Dave Wear and John Coulston published a new *Scientific Reports* article, “[From sink to source: Regional variation in U.S. forest carbon futures.](#)”

### USDA Climate Hubs Update

#### **Rachel Steele, National Coordinator, USDA Climate Hubs**

- The first round of reviews of the approximately 150 [Climate Hub Fellow](#) applications is underway. Applications for eligible candidates will be sent to regional hub leads soon. Fellows should be in place early next year and no later than June 1, 2016 for all 10 regional hubs. These positions are temporary but renewable up to 4 years.
- Hub liaisons from USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service, Farm Service Agency, Risk Management Agency, and Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service are being identified. These full-time, one-year detailers will work with the hubs on a mutually beneficial project and will not need to relocate.

### Climate Science Center Updates

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

- Toni Lyn recently served on an expert panel organized by the Northern Institute of Applied Climate Science for the New England forest vulnerability assessment.
- The [Massachusetts Wildlife Climate Action Tool](#) has been released and could serve as a model for other states.
- Toni Lyn will present “[How to Prioritize Key Areas for Conservation Efforts in a Changing Climate: A Look at 'Climate Refugia'](#)” on December 8 as part of the 2015 Climate Change Science & Management Webinar Series. She will be presenting on this topic and others during the upcoming American Geophysical Union (AGU) fall meeting.

#### **Aranzazu Lascrain, Program Coordinator, Southeast Climate Science Center (SE CSC)**

- The SE CSC is preparing for an evaluation by the American Fisheries Society and Cornell University to be held February 24-26.
- In late October, the SE CSC had a tribal consultation with the Choctaw Nation in Mississippi through the United South and Eastern Tribes.
- SE CSC Director Jerry McMahon and Research Scientist Adam Terando will present on downscaled climate datasets for decision making and lessons from actionable science at the AGU fall meeting.

### Station Updates

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

- A synthesis report on the effects of drought on forests and rangelands, co-led by SRS Project Leader Jim Vose, will be released as a General Technical Report by January. A special session at the AGU fall meeting will address this topic.
- SRS Research Ecologist John Stanturf is the lead author of the International Union of Forest Research Organizations new World Series publication, “[Forest Landscape Restoration as a Key Component of Climate Change Mitigation and Adaptation.](#)”

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

- NRS Research Forester Chris Woodall and others recently published “[The U.S. forest carbon accounting framework: stocks and stock change, 1990-2016.](#)” which provides the official statistics for forest carbon sequestration and methodology in the United



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States.

- NRS Research Landscape Ecologist Eric Gustafson reports that a collaborative team from NRS, Portland State University, and Chippewa National Forest presented the results of a Climate Vulnerability Assessment using LANDIS-II for north central Minnesota to the Chippewa National Forest and its stakeholders. An important advance from this project was the development of LandViz, a web-based tool to easily visualize LANDIS-II scenario results which allows managers to compare scenario outputs in synchronized windows for decision support without researcher assistance.
- NRS Program Manager Rich Birdsey recently presented “Current Resources for Estimating Forest Carbon” to the Pacific Northwest Research Station/Northwest Climate Regional Hub, and will discuss “The Future of the U.S. Forest Carbon Sink” at the [Forest Inventory and Analysis Science Symposium](#) in Portland, OR.

### **National Forest System Updates**

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

- NIACS has completed expert panels for Mid-Atlantic and New England vulnerability assessments.
- [Forest Adaptation Planning and Practices training](#) will be held in Wausau, WI, December 7-8, and [online](#) January 18-February 26.
- Reviews have been received and final revisions are underway for a new version of Forest Adaptation Planning and Practices and an urban vulnerability assessment for Chicago.
- Climate monitoring questions are being developed for the national forest Planning Rule monitoring transition. Several national forests will use the [Adaptation Workbook](#) for vegetation management projects.

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

- Regional work is underway to support the needs of national forests transitioning their monitoring programs to the requirements of the 2012 Planning Rule. The region is leveraging broader-scale monitoring through development of a strategy that will provide information relevant to more than a single plan area. Contact Emrys ([etreasure@fs.fed.us](mailto:etreasure@fs.fed.us)) with ideas or interests in the concept or practice of broad-scale monitoring and how to support the climate change needs of national forests through this vehicle. Materials should be available to share early in 2016.
- The Francis Marion National Forest released its [Draft Revised Land and Resource Management Plan and Draft Environmental Impact Statement](#), which includes plan direction addressing climate change and sea level rise which is connected to a monitoring-driven adaptive management framework.
- The Francis Marion National Forest is hosting a conference call on December 16 to convene potential partners interested in addressing issues related to sea level rise, especially on the monitoring and adaptive management front. Contact Emrys ([etreasure@fs.fed.us](mailto:etreasure@fs.fed.us)) for more details or to participate in the call.

### **Presentation**

[“The Climate Forestry and Woodlands Community of Practice and the Climate Learning Network: Climate Efforts from the New eXtension”](#) — Dan Geller, University of Georgia/Southern Regional Extension Forestry

### **Round Robin**

Steve McNulty: The [PINEMAP Decision Support System](#) has been launched. A rollout [webinar recording](#) is available.

**The next FFACCTs will take place February 5.**

***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.***