

Opening Remarks

Kier Klepzig, Assistant Director, Southern Research Station

Washington Office Updates (Research and Development)

Randy Johnson, National Program Leader, Genetics and Global Change Research

- Regional climate change hubs are forming within USDA. Details are forthcoming.
- Randy's office is working with USDA to address concerns about predictions of forests transitioning from carbon sinks to sources (findings highlighted in the [2010 Resources Planning Act Assessment](#)).
- Dave Cleaves' staff is establishing a climate change network to clarify roles in the Washington Office.
- National Wildlife Federation climate change briefings addressed the FY14 budget.

Southeast Climate Science Center (SECSC)

Gerard McMahon, Director

- The SECSC is reviewing and making decisions on FY13 science proposals. They are likely to fund as many as 6 new projects, as well as three continuing projects.
- Two candidates will be interviewed at the end of May for a new permanent ecological modeling position.

South Atlantic Landscape Conservation Cooperative (SALCC) Update

Lori Barrow, Information Transfer Specialist/USDA Forest Service Liaison

- Lori and other partners participated in a recent All Cultures luncheon, organized by the Eastern Threat Center.
- The [Conservation Blueprint](#) continues to develop.
- Catalina Segura (North Carolina State University/Eastern Threat Center) will present during the [Triangle Climate and Landscape Researchers' Brown Bag](#) on 5/9.
- Amy Keister (SALCC GIS Coordinator) will discuss the [Conservation Planning Atlas](#) during the [Third Thursday Web Forum](#) on 5/16.

Station Updates

Kier Klepzig, Assistant Director, Southern Research Station

- 75 collaborators attended a recent [PINEMAP](#) project meeting for presentations, progress reports, a high intensity site field trip, and more. The Eastern Threat Center's [TACCIMO](#) team is developing a brochure to highlight forest threats and management options, focusing on the southern region and PINEMAP's priorities.
- A new cooperative agreement with North Carolina State University will provide data support, maintenance, and analysis for the RAFES (Remote Assessment of Forest Ecosystem Stress) project, led by Jim Vose (SRS-Center for Integrated Forest Science).

Richard Birdsey, Program Manager (Climate, Fire, and Carbon Cycle Sciences), Northern Research Station

- Updates to US carbon accounting rules and guidelines are nearing completion. Coeli Hoover (NRS-Sustaining Forests in a Changing Environment) is leading the forestry effort.
- Louis Iverson (NRS-Sustaining Forests in a Changing Environment) will soon release significant updates to the climate change atlas (tree and bird species).
- The journal *Nature* accepted a paper by Dave Hollinger (NRS-Climate, Fire, and Carbon Cycle Sciences) about increased water use efficiency amid rising carbon dioxide concentrations. Implications are important for future forest responses and water availability.
- Rich is stepping down as project leader for the NRS Climate, Fire, and Carbon Cycle Sciences unit (to be replaced by Dave Hollinger). He will lead a new project, the NRS Strategic Foresight Group, to focus on projections for future forests and rapid response capability.

National Forest System Updates

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

- The [Climate Change Resource Center](#) (CCRC) features several updated [topic pages](#). The CCRC is hiring an education/outreach specialist to be located in Houghton, MI.
- The Shawnee National Forest will host a public climate change education event on 5/22. Topics include climate change basics, impacts in southern Illinois, adaptation, and mitigation.
- Contact Leslie (lbrandt@fs.fed.us) with examples of National Forest climate change monitoring efforts that can be adapted for the new Planning Rule monitoring component.

David Meriwether, Ecosystems Management Coordinator, Southern Region

- Monthly climate change coordinators' conference calls focus on Scorecard accomplishments, employee education, and information sharing. The

next conference call will address an instructional package for climate change coordinators from the Washington Office.

- The Southern Region is entrenched in information development and coordination for forest planning assessment efforts. Public interactions during this process have been substantial. A strategy for transitioning forests to the new Planning Rule/climate change monitoring is developing.

Presentation

- “The role of harvest residue in rotation cycle carbon balance in loblolly pine plantations” – Asko Noormets, North Carolina State University cooperating scientist with the Forest Service Eastern Forest Environmental Threat Assessment Center in Raleigh, NC

Round Robin

- Michele Schoeneberger (National Agroforestry Center): A meeting with the Natural Resource Ecology Lab, Natural Resources Conservation Service, and other researchers will address [COMET-FARM](#), a carbon accounting and reporting tool for agricultural lands (including agroforestry). | The latest issue of the [Soil Science Society of America Journal](#) features a synthesis paper on the soil organic carbon pool.

The next FFACTs will take place June 7. See <http://www.forestthreats.org/news/upcoming-events> for details.