



# First Friday All Climate Change Talks (FFACCTs)

Hosted by the USDA Forest Service

Eastern Forest Environmental Threat Assessment Center

June 5, 2015—11:00 a.m. (ET)



## FFACCTs Highlights – Opening remarks by Kier Klepzig, Assistant Director, Southern Research Station

### Washington Office (Research and Development) Update

#### **Karen Dante, Climate Change Fellow, Climate Change Advisor's Office (CCAO)**

- The CCAO has begun conversations with the field, Washington Office Directors, and leadership on how to proceed with the [Climate Change Performance Scorecard](#) for the next 5 years. Questions include: What will the new scorecard look like? What elements should be kept and/or removed?
- The [Adaptation Partners](#) team led by Dave Peterson (Pacific Northwest Research Station research biologist) recently started a new science-management partnership for all the national forests in the Intermountain Region (Region 4). This partnership will also include external partners such as the Bureau of Land Management and tribes. This two-year process will follow the approach used in the Northern Region (Region 1) last fall.

### USDA Climate Hubs Update

#### **Rachel Steele, National Hub Coordinator, USDA Office of the Chief Economist (OCE)**

- Staff from the Climate Hubs National Office and Agricultural Research Service (ARS) recently visited the [Southern Plains Climate Hub](#) in El Reno, Oklahoma. This hub is an excellent example of ARS/Natural Resources Conservation Service collaboration as well as research, outreach, and stakeholder engagement. For example, the Hub is establishing adaptation demonstration plots on the Redlands Community College campus to illustrate how adaptation strategies can be applied in the region and to educate stakeholders on the latest research.
- Rachel is currently integrating regional feedback on the Northeast Vulnerability Assessment (VA) and will send the report to the editors this week. The initial compilation process for the Pacific Northwest VA is underway. The Southwest, Southern Plains, Southeast, and Caribbean VAs remain.
- The Hubs are supporting the [USDA Building Blocks for Climate Smart Agriculture & Forestry](#) strategy by providing educational workshops for regional USDA partners to communicate the latest information and tools related to mitigation techniques and overcome barriers to their adoption in the region. Workshops have been proposed and approved in nearly every region. Contact Rachel ([RSteele@oce.usda.gov](mailto:RSteele@oce.usda.gov)) for a tentative schedule.

### Northeast Climate Science Center (NE CSC) Update

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

- The NE CSC is involved in a new coordination with [Atlantic Coast Joint Venture](#) including Landscape Conservation Cooperatives and CSCs in the Northeast, Southeast, and Gulf to use best available science to inform their large habitat conservation and migratory bird management activities.
- A recent webinar by Northern Research Station research wildlife biologist Frank Thompson, "Changes in forest composition and structure under alternative climate scenarios in the Northeastern U.S.," has been [posted on the NECSC website](#).
- An article about NE CSC Graduate Fellow Kyle Gill's work, "Jack Pine Forest Dynamics and Climate Adaptation in the Upper Great Lakes Region," has also been [posted](#).

### Southeast Climate Science Center (SE CSC) Update

#### **Aranzazu Lascurain, Program Coordinator, Southeast Climate Science Center**

- The SE CSC recently participated in a meeting on the topic of reserve design, leading to new ideas and possibly new areas of focus.
- The SE CSC is teaming up with the North Carolina Coastal Federation and Climate Central to organize a training workshop for journalists and meteorologists on the topic of climate change. The workshop will be held on NC's Outer Banks in October.
- A presentation about agricultural resilience and climate change will be part of the [French Ameri-Can Climate Talks](#) program on August 27 at North Carolina State University in Raleigh, NC.
- An inaugural [Global Change Symposium](#) will be held on August 28 in Raleigh, NC.



# First Friday All Climate Change Talks (FFACCTs)

Hosted by the USDA Forest Service

Eastern Forest Environmental Threat Assessment Center

June 5, 2015—11:00 a.m. (ET)



- The SE CSC-funded Duke Forest understory project uses warming chambers to offer a “[sneak peek into the forests of the future.](#)” Bloomberg News recently [published an article](#) about the project.
- A working group from the recent [National Adaptation Forum](#) is populating case studies on EcoAdapt’s [Climate Adaptation Knowledge Exchange](#). A white paper on adaptation work in the Southeast will be published this month.

## Station Updates

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

- The Southeast Regional Climate Hub (SERCH) recently sent two drought-focused test alerts for agriculture and forests to gauge interest and usefulness for early subscribers of the [SERCH LIGHTS](#) alert service.
- The [French Ameri-Can Climate Talks](#) at North Carolina State University on August 27 will feature a panel discussion centered around climate impacts on working lands across the region. The event is free and open to the public.
- Four Asheville area Forest Service employees participated in a Federal Bike Challenge during National Bike Month in May, logging 81 bike trips and 407 miles and tracking avoided CO2 emissions. Many Forest Service employees are also participating in another virtual contest—the [National Bike Challenge](#)—which runs through September.

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

- Research forester Yude Pan received a NRS Station Director’s Distinguished Science Award for global carbon sequestration research.
- Research meteorologist Warren Heilman and partners have [published research](#) on potential changes in fire weather (specifically the Haines Index) in a changing climate.
- A paper in press in *Ecospheres* describes wildlife biologist Frank Thompson’s research on the impacts of succession, harvest, and climate change on species composition in central hardwoods.
- Through a new agreement with the [Pinchot Institute for Conservation](#), researchers will study the compatibility of carbon management with forest resource sustainability.
- The Forest Service Forest Inventory and Analysis program is adopting a new approach to carbon accounting that addresses issues between trends and predictions. This approach will be used in the 2016 national greenhouse gas inventory.

## National Forest System Updates

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

- A [new video](#) summarizes key points from the Central Appalachians Vulnerability Assessment.
- Research ecologist Chris Swanston presented during the “[Adaptable Me](#)” [symposium](#) at the recent National Adaptation Forum.
- The University of Minnesota has joined the NIACS steering group.
- Two [Forest Adaptation Planning and Practices trainings](#) will be held this month in Michigan.

## Presentation

- “[The USA National Phenology Network: A national science and monitoring framework for phenology](#)” — Jake Weltzin, Executive Director, USA National Phenology Network

## Round Robin

- Wayne Owen (Forest Service Alaska Region): With U.S. leadership in the [Arctic Council](#), efforts are being made to compile federal science activities in the Arctic. Wayne submitted information to USDA and hopes to see these activities published.

**The next FFACCTs will take place August 7.**

**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.**