



First Friday All Climate Change Talks (FFACCTs)

Hosted by the USDA Forest Service

Eastern Forest Environmental Threat Assessment Center

September 4, 2015—11:00 a.m. (ET)



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

Washington Office (Research and Development) Update

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

- Dr. Cynthia “Cindi” West is currently serving in the role of Acting Director for the Office of Sustainability and Climate Change.
- The USDA Office of Inspector General recently initiated an audit to evaluate the Forest Service’s efforts in addressing climate change on National Forest System lands. Fieldwork will also be performed at selected regional offices and national forests. The audit covers fiscal years FY2011 – 2015.

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 engagement. 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) 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-funded project on "Climate Effects on the Culture and Ecology of Sugar Maple," led by Kristina Stinson and Toni Lyn Morelli, is beginning this month. There will be a small initial workshop for key maple producers and managers in November; please contact Toni Lyn (tmorelli@usgs.gov) with ideas for participants.
- A publication by NE CSC postdoctoral fellow Alex Bryan has recently been accepted in the journal *Atmospheric Environment*. His work shows that current models may underestimate the role of forests in ozone pollution.
- Mark your calendars for a [five-webinar series](#) this fall from the NE CSC, highlighting research from funded projects and an invited presentation from Julio Betancourt from U.S. Geological Survey.

Southeast Climate Science Center (SE CSC) Update

Cari Furiness, Research Associate, Southeast Climate Science Center

- The SE CSC has just released its [2014 Annual Report](#).
- [“Downscaled Climate Projections for the Southeast: Evaluation and Use for Ecological Applications,”](#) the first in a Fact Sheet series, is now available, along with other resources related to downscaled climate data products and their use in the Southeast.
- [“Sea-Level Rise Modeling Handbook: Resource Guide for Coastal Land Managers, Engineers, and Scientists,”](#) a publication supported by SE CSC funding, has just been released as a U.S. Geological Survey Professional Paper.
- The SE CSC anticipates a good turnout for a September 11 training for climate scientists on how to talk to the media.
- The SE CSC plans to have a formal consultation (listening session) with southeastern tribes at the [United South & Eastern Tribes](#) meeting on October 26.



First Friday All Climate Change Talks (FFACCTs)

Hosted by the USDA Forest Service

Eastern Forest Environmental Threat Assessment Center

September 4, 2015—11:00 a.m. (ET)



Station Updates

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

- The [Climate Hubs Tool Shed](#) has been launched. SRS tools highlighted include [ForWarn](#), which features a new data layer of fuels treatments on Forest Service lands from 2000 to present, and the [Template for Assessing Climate Change Impacts and Management Options](#) (TACCIMO), which supported the revision of the Francis Marion National Forest's Land and Resource Management Plan (draft [now available for review](#)).
- The [Water Supply Stress Index](#) (WaSSI) ecosystem services model supported a study that provides a reference point for assessing drought impacts on national forests and grasslands over the past 60 years to help land managers better optimize limited resources during watershed restoration efforts in a changing climate. Parts [one](#) and [two](#) of the study were published in *Forest Ecology and Management*.
- A paper published in [PLoS ONE](#) by SRS scientist John Stanturf and collaborators applies social vulnerability measures (originally developed to assess climate change impacts on at-risk populations) to assess Ebola virus disease risk in rural Liberia.

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

- The [Spruce and Peatland Responses Under Climatic and Environmental Change \(SPRUCE\) Experiment](#), a Department of Energy initiative with the collaboration of NRS and Oak Ridge National Laboratory, was [formally launched](#) on September 2 during a program at the Marcell Experimental Forest. Speakers included Randy Kolka (NRS lead scientist for SPRUCE), Tom Schmidt (NRS Assistant Director), and Darla Lenz (Forest Supervisor at Chippewa National Forest). Over the next decade, researchers will explore the biophysical response of carbon-rich peatlands to a range of air and soil warming conditions and elevated carbon dioxide concentrations.
- NRS research ecologist Lindsey Rustad and colleagues received a \$300,000 National Science Foundation EAGER grant to support development of the [WaterViz at Hubbard Brook](#) water cycle visualization tool, which includes creating climate change relevant curricula for middle and high school students.

National Forest System Updates

Patricia Butler, Climate Change Outreach Specialist (Northern Institute of Applied Climate Science, NIACS), Eastern Region

- National Forest units in the Eastern Region submitted climate change Scorecard results. Among 15 units, 13 answered 'yes' to at least 7 out of 10 questions; two units answered 'yes' to all 10 questions. Contact Patricia (prbutler@fs.fed.us) for more information about how these results were achieved.
- The [Climate Change Resource Center](#) features a new video, "[Responding to Oak Wilt on the Menominee Indian Reservation](#)," which will also be posted soon on the USDA blog.
- NIACS is developing an online version of [Forest Adaptation Planning and Practices](#) (FAPP) training to be piloted in the Northwoods and New England in early 2016. Hands-on FAPP training will be offered in Minnesota, New Hampshire, Rhode Island, and Wisconsin this fall.
- Patricia used the [Central Appalachians Vulnerability Assessment](#) to work with resource specialists on the Wayne National Forest who are considering how climate change may affect oak-hickory restoration. In October, she will work with the Wayne National Forest and Ohio Division of Forestry to apply the [Adaptation Workbook](#) to two additional oak-hickory management projects.

Presentation

- "[Urban Forest Effects on Atmospheric Carbon](#)" — David Nowak, Project Leader (Urban Forests, Human Health, and Environmental Quality), Northern Research Station

Round Robin

- Rachel Steele: Randy Johnson (National Lead, USDA Climate Hubs) participated in a Foreign Agricultural Service workshop with representatives from Central and South America who are interested in the Climate Hubs model.
- Steve McNulty: Recent visitors from the Chinese Academy of Sciences are interested in applying U.S. research in China.



First Friday All Climate Change Talks (FFACCTs)

Hosted by the USDA Forest Service

Eastern Forest Environmental Threat Assessment Center

September 4, 2015—11:00 a.m. (ET)



The next FFACCTs will take place October 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.