



First Friday All Climate Change Talks (FFACCTs)

Hosted by the USDA Forest Service

Eastern Forest Environmental Threat Assessment Center

May 5, 2017, 11:00 a.m. (ET)



Welcome and Introductory Comments

Joel Larson, Acting Director, USDA Southeast Regional Climate Hub

Washington Office Update

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

- Workshops focused on important resource areas vulnerable to drought were recently held in Forest Service Regions 6 and 2. Upcoming workshops include Region 3 (late May) and Region 5 (July). Deliverables from the workshops will include drought fact sheets for internal and external use.

USDA Climate Hubs Update

Dan Lawson, National Leader, USDA Climate Hubs (USDA Office of the Chief Economist)

- Hub Directors discussed alignment of priorities, strategies, and objectives as well as next steps for Fiscal Year 2018 during a recent virtual meeting. The meeting also provided an opportunity for Directors to engage with the Hub Executive Committee.

- The Hubs continue to coordinate with the Government Accountability Office (GAO) to facilitate understanding of the Hubs' work and impacts. The GAO's first site visit will involve Southern Plains Hub staff, stakeholders, and partners in El Reno, NV, May 9-10.

- Dan recently participated in an executive council meeting that addressed cross-agency drought prioritization for the National Integrated Drought Information System.

- Dan is on the leadership team for [Resilience Dialogues](#), which is working with [ten communities](#) to address climate vulnerabilities. A volunteer facilitator is needed for community dialogues taking place May 15-19 and 22-26. Contact Dan (Dan.Lawson@wdc.usda.gov) to learn more about this opportunity.

Climate Science Center Updates

Olivia LeDee, Deputy Director, Northeast Climate Science Center (NE CSC)

- The [NE CSC's Regional Science Meeting](#) will be held May 15-17 at the University of Massachusetts, Amherst. All are invited; registration is free.

- [Trainings](#) organized by the Climate Science Centers and the National Climate Change and Wildlife Science Center will be offered at the [National Adaptation Forum](#) in St. Paul, MN, May 9-11.

- Two term Tribal Climate Science Liaison positions, based in [Amherst, MA](#) and [St. Paul, MN](#) are open.

Ryan Boyles, Deputy Director, Southeast Climate Science Center (SE CSC)

- The SE CSC participated in last month's [Rising Voices 5 workshop](#) aimed at uniting science and indigenous knowledge for climate solutions.

- The SE CSC recently visited the Florida Fish and Wildlife Service and Tennessee Wildlife Resources Agency and held a Climate 101 seminar to get feedback on management challenges that can inform strategic planning for the SE CSC. Similar visits with Louisiana fish and game and U.S. Geological Survey wetlands and ecological research representatives will take place next week.

- The SE CSC will participate in the upcoming [National Adaptation Forum](#).

Station and Regional Updates

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

- NIACS staff will contribute a booth as well as several panels, sessions, workshops, and presentations at the upcoming [National Adaptation Forum](#).

- The May issue of the *Journal of Forestry* features three articles coauthored by NIACS staff.

- A General Technical Report on the Chicago urban forest vulnerability assessment will be published next week.

- NIACS Director Chris Swanston participated in the recent [National Environmental Justice Conference](#).

- A recent meeting for Region 9 NEPA Planning Coordinators was held in southern Illinois and featured a half-day discussion about climate change projects and a tour of recent restoration projects.



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David Hollinger, Project Leader (Climate, Fire, and Carbon Cycle Sciences), Northern Research Station (NRS), and Director, USDA Northeast Regional Climate Hub

- "[Adaptive Silviculture for Climate Change: A National Experiment in Manager-Scientist Partnerships to Apply an Adaptation Framework](#)," co-authored by Forest Service and university partners, was recently published in the *Journal of Forestry*.
- NRS Research Soil Scientist and Team Leader Randy Kolka is part of a team that was recently awarded a NASA grant to study closing the methane budget in the Corn Belt.
- The Northeast Regional Climate Hub partnered with the University of Delaware and other regional USDA and land grant collaborators to showcase climate-informed farm and forest demonstration sites through [a series of 360-degree virtual field tours](#).
- The [latest newsletter](#) from the Northeast Regional Climate Hub is available.

Michael Gavazzi, Biological Scientist, USDA Southeast Regional Climate Hub (SERCH)

- SERCH staff members Jennifer Moore Myers and Steve McNulty will join Dave Coyle (University of Georgia and Southern Regional Extension Forestry) to present a webinar, "[Weather Variability and its Impact on Forest Health](#)," on May 15.
- Michael will present an update on the USDA Climate Hubs' mission, goals, and objectives; threats to forest productivity and resiliency; and opportunities for adaptive management strategies at the [Western Gulf Forest Health Conference](#) in Shreveport, LA, May 18-19.
- An agreement was just completed between the University of Florida, SERCH, and the USDA Caribbean Climate Hub to integrate the Caribbean region in the Southeast-based [AgroClimate](#) decision support and information system and improve existing information and tools for both regions. Products will include: 1) expanding the El Niño Southern Oscillation climatology mapping tool to include the Caribbean region, 2) improving the existing interface and expanding the county-based yield statistics tool to include crops grown in Puerto Rico, and 3) evaluating the use of products provided by the recently launched [NASA Global Precipitation Measurement international satellite mission](#) that provides next-generation observations of rain worldwide every three hours.

Presentation

"[USDA Forest Service Climate Change Education Modules: Something for Everyone](#)"— Kailey Marcinkowski, Northern Institute of Applied Climate Science and Michigan Technological University

Note: USDA employees who complete the climate change education modules can document training credit in AgLearn. Here's how:

1. Log on to [AgLearn](#).
2. Search for the course "Responding to a Changing Climate and its Effects on Forests and Grasslands."
3. Add the course to your to-do list.
4. Watch the modules and go through the activities on the [Climate Change Resource Center](#).
5. Go back to AgLearn and certify with a checkbox that you completed all three modules.

The next FFACCTs will take place June 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.