

# *AgroClimate Workshop for Agricultural & Forestry Professionals and Partners*

## **March 14 & 15, 2023**

**DoubleTree by Hilton Hotel  
Grand Ballroom  
27 North 27th Street  
Billings, MT 59101**

### **Goal & Objectives**

**Goal.** Increase working lands’ resilience to extreme events and a changing climate by building a community of agricultural professionals and partners that can help to implement climate informed conservation practices.

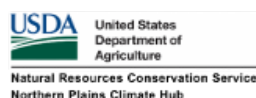
**Objective 1.** Increase the knowledge and confidence of participants to enable more effective use and communication of weather and climate resources.

**Objective 2.** Build community among participants to assist one another as they continue learning to use weather and climate resources.

**Objective 3.** Strengthen participants’ awareness and knowledge of NRCS conservation practices that could reduce climate-related risks in agriculture.

Day 1	Tuesday, March 14, 2023
9:00 - 9:30 am	<b>Welcome and Event Kickoff</b> Tom Watson, USDA NRCS Dannele Peck, USDA Northern Plains Climate Hub
9:30 - 10:15 am	<b>Observed Trends and Climate Outlooks for Montana</b> Kyle Bocinsky, Montana State Climate Office
10:15 - 10:30 am	<b>Break</b>
10:30 - 11:30 am	<b>Observed Impacts and Opportunities on Working Lands</b> <i>Facilitated by Hayes Goosey, MSU Extension Forage Specialist, with invited guests:</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Leon LaSalle, Intertribal Agriculture Council Delegate</li> <li>● Kim Davis, USDA Forest Service</li> <li>● Kent McVay, MSU Agricultural Experiment Station</li> </ul>
11:30 - 12:00 pm	<b>Small Group Dialogue – Scenario planning</b>

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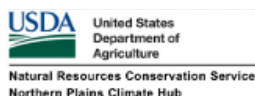
*Updated 02/21/23*

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<b>12:00 - 1:00 pm</b>	<b>Lunch and Networking</b>
<b>1:00 - 2:00 pm</b>	<b>Climate Science Communication 101</b> Kristin Timm, University of Alaska Fairbanks, International Arctic Research Center
<b>2:00 - 3:00 pm</b>	<b>Exploring Climate Perspectives from the Field – Is climate a four-letter word?</b> Invited guests will discuss how extreme events and climate are affecting agriculture in their area, management and planning, and if/how producers are talking about these topics.  <i>Facilitated by Hailey Wilmer, USDA ARS, with invited guests:</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Vicki Hebb, Native Climate Project</li> <li>● Pam Linker, USDA NRCS</li> <li>● Lee Schmelzer, MSU Extension</li> </ul>
<b>3:00 - 3:15 pm</b>	<b>Break</b>
<b>3:15 - 4:15 pm</b>	<b>Small Group Dialogue – Communicating about climate on the ground</b>
<b>4:15 - 4:45 pm</b>	<b>Social Science of Conservation and Climate in Agriculture</b> Sarah Church, MSU Department of Earth Sciences
<b>4:45 - 5:00 pm</b>	<b>Closing Remarks and Preview of Day 2</b> Windy Kelley, USDA NPCH
	<b>Networking Reception: <i>TBD</i></b>

<b>Day 2</b>	<b>Wednesday, March 15, 2023</b>
<b>8:00 - 8:15 am</b>	<b>Networking, Coffee, and Settle-in</b>
<b>8:15 - 8:45 am</b>	<b>Welcome Back – Centering community partnerships</b> Joel Schumacher, MSU Extension Economics Craig Harry, Intertribal Agriculture Council
<b>8:45 - 9:45 am</b>	<b>Adaptation Options in Action – Field and science insights</b>  <i>Facilitated by Dannele Peck, USDA NPCH, with invited speakers:</i>

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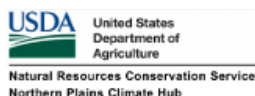
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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● <b><i>How are we keeping the ground covered?</i></b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Invited Producers &amp; Susan Tallman, USDA NRCS</li> </ul> </li> <li>● <b><i>Rangeland Livestock: tools for a future climate</i></b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Leo Barthelmess, Rancher &amp; Sam Wyffels, MSU Extension Beef Cattle Specialist</li> </ul> </li> <li>● <b><i>Managing Fine Fuels: prairies to mountains</i></b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Chris Schachtschneider, Oregon State University</li> </ul> </li> </ul>
<b>9:45 - 10:00 am</b>	<b>Break</b>
<b>10:00 - 11:00 am</b>	<p><b>Relevant Weather and Climate Resources</b></p> <p><i>Facilitated by Windy Kelley, USDA NPCH, with invited speakers:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● <b><i>ReGEN Mapper: postfire prediction and prioritizing</i></b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Kim Davis, USDA Forest Service</li> </ul> </li> <li>● <b><i>Rangeland Forecasts</i></b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Julie Elliott, USDA NRCS (retired)</li> </ul> </li> <li>● <b><i>Cold Weather Advisory for Newborn Livestock</i></b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Joe Lester, NOAA NWS Billings</li> </ul> </li> <li>● <b><i>ENSO in MT and Seasonal Outlooks</i></b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Joe Lester, NOAA NWS Billings</li> </ul> </li> <li>● <b><i>Drought Assessment in MT: some new tools</i></b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Michael Downey, MT DNRC</li> </ul> </li> </ul>
<b>11:00 - 11:30 am</b>	<b>Small Group Dialogue – Putting tools to work</b>
<b>11:30 - 12:30 pm</b>	<b>Lunch and Networking</b>
<b>12:30 - 1:30 pm</b>	<p><b>On the Ground – Collaborations in action</b></p> <p><i>Facilitated by Alex Dado, USDA NRCS, with invited speakers:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● <b><i>Tribal hazard planning using climate projections</i></b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Kyle Bocinsky, MT State Climate Office</li> </ul> </li> <li>● <b><i>Forest thinning partnerships and checkerboard</i></b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Andy Miller, MT DNRC</li> </ul> </li> <li>● <b><i>Integrated cropping and livestock systems</i></b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Marni Thompson, USDA NRCS</li> </ul> </li> </ul>
<b>1:30 - 2:30 pm</b>	<b>Small Group Dialogue – Growing the crop, where do we go from here?</b>

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<b>2:30 - 3:00 pm</b>	<p><b>Opportunities for Action with USDA NRCS – Empowering partnerships for climate resilience</b></p> <p><i>Facilitated by Mike Robatham, USDA NRCS, with:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Luis Tupas (Invited), USDA NRCS</li> <li>● Tom Watson, USDA NRCS Montana</li> </ul>
<b>3:00 - 3:30 pm</b>	<p><b>Closing Remarks and Safe Travels</b></p> <p>Dannele Peck and Windy Kelley, USDA NPCH</p>

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