

# **Southeast Climate Hub**

## **Federal Steering Committee Annual Meeting Notes**

**May 15, 2024**

### **Presentation Highlights**

- Grey Literature
  - Forest Owner Carbon and Climate Education (FOCCE) articles (11) and case studies (2) in partnership with Penn State University Extension
  - Emerging Forest Threats Fact Sheets for Florida, Louisiana and Virginia
  - Fact Sheets for Silvopasture and Soil Salinity and Salinization
- 5<sup>th</sup> National Climate Assessment – Steve McNulty served as one of the authors.
- Steve McNulty, Editor: *Future Forests: Mitigation and Adaptation to Climate Change*. Elsevier, 2024.
- SE Climate Hub's strategy for Reducing Drought Risk in the Southeast - through collaboration with NOAA/NIDIS, development of drought preparation and recovery guides, workshops, and drought impact reporting.
- Updated Silvics of North America project – true focus on North America, digital platform, updated range maps & projections, over 80 chapters in preparation
- Fire Weather Intelligence Portal in partnership with NC State Climate Office – Adding a smoke dispersal component and Region 8 fire manager focused training.
- Regional-scale southern pine beetle model in partnership with Clemson University
- The Hub will continue efforts to provide workshops and outreach to Extension, producers, educators, technical service providers, and the public.
- The Hub will continue to support NFS Region 8 through TACCIMO, Ecoregion factsheets, and forest plan revisions.
- NRCS Climate Mitigation Outreach and Education – 5-year project
- Piedmont Silvopasture project
- Continuing projects funded through NIFA AFRI

### **Participant Discussion Notes**

- Climate Hubs celebrating 10-year anniversary. Steve McNulty explained how the Hubs are shifting away from tool development and toward applications, workshops, training, etc.
- Discussed the importance of collaborating with 1890 (HBCU) institutions. Example of University of Arkansas-Monticello that has a strong forestry and wildlife program. Need to consider ways to connect and strengthen relationships with stakeholders in western portion of our region. Lower income areas found in Arkansas, Alabama, and Mississippi tend to have fewer resources available. How can the Hub team up with other organizations to better serve these communities? Recommend that the Hub be more physically present at meetings and workshops in these neglected areas to encourage more discussion and interaction.
- The NoP group was encouraged to find opportunities to amplify each other's work. Let's make efforts to increase awareness of the Climate Hub and the work that's happening. Examples: Silvics of North America and the Fire Intelligence Portal. Also discussed opportunities to collaborate more with NIDIS on projects related to drought or water scarcity. Interested in learning more about the NIFA funded project with LSU.

- Need more conversation about equity across various communities, not only tribal focused.
- Utilize the Federal Coordinators Committee to discuss projects, exchange ideas, and share more knowledge at the director level.
- High level of interest in seeing how the various Hub tools (factsheets, guides, etc.) will be applied by public land managers, Extension personnel, and other scientists. There is a need to get science into the public sphere. It is helpful to be able to quickly cite climate literature and research as it relates to real world problems. These same tools will also be helpful when working on issues related to environmental justice and social science.
- Steve McNulty explained that there are current discussions about incorporating economic analysis into our adaptation and mitigation work. Discussed examples of economic/social costs being factored into NEPA projects at the Forest Service and invasive species projects at APHIS.

### **To-Do's and Follow-Up**

- Follow up to discuss NIFA funded project with LSU. NIDIS is starting to be more involved in Louisiana and it would be good for us to communicate about who we are working with and the project scope. Also, need to discuss how economic evaluation and risk communication are being considered in climate related research in the southeast.
- Further discussion with about the Federal Coordinators Committee and the need to share knowledge and increase the exchange of ideas.
- Let us know if you are interested in collaborating on our workshops and webinars and we will set up a meeting to discuss further.
- Include us on your internal web pages and invite us to stakeholder and/or internal meetings.