

# USDA Regional Hubs for Risk Adaptation and Mitigation to Climate Change

---

USDA's Regional Hubs will deliver science-based knowledge and practical information to farmers, ranchers and forest landowners within each region of the United States to support decision-making related to climate change. These Hubs are needed to maintain and strengthen agricultural production, natural resource management, and rural economic development under increasing climate variability. The Hubs will build capacity within USDA to deliver information and guidance on technologies and risk management practices at regional and local scales.

## Hub Activities

**Technical Support:** The Hubs will provide support to USDA agriculture and land management program delivery by offering tools and strategies for climate change response. These approaches will help producers cope with challenges associated with drought, heat stress, excessive moisture, longer growing seasons, and changes in pest pressure. The Hubs will support applied research and develop partnerships to facilitate this process.

**Assessments and Regional Forecasts:** The Hubs will provide periodic regional assessments of risk and vulnerability in the production sector to contribute to the National Climate Assessment, and provide accessible regional data and interpret climate change forecasts for hazard and adaptation planning.

**Outreach and Education:** The Hubs will provide outreach and extension to farmers, ranchers, forest landowners, and rural communities on science-based risk management through the land grant universities, Extension, USDA service agencies, and public/private partnerships and educate producers about the effects of climate change on agriculture and forests.

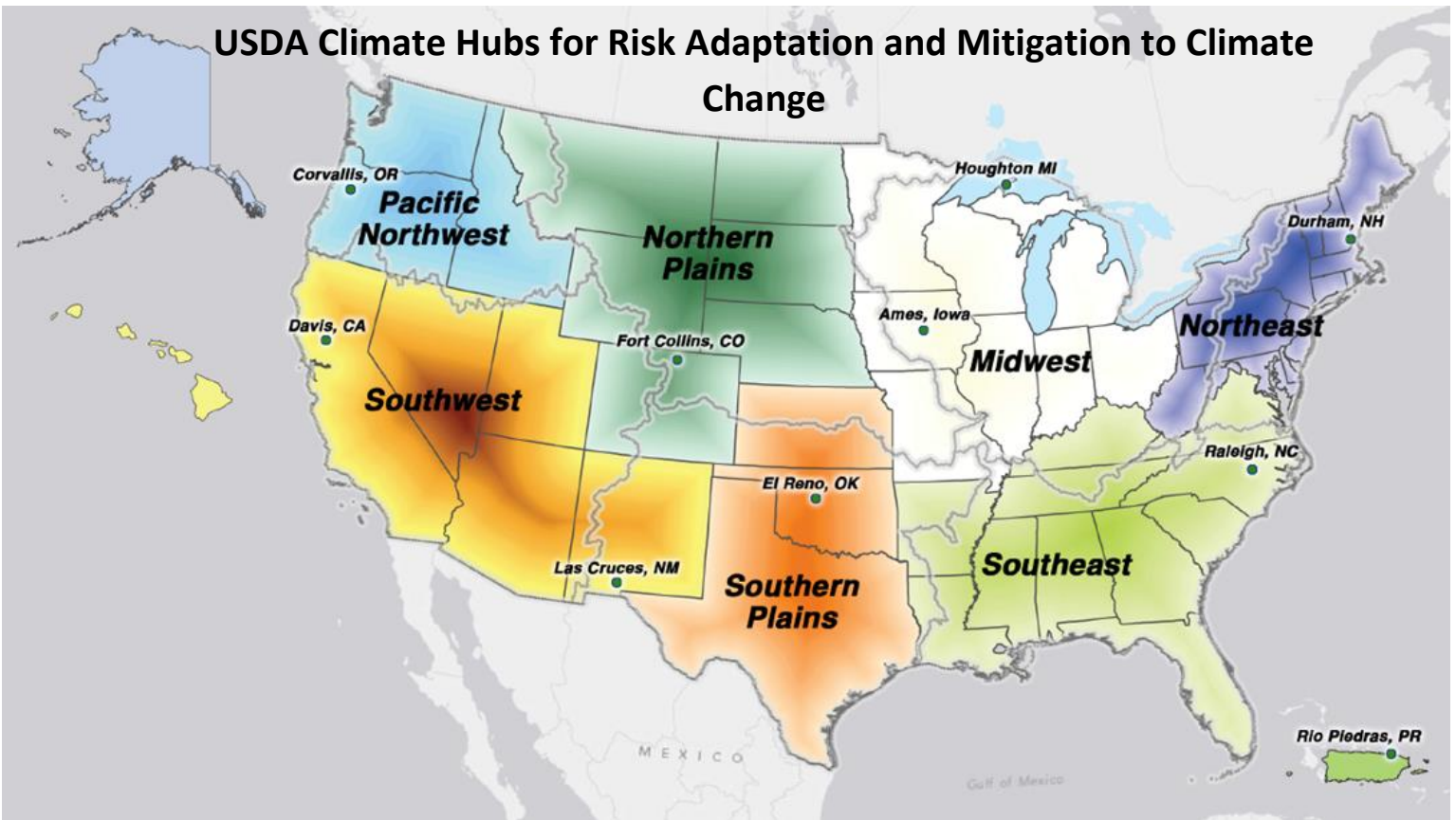
## Program Coordination

**Leadership:** The Hubs were chosen in each of seven regions (see map) through a competitive, internal application process among USDA facilities. Each Hub will serve as the center of a network of connected activities and will be located in a USDA facility (Agricultural Research Service, Forest Service, or Natural Resources Conservation Service) within its region. Each Hub will maintain a flexible network of public, academic, and private sector organizations, researchers, and outreach specialists.

**Partners:** Partners represent public universities; USDA researchers, programs, and field offices; private sector companies addressing climate change adaptation and mitigation; farm groups; state, local and regional governments; tribes; National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) and Department of Interior (DOI) regional climate change experts; and non-profits providing assistance to landowners. The Hubs will work to connect with and meet the needs of rural, tribal and underprivileged groups.

**Coordination with Regional Activities:** The NOAA RISA (Regional Integrated Sciences and Assessments) Program and the DOI Climate Science Centers for fish and wildlife complement the USDA regional Hubs by providing data, findings, tools, and forecasts for USDA agencies and the Hubs to build into integrated services for the agricultural and forestry sectors.

# USDA Climate Hubs for Risk Adaptation and Mitigation to Climate Change



## Regional Hub Locations and Leadership:

### **Northeast**

David Hollinger  
 USDA Forest Service, Northern Research Station  
 Durham, NH  
 dhollinger@fs.fed.us  
 (603) 868-7673

### **Southeast**

Steve McNulty  
 USDA Forest Service, Southern Research Station  
 Raleigh, NC

steve\_mcnulty@ncsu.edu  
 (919) 515- 9489

#### **Southeast Sub-Hub:**

William Gould  
 USDA Forest Service International Institute of Tropical Forestry  
 Río Piedras, PR  
 wgould@fs.fed.us

### **Midwest**

Jerry Hatfield  
 USDA Agricultural Research Service National Lab of Agriculture and the Environment  
 Ames, IA  
 Jerry.Hatfield@ars.usda.gov  
 (515) 294 – 5723

#### **Midwest Sub-Hub:**

Christopher Swanston  
 USDA Forest Service, Northern Research Station Forestry Sciences Lab  
 Houghton, MI  
 cswanston@fs.fed.us

### **Northern Plains**

Justin Derner  
 USDA Agricultural Research Service National Northern Plains Area  
 Fort Collins, CO  
 Justin.Derner@ars.usda.gov  
 (307) 772- 2433 x113

### **Southern Plains**

Jeanne Schneider  
 USDA ARS Grazinglands Research Laboratory  
 El Reno, OK  
 Jeanne.Schneider@ars.usda.gov  
 (405) 262 – 5291

### **Northwest**

Beatrice Van Horne  
 USDA Forest Service, Pacific Northwest Research Station  
 Corvallis, OR  
 bvhorne@fs.fed.us  
 (541)-750-7357

### **Southwest**

Al Rango  
 USDA Agricultural Research Service Rangeland Management Research Unit  
 Las Cruces, New Mexico  
 alrango@nmsu.edu  
 (575) 646 – 4842

#### **Southwest Sub-Hub:**

Daniel Kluepfel  
 USDA Agricultural Research Service  
 Davis, CA  
 Daniel.Kluepfel@ARS.USDA.GOV