

USDA Regional Hubs for Risk Adaptation and Mitigation to Climate Change

(USDA Climate Hubs)

Background

In June 2013, USDA announced the launch of seven “Regional Hubs for Risk Adaptation and Mitigation to Climate Change”. Secretary Vilsack announced the selection of the seven Climate Hub and three Sub-Hub locations on Wednesday, February 5, 2014.

The Climate Hubs will deliver science-based knowledge, practical information and program support to farmers, ranchers, forest landowners, and resource managers to support decision-making related to climate change. The Climate Hubs are needed to maintain and strengthen agricultural production, natural resource management, and rural economic development under increasing climate variability. Key partners in the networks include the public and land grant universities, Cooperative Extension, USDA researchers, the private sector, state, local and regional governments, the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA), Department of Interior (DOI) regional climate change experts, and non-profits engaged in providing assistance to landowners.

The Climate Hubs are located at an Agricultural Research Service (ARS) or Forest Service (FS) location. The ARS, FS and Natural Resource Conservation Service (NRCS) provide leadership in each Regional Climate Hub. USDA science and technical support will come primarily from ARS, FS and NRCS; additional program delivery specialists on topics of relevance to the region will come from other USDA agencies, including the Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service, Farm Service Agency, Rural Development, and the Risk Management Agency.

Activities

The Climate Hubs will provide technical support to USDA agriculture and land management program delivery by offering tools, strategies and management options for climate change response. The Hubs will direct land managers to USDA agencies that can provide program support to enable them to implement climate-smart management.

The Hubs will translate climate change projections into potential impacts on the agricultural and forestry sectors. Using this information, along with data on past trends, the Hubs will provide periodic regional assessments of risk and vulnerability in the agriculture and forestry sectors to help land managers better understand the potential direct and indirect impacts of a changing climate.

The Hubs will provide outreach, education and extension to farmers, ranchers, forest landowners, and rural communities on science-based risk management through the land grant universities, Cooperative Extension, USDA service agencies, and public/private partnerships.

Partners and Regional Coordination

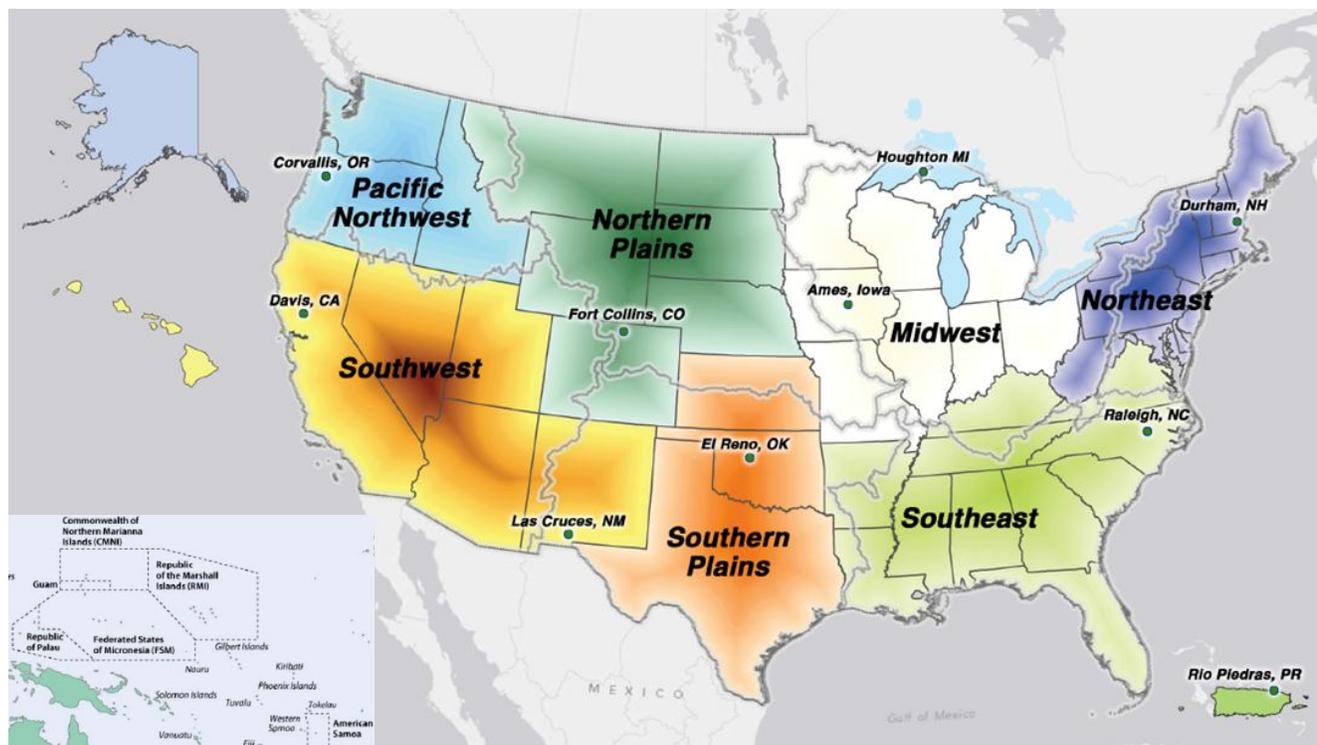
Partners represent universities; Cooperative Extension, USDA researchers, programs, and field offices; private sector companies addressing climate change adaptation and mitigation; farm groups; state, local and regional governments; tribes; NOAA and DOI regional climate change experts; and non-profits providing assistance to landowners. The Hubs will work to connect with and meet the needs of rural, tribal and underprivileged groups.

The NOAA Regional Integrated Sciences and Assessment Programs (RISAs), and the DOI Climate Science Centers (CSCs) and Landscape Conservation Cooperatives (LCCs) 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. In addition, all four regional climate networks are working together to coordinate stakeholder input into their programs.

Contacts

Randy Johnson, National Leader, USDA Climate Hubs, 703-605-5178 (office), 541-619-8915 (cell), Randy.Johnson@usda.gov
Bill Hohenstein, Director, USDA Climate Change Program Office, 202-720-6698, whohenst@oce.usda.gov

USDA 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