

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

## (USDA Climate Hubs)

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### Background

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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

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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

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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.

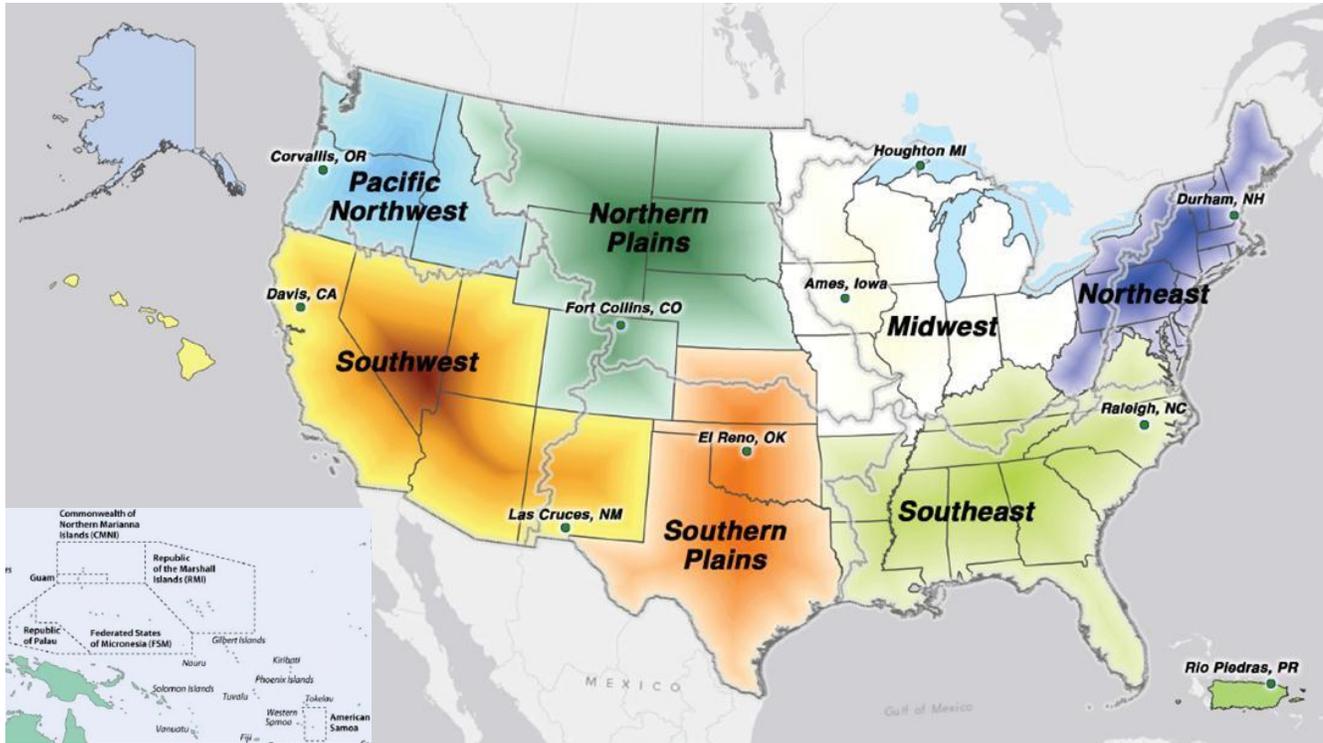
The NOAA Regional Integrated Sciences and Assessment Programs (RISAs), and the DOI Climate Science Centers (CSCs) and Landscape Conservation Cooperatives (LCCs) complement the USDA regional Hubs by providing data, findings, tools, and forecasts for USDA agencies and the Hubs to build into integrated 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

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