

The University of Maine's Center for Research on Sustainable Forests has initiated an effort to better coordinate regional research and scientists working on the potential effects of climate change on forests. The University of Maine has significant expertise on climate and forest resources, which exists across academics units, centers, and institutes. The FCCI web portal is intended to serve as a point of access to these resources and encourage networking among university expertise as well as external stakeholders.

crsf.umaine.edu/forest-climate-change-initiative/

FCCI Scientist Profile



Aaron Weiskittel

Professor of Forest Biometrics and Modeling
Director, Center for Research on Sustainable Forests
Director, Center for Advanced Forestry Systems

Institutional Affiliations: School of Forest Resources, Cooperative Forestry Research Unit

Research Focus: Decision-support tools that help with forecasting future changes in forest composition and productivity in response to climate change.

Dr. Weiskittel's research has been focused on developing a new growth and yield model for the Acadian Region, evaluating stem taper/volume equations, and exploring the potential influence of climate change on forest productivity. He has a Bachelor of Science in Natural Resources from The Ohio State University and Master of Science in Forest Resources as well as a Doctorate in Philosophy in Forest Science from Oregon State University. He has been at the University of Maine since 2008 after working for Weyerhaeuser.

Forest Climate Change Research Focus

Forest Management Response to Climatic Gradient in the Northern Forest

- Long-term forest management studies on USFS Experimental Forests across the Northern Forest cover a climatic gradient from oceanic to continental, including the influence of the Great Lakes.
- Gradient represents a range of variables including temperature, precipitation, relative humidity, and growing season length.
- Climatic variability may affect the type or magnitude of stand response to silvicultural treatments.
- Responses include gross and net tree growth, tree recruitment and mortality, dead wood recruitment, tree species composition including successional status and shade tolerance, and stand structural diversity.
- Future datasets: carbon storage, wildlife habitat and response, understory and ground cover vegetation, and browse.

