



## WORLD CAFE

### Format:

World Cafe tables are organized around specific themes.

- **Topical:** Table leaders will guide discussion and input from participants on a particular topic related to actionable science research and outcomes.
- **Organizational:** Table leaders will introduce their organization's mission and specific focal areas of relevance to SE CASC researchers and partners and discuss potential collaboration opportunities.

Participants will choose a table of interest to join for discussion according to the table topic. After 12 minutes, participants will rotate from that table to another table of their choice. This process will continue for 7 rounds.

| Table # | Type    | Title                                                           | Description                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                     | Table Lead     |
|---------|---------|-----------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------|
| 1       | Topical | Low-flow Thresholds for Ecosystems of Importance to WFOs & RFCs | The National Weather Service (NWS) National Water Prediction Service (NWPS) provides short-term observed and climatic trends of precipitation, river stage observations and forecasts, and long-range river flood outlooks across the lower 48 United States (CONUS), Puerto Rico, and Alaska. Each river stage has flood and low-flow (hydrologic drought) impact thresholds. The information for flood impact thresholds is more robust than that for low-flow impact thresholds. This is important because low-flows events impact various sectors differently than floods (or high flows). One sector that low-flows typically affect is aquatic ecosystems. Therefore, how can we document low-flow thresholds that incorporate aquatic ecosystem impacts into NWPS to help with monitoring, decision making, response, and communication? | Elliot Wickham |



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| 2 | Topical | Untangling, Understanding Vine Proliferation in the SE CASC region – A Multi-stakeholder Perspective | <p>An environmentally diverse region known worldwide as a hotspot of invasive vines, the SE CASC region has undergone extensive land use changes mediated by the deintensification of agriculture and the impact of natural hazards. Here, proliferating vines seem to affect numerous stakeholders, yet the fragmented nature of invasive vine research, management, and storytelling (geography, stakeholders, species) may be preventing an overall assessment of current and future impacts of these plants. We are seeking the voices of stakeholders to untangle, understand their relationships with proliferating vines. Through this World Cafe we would like to present three questions to guide a conversation and then use stakeholder's input to adapt an online survey to gather information about the causes and consequences of vine proliferation.</p> <p> WorldCafe_Description_Vines.pdf</p> | Carla Restrepo                       |
| 3 | Topical | Synthesis of Climate Adaptation Science in Southeast                                                 | <p>SE CASC is synthesizing climate adaptation science for the Southeast and US Caribbean to improve accessibility for practitioners. Help us identify priority topics from on-the-ground managers! We want to develop tools that are actually used in adaptation planning. Share your climate adaptation information needs: What do you currently have access to? What is missing? What resources do you use most? Where do you get your information? What would be most beneficial for your organization's goals? Have useful resources that you recommend? Stop by our table!</p>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                              | Hannah Desrochers,<br>Diane Sturgeon |
| 4 | Topical | SE CASC Future Science Needs/Priorities                                                              | <p>Come hear about SE CASC interim science priorities, current administrative priorities, science planning efforts, and opportunities for CASC technical support for climate</p>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                 | Bryan Dailey,<br>Katherine Smith     |



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|   |                |                                                                      | adaptation.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                              |                |
| 5 | Organizational | NOAA's Office for Coastal Management                                 | <a href="#">NOAA's Office for Coastal Management</a> serves to increase the resilience of the nation's coastal zone by helping communities and businesses take the actions needed to keep coastal residents safe, the economy sound, and natural resources functioning.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                  | Matt Pendleton |
| 6 | Topical        | <a href="#">Total Water Level and Coastal Change Forecast Viewer</a> | Coastal storms generate total water levels (a combination of large waves and storm surge) capable of flooding and destroying buildings and infrastructure as well as eroding the beach. The USGS and NOAA produce an hourly, 6-day forecast of total water level and coastal erosion that provides actionable information for decision making before a storm hits. The forecast model combines observations of beach topography and computer models of storm surge and waves. Forecast guidance is available in an online viewer. Please stop by our booth to participate in an open-ended conversation to learn about the forecast and discuss usability of the forecast viewer for short-term planning before a storm. | Meg Palmsten   |
| 7 | Topical        | Use of Serious Games for Conservation Research and Engagement        | Serious games, including role-play simulation exercises, have long been used as pedagogical tools to provide users with immersive learning experiences, fostering hands-on experience, perspective-taking, social learning, future casting, and a variety of other benefits. More recently, serious games and simulations are being employed as tools for 'action research', providing avenues for groups to collectively explore topics, consider 'what ifs', and center reflective conversations in 'sandbox-like' environments with the explicit intention of generating takeaways to inform practice. This table will examine the use of serious games with stakeholders at virtually any scale and in any context,  | Todd Schenk    |



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|    |                |                                                                                                            | considering questions like effective design and application. Those with experience using serious games and those new to the topic but interested in learning more are all welcome.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                |                                       |
| 8  | Topical        | The Southeast Regional Invasive Species and Climate Change Management Network ( <a href="#">SE RISCC</a> ) | This interactive table displays different invasive species established in the Southeast United States through pelts, stuffed displays, and other tactile items, alongside information about the species and their ranges. We will use these items to highlight ways that invasive species can impact the ecosystem, how they can be differentiated from native look-alikes, and how they can be reported. We will introduce the SE RISCC and talk about our partners that track the movement and map occurrences of invasive species, and how managers and researchers can use their databases as a resource.                                                                                                                                                                                                                     | Cayla Morningstar,<br>Brett Scheffers |
| 9  | Organizational | Southeast Conservation Adaptation Strategy ( <a href="#">SECAS</a> )                                       | The Southeast Conservation Adaptation Strategy (SECAS) is a regional partnership uniting state and federal agencies, Tribes, nonprofits, landowners, businesses, and universities around a shared vision of a connected network of lands and waters across the Southeast and Caribbean. Launched in 2011 by the Southeastern Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies and federal partners, SECAS addresses landscape-level challenges too large for any one actor to solve alone. Over 14 years, it has grown into a broad coalition that seeks to improve the health, function, and connectivity of Southeastern ecosystems by 2060. Its primary product, the Southeast Conservation Blueprint, is a living spatial plan that has helped 480+ people from 190+ organizations secure \$370M to conserve/restore 400,000+ acres. | Louise Vaughn                         |
| 10 | Topical        | Improving Evaluation of                                                                                    | Nature-based solutions are a growing tool for managing climate risks, but to improve planning, design, and                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                        | Lydia Olander,                        |



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|    |                | Nature-based Solutions                                                           | investment decisions, we need better information about how well they work. Right now, key data on effectiveness are often missing or not shared. Our team is working to change that by identifying the metrics that nature-based projects and researchers should collect and report to support long-term, big-picture evaluation, and by exploring how we can build a research network that supports this improved data collection, sharing, and analysis. Join us to share your experience with monitoring or evaluating nature-based solutions, provide feedback on our recommended metrics lists, and brainstorm how a network of projects, researchers, and students could support more consistent, comprehensive project evaluation. | Katie Warnell |
| 11 | Organizational | North Carolina Institute for Climate Studies ( <a href="#">NCICS</a> )           | The North Carolina Institute for Climate Studies (NCICS) is a unique interinstitutional research center within the University of North Carolina system. NCICS demonstrates the extraordinary value of partnerships between universities, the private sector, nonprofit organizations, community groups, and the federal government. Our primary activity is the operation of the North Carolina location of NOAA's Cooperative Institute for Satellite Earth System Studies (CISESS), co-located with NOAA's National Centers for Environmental Information (NCEI) in Asheville, North Carolina.                                                                                                                                          | Liz Cox       |
| 12 | Organizational | National Environmental Mapping and Applications Center ( <a href="#">NEMAC</a> ) | NEMAC is an applied research center at UNC Asheville that specializes in science communication and developing decision support tools to enhance community and landscape resilience in the face of environmental and climate change. Our interdisciplinary team of science translators creates data-driven products, including web applications, interactive maps, 3D visualizations, and training workshops to bridge the gap between science                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                             | Ashlyn Shore  |



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|    |                |                                                                                            | producers and decision-makers. Our mission is to empower partners by making scientific data usable and accessible to support informed decisions about environmental resilience.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                  |                               |
| 13 | Organizational | Southeast Regional Partnership for Planning and Sustainability ( <a href="#">SERPPAS</a> ) | The Southeast Regional Partnership for Planning and Sustainability (SERPPAS), established in 2005, is an innovative partnership among leaders from the Department of Defense, the military services, six states (Alabama, Florida, Georgia, Mississippi, North Carolina, and South Carolina), and the federal natural resource, wildlife, ocean, and working lands agencies in the Southeast. SERPPAS brings these unconventional partners together in a collaborative forum to identify challenges and implement solutions where and when the interests of military readiness, conservation, working lands, and local communities intersect. Our focus areas are in natural resources, prescribed fire, and coastal resilience. | Michelle Covi                 |
| 14 | Organizational | Cultural Burn Association                                                                  | The mission of the Cultural Burn Association is "Healing our ancestral lands and honoring our cultural traditions through fire focused ecology." Our work is highlighted on our FB page @cultural.burn.association                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                               | Courtney Steed, Monty Branham |
| 15 | Organizational | <a href="#">RiverLink</a>                                                                  | RiverLink, an environmental nonprofit and land trust, promotes both the environmental and economic vitality of the French Broad River and its watershed for all. RiverLink accomplishes its mission by improving watershed health and climate resilience, permanently protecting riparian habitat through conservation easements, reclaiming contaminated lands for public use and enjoyment, empowering over 1,000 volunteers each year, and annually educating some 5,000 students, as well as the public at large, about the importance of a healthy French Broad River watershed. Post-Helene, our mission and our work are more                                                                                             | Hannah Coats                  |



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|    |                |                                                             | critical than ever and we are committed to helping our region come back more resilient.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                           |                              |
| 16 | Topical        | AI Systems for Advancing Wildlife Research and Management   | <p>Rapid growth in ecological data and research literature creates challenges for scientists who need timely, reliable analysis. KN-Wildlife is a national knowledge network that supports wildlife managers and researchers with three products: 1) A <b>public website</b> (<a href="https://kn-wildlife.crc.nd.edu/">https://kn-wildlife.crc.nd.edu/</a>) that unifies fragmented U.S. wildlife observation and climate datasets into a queryable graph with geospatial visualization and data download. 2) A chatbot named <b>WildInsight</b> (<a href="http://wildinsight.lucyapps.net:1337">http://wildinsight.lucyapps.net:1337</a>) that helps researchers navigate thousands of scientific abstract papers in the AI+wildlife field, providing evidence-backed answers. 3) A <b>Quest2DataAgent</b> (<a href="https://huggingface.co/spaces/tyang4/Ecodata">https://huggingface.co/spaces/tyang4/Ecodata</a>) that translates natural language questions into structured queries to retrieve multi-source data, generate maps, and conduct analyses.</p> | Tianyu Yang,<br>Xiangqi Wang |
| 17 | Organizational | Institute for Climate and Community Resilience - Univ of TN | <p>The Institute for Climate and Community Resilience (ICCR) at the University of Tennessee is an interdisciplinary initiative launched in 2024 to advance climate science and support equitable, community-driven resilience solutions across Appalachia and beyond. ICCR connects faculty, students, and partners across disciplines to address compounding climate risks, bridge the gap between research and practice, and strengthen the capacity of communities facing climate-related challenges.</p>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                      | Nicholas Shanahan            |