

SNEHA KAREN DANTE
USDA Forest Service
Office of the Chief – Climate Change Advisor’s Office
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EDUCATION

John’s Hopkins University Washington, D.C.
Master of Science in Environmental Science & Policy May 2013

Queen’s University Kingston, Ontario, Canada
Bachelor of Science (Honors) in Biology and Psychology, June 2010

WORK & RESEARCH EXPERIENCE

USDA Forest Service, Washington D.C. March 2013 – Present
Climate Change Policy and Adaptation Specialist
Oak Ridge Institute for Science and Education

- Led the development of baseline estimates of carbon stocks in forests and harvested wood products for National Forest System field units. This includes coordinating outreach of the assessments through briefings and developing communication materials to expand knowledge and use of carbon assessment research and tools.
- Develop a monthly climate change newsletter (‘Climate Change Update’) for all Forest Service employees on climate related activities in the field, and information on upcoming events, opportunities, and recommended readings.
- Maintain the Climate Change Advisor’s Office web page (content and layout).
- Establish partnerships between research stations and regions in order to expedite delivery of climate science and develop vulnerability assessments and adaptation plans.
- Facilitate and conduct regional and subregional analyses of climate change effects and adaptation plans through science-management partnerships including stakeholders, adjacent landowners, and universities.
- Work with regional climate change coordinators to implement a strategy for developing vulnerability assessments and adaptation plans for all national forests in the western U.S.
- Contribute to science syntheses and delivery on high priority or emerging issues.

U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, Washington D.C. February 2012 – March 2013
Communications Specialist
Oak Ridge Institute for Science & Education

- Facilitated communication and outreach activities (social media, blogs) within EPA’s Office of Air and Radiation Climate Change Division, and Regional Offices to effectively disseminate research and enhance engagement of federal government policy – makers, industry, scientists and general public on environmental issues.

- Managed and designed web content/layout to showcase EPA’s climate change research (www.epa.gov/climatechange).
- Conducted quantitative and qualitative research and analysis on climate change indicators for the “Climate Change Indicators in the United States” 2012 report (*to be released late 2012*), targeted for scientists, policymakers and the general public.
 - Synthesized, and translated materials on the impact of climate change on coastal and aquatic resources, with an emphasis on marine populations and habitats, streamflow, sea surface temperatures, ocean heat and acidity.
- Developed and reviewed fact sheets and relating to climate change and energy.
- Coordinated fast-turnaround press inquiries from newspapers, television, radio, magazines, and other media
- Compiled news articles daily for publication in EPA’s newsletter, “Climate News Roundup”, on domestic, international, industry and corporate policies concerning climate change, and clean energy.

National Wildlife Federation, Washington D.C.

September 2011 – February 2012

Wildlife & Climate Change, Research Assistant/Intern

- Conducted legislative and policy work at federal, state and local levels including tracking bills and administrative regulations/rulemaking, State Wildlife Action Plans, endangered species, invasive species, land management and conservation funding, to enhance engagement of policy and decision makers.
- Researched, wrote and edited grant proposals, legislative newsletters, factsheets, and memos on wildlife, climate change and natural resource conservation for scientists and federal policy-makers.
- Built coalitions with partners, including attending coalition meetings, engaging NWF affiliates and partners, and organizing lobby days and trainings (*Wildlife Funding Week – Nov. 1 – 4, 2011*).
- Developed criteria and guidance for carrying out climate-smart approaches for community climate adaptation programs and wildlife friendly approaches to wind and solar energy projects.
- Administrative duties included drafting meeting agendas, summarizing meeting discussions, coordinating meetings, etc.

Bureau of Land Management, Boise, Idaho

June 2010 – June 2011

Conservation & Land Management Technician (Internship)

- Conducted landscape and regional scale synthesis of field surveys to understand ecosystem change and support post-wildfire land management.
- Collected native plant seeds for land conservation, rehabilitation, and restoration purposes, primarily for areas affected by wildfires.
- Helped maintain the BLM Firewise Garden by planting fire resistant plants and developing brochures for the public on techniques to landscape their homes for protection against fires.
- Monitored and assessed federally threatened and endangered species and habitats.
- Working knowledge of the National Environmental Policy Act, Endangered Species Act, environmental assessments and environmental impact statements.
- Assisted in gathering information to develop management plans for areas of environmental concern when designating species habitats.

Plant Ecology Lab, Queen’s University

May 2009 – May 2010

Thesis Student

- Gathered and analyzed data for thesis project on how plant species are organized into communities in relation to flowering phenology.
- Mastered scientific techniques to obtain community ecology data (using quadrats, weighing seeds and calculating biomass).
- Trained in plant and grass identification and in gathering soil samples, using soil sample core, moisture meter.

Terrestrial Ecology Lab, Queen's University
Research Student

September 2008 – January 2009

- Assisted graduate and postdoctoral students in analyzing soil and vegetation samples gathered from the Arctic Tundra region.
- Participated in bi-weekly meetings to discuss and review relevant scientific articles in terrestrial ecology .

PUBLICATIONS/REPORTS

- USDA Forest Service. 2014. Baseline Estimates of Carbon Stocks in Forests and Harvested Wood Products for National Forest System Units. <http://www.fs.fed.us/climatechange/advisor/products.html>
- Dante, S., Schamp, B. & Aarssen, L. 2013. Evidence of deterministic assembly according to flowering time in an old-field plant community. *Functional Ecology*, 27: 555 – 564. doi: 10.1111/1365-2435.12061

PRESENTATIONS

- Presentation to Indian Foresters about the Forest Service and Climate Change Response. June 2014.
- ClimateChangeLive Webcast 1 – Educate, Inspire and Engage (39 minutes) March 2014
<http://climatechangelive.org/index.php?pid=173>
- ClimateChangeLive Webcast 2 – Join the Climate Conversation (55 minutes) March 2014
<http://climatechangelive.org/index.php?pid=174>
- Canadian Society for Ecology and Evolution Conference, Quebec. Presented findings from undergraduate thesis project (“Flowering Phenology and Plant Community Assembly”) at Laval University, Quebec. May 2010.