"Open Space" Break-out session – NE Forests 2100
(Dr. Lindsey Rustad – group leader)

1. Issue:

A coalition of U.S. and Canadian forest scientists associated with the Northeastern Ecosystems Research Cooperative (NERC) is embarking on a synthesis of existing research to better understand the ways climate change may influence the functioning of northern forests. This synthesis, **NE Forests 2100**, will present and interpret current science in the areas of forest composition and productivity, hydrology, carbon cycling and sequestration, nutrient cycling, effects on wildlife, pests and pathogens, and other major forest disturbances. The results will be published in a peer-reviewed publication and a report for non-scientists. The coalition has produced a "Climate Change Information User Survey" and is requesting inputs from forest managers, wildlife managers, policymakers, advocates, educators, funders, private consultants and other interested people.

2. Discussion:

Point 1 – The Northeast has an incredibly rich history in research on global climate change, and the synthesis will bring out the results of these studies.

Point 2 - There is a real need for a scientific, unbiased report on global warming to help policymakers and the general public understand these issues. Educators who teach about global warming also need this information to present the current facts to their students.

Point 3 – The report needs to get out to the news media in an objective, scientific manner to reduce sensational news reporting and hyperbole. Northern Woodlands Magazine was mentioned as a possible outlet, as well as others.

Point 4 – We need a rationale and prudent response to global warming rather than taking the position "that all the evidence isn't in yet".

3. Conclusions:
1. Get the word out to your peers to fill out the survey and inform others about this project. To take the survey online, type the link below into your web browser.
http://www.surveymonkey.com/s.asp?u=789541558699

2. The Coalition needs additional input on potential forest productivity and forest composition changes.

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