Special Issue

Forest Ecosystem Biogeochemical Cycling and Climate Change

Message from the Guest Editor

Some 200 hundred years after Willdenouw and Humboldt first suggested that similar climates produce similar vegetation types, we know that climate is a driving factor that affects the functioning of forest ecosystems, and that it took millenia for forests to reach their modern observed state of biogeochemical cycling. Now, as the global climate system changes at a rate previously unobserved, including the appearance of more frequent extreme weather events, a key question is how modern climate change will affect forest ecosystem functioning and structure in the future. Of particular interest for world leaders, policy makers, corporations, and forest managers is how forest ecosystems can be managed so as to sequester as much carbon as possible. There is still much that needs to be understood to reduce the uncertainty of what we think might happen to forests under a changed climate in the future. We encourage studies that advance the understanding of forest ecosystem biogeochemical cycling in its current state, as well as field experiments, monitoring, and modeling studies that examine the potential impacts of future climate change.

Guest Editor

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