

FOR 385 – Forest Ecosystem Dynamics

Fall 2011 Project

Your group term project has three parts:

- (1) collection and analysis of pilot data on a research topic of your choice
- (2) preparation of a grant proposal to fund additional hypothetical work on the same topic (sample RFP is attached). The grant proposal should incorporate the pilot data and preliminary results as support.
- (3) a group, oral presentation to the class on December 10th

The class will be divided into three teams of students. Each team has the discretion to develop research question(s) and hypotheses of their own choosing, so long as these are relevant to the course and can be feasibility addressed through a pilot study.

The following due dates apply:

- November 1th: Submit an outline of your proposal, including a description of primary research question(s) and hypotheses.
- November 8th: Outlines returned in class
- November 15th: Submit a draft of your proposal
- December 1st: Schedule group meeting with Bill to receive feedback on draft
- December 6th: Oral presentations and final draft of proposal due

All members of a team will receive the same project grade. Scoring of this grade will be based on the quality of the final written proposal (65%), the quality of the oral presentation (25%), and participation in the data collection day (10%).

Interim submissions are meant to provide you with useful feedback to fine-tune your project. They will not be given a letter grade, but will contribute to your overall homework score.