Comments and Responses on Public Review Draft of SOCCR/SAP 2.2 (September 2006)

COMMENTS FROM PUBLIC REVIEWERS						AUTHOR'S RESPONSE						
Comment Number	Reviewer ID	Chapter	Page	Line	Comment Text	Acknowledged, but no further reponse or revisions are required	Revisions have been incorporated as suggested in the comment	Agree, but see "Notes on Response"	Agree, but elaboration is precluded by length limitations	Disagree; see "Notes on Response"	Beyond scope of report/chapter	Notes on Response
11-001	12	11	11-1	17-19	The given estimates for forest stocks and sinks are not accompanied by uncertainties, and the sink is not consistent with that specified in the Part III overview		X	X				The text says "more than 170Gt" which is consistent with the summary Table in Part III (the number given there is 171.5 Gt C). The uncertainty in biomass is taken from Table 11-2, which describes the data as providing 95% certainty that the number is within 25% of the values reported.
11-002	3	11	11-1	20	The uncertainty of the estimates of forest carbon suggest that the text should use an appropriate precision of two significant figures. Therefore, change 269 Mt C y^{-1} to 270 Mt C y^{-1} and round other numbers throughout the report to two significant figures.		X					
11-003	3	11	11-1	20	Instead of "highly uncertain," add the numerical error range to the estimate of 270 Mt C y^{-1}. From page 3 ,line 12, the error is ± 130 Mt C y^{-1}.		X					
11-004	3	11	11-1	37	Add an additional bullet point "Because climate change is increasing the frequency and extent of forest fires in North America, climate change could completely reverse the carbon budget by changing carbon sinks to emissions sources."					X		The statement that fires could "completely reverse the carbon budget" is a very difficult statement to justify. It's true that increased fire activity will make a big difference to the carbon budget, but the huge (and unknown) uncertainties around the exten of these changes make it impossible to state this categorically.
11-005	3	11	11-8	3	Add the sentence "Because climate change is increasing the frequency and extent of forest fires in North America (Gillett et al. 2004, Westerling et al. 2006), climate change could completely reverse the carbon budget by changing carbon sinks to emissions sources (Flannigan et al. 2005, Schaphoff et al. 2006)." References are provided in the original, detailed comment.			X				See above on the "complete reversal of the carbon budget." Note text has been added to page 11-8, line 16 to describe the possible impacts of forest fires on the cabron budget.
11-006	3	11	11-10	33	Add the sentence "Although this Page provides aggregate statistics on forest carbon by biome and country, users would benefit greatly from an analysis of spatial estimates of forest carbon. Such an analysis would involve matching estimates based on forest inventories divided by political unit and general forest type (Birdsey and Lewis 2003) with spatial estimates from remote sensing (Running et al. 2004). Research at individual sites has combined analysis of forest inventories and remote sensing (for example, Van Tuyl et al. 2005, Turner et al. 2006). This would comprise a step towards producing a map of forest carbon across North America." References are provided in the original, detailed comment.		X					