Arctic river flood plains are home to hidden carbon

September 27, 2016

Arctic river flood plains are home to hidden carbon

In the race to account for how carbon moves through Arctic ecosystems, especially as they warm, scientists may be overlooking one major component: river flood plains.

A preliminary study of ten Arctic rivers suggests that they cycle roughly three to seven times more carbon through their flood plains than eventually exits the river into the ocean, says Joel Rowland, a geomorphologist at the Los Alamos National Laboratory in New Mexico.

Read the article in Nature.

By Alexandra Witze - Sept. 26, 2016.