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INSTITUTE OF BEHAVIORAL SCIENCE ■

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**ENVIRONMENT AND SOCIETY PROGRAM**

## **Lisa Dilling**

**Research Associate, Center for Science and Technology Policy Research  
Cooperative Institute for Research in Environmental Sciences (CIRES)**

# **“‘Usable’ Carbon Science: Supporting Carbon Governance and Decision Making Across Scales”**

**December 3, 2007  
12:00-1:00**

Because of concern over climate change, society at many levels is considering options to mitigate or sequester CO<sub>2</sub> emissions. In addition to actions focused on the energy system aspects of the problem, the scope of options now includes deliberate management of the land surface and ocean depths in order to reduce CO<sub>2</sub> and CH<sub>4</sub> emissions or to remove CO<sub>2</sub> from the atmosphere. While much of the impetus for action on climate change has come from international processes negotiated between nations, the implementation of policies will occur at a wide variety of governmental and sectoral levels—from local city pledges to statewide legislation in the United States to incentives for agricultural practices to national commitments. Federal carbon science under the U.S. Climate Change Science Program is funded to “best support improved public debate and decision-making in the near term.” Scientific knowledge on the carbon cycle may be able to provide information to inform decision making, but it is not clear that the carbon cycle scientific enterprise is organized well to respond to needs at various scales. This presentation will draw upon examples from the literature on the use of seasonal climate forecasts, and explore how this might be applied to creating “usable” science for carbon governance and societal decision making across scales.

**IBS 3 Conference Room**

**IBS 3 is the second building north of Starbucks Coffee on Broadway.  
Feel free to bring a brownbag lunch.**