Team member(s): \_\_Bree, Jess, Katie\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

**Note:** Please use complete sentences unless the prompt says “list”.

**Project Topic**

1. List 3 key words that describe your project’s focal ecological topic(s).

* Urban Heat Island
* Old Growth Forests
* Surface Temperatures

1. What research question will your project address (1 sentence)?

How do the old growth forests mitigate the urban heat island effect?

1. Why have you chosen this question? What makes it interesting, novel, and relevant? (3-5 sentences)

It’s relevant due to Atlanta trying to get rid of an old growth forest inside the city right now. It has to do with human health concerns. This is also a niche that is going to displace a lot of organisms that live within it.

1. What hypothesis (specific, testable statement of prediction) will you test? Write the null hypothesis and at least 1 alternative hypothesis (1 sentence per hypothesis).

* H0: There is no change in surface temperatures when an old growth forest is removed.
* HA1: There is an increase in surface temperature when an old growth forest is removed.
* HA2: There is a decrease in the surface temperature when an old growth forest is removed.

1. What are your independent and dependent variables? (E.g., what would go on the x- and y-axes of the graphs you will eventually make?) Be as specific as possible.

* Independent (“predictor”/ “driver”; x-axis): Presence of a forest
* Dependent (“response”; y-axis): Surface temperature

1. List the NEON data products you plan to use to answer the question. Note that you can also plan to access and use NOAA climate data (e.g., for temperature, precipitation) if needed; if so, please list those as well!



1. Which site(s) might you include in your project (and why)? What is your target time period for the study (e.g., a specific year? All years with available data? Something else?)? Why? (1-3 sentences)