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Lateral carbon transfer from erosion in noncroplands matters

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This study combines two unprecedentedly high resolution (250m) maps of soil erosion (inter-rill and rill processes) and soil organic carbon to calculate a global estimate of erosion-induced organic carbon (C) displacement. The results indicate a gross C displacement by soil erosion of Pg C/year. The greatest share of displaced C (64%) comes from seminatural lands and forests. This suggests that lateral C transfer from erosion in noncroplands may play a more important role than previously assumed.

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