

NADP CLAD's FOCUS Project- Phase I: Submission of US National-Scale Critical Loads to the UNECE-CCE

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The alphabet soup of acronyms in the title is a key indicator that multi-agency coordination projects are underway. FOCUS (Focal Center Utility Study) is a project of NADP's Critical Loads Atmospheric Deposition (CLAD) Science Committee. FOCUS was initiated as a small scale prototype of a US Focal Center to coordinate and manage the development and implementation of a clear, consistent repeatable process for standardized, mapable critical loads within the U.S. The process the European Union uses to collect, analyze and map critical loads data from participating countries around the globe utilizes a "Focal Center" in each country to serve as a point of contact for regional and national-scale critical loads data. In the "FOCUS Phase I Pilot Study" project, CLAD gathered and synthesized empirical and calculated critical loads data from dozens of regional and national-scale projects. CLAD members provided that data as an informal, unofficial submission to the UNECE-CCE (United Nations Economic Commission for Europe -Coordinating Center on Effects)in the interests of international cooperation and exchange of information on the effects of atmospheric deposition on ecosystems. CLAD envisions that this data will enable U.S scientists and land managers to enter into a productive and meaningful dialogue with the international scientific community on methods for estimating, calculating, mapping, interpreting, and refining critical loads for the effects of acidification and excess nutrients on terrestrial & aquatic ecosystems. This poster summarizes the FOCUS Phase I effort, and illustrates some of the preliminary critical loads mapping products produced by the effort.

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