

STEP 1: Initial critical load exceedance screening.

In this step, exceedance calculations will be used as a screening tool to identify the extent of CL analyses that forests will need to include in forest plans.

The Critical Loads section of the Air Quality Portal for Land Management Planning hosts a “[National Forest Exceedance Table](#)” that documents critical load exceedances for each national forest. Locate your forest in the table to see whether any of the seven nationwide CLs are exceeded, and follow the instructions in the boxes below.

*NOTE: **TDEP** is known to underestimate nitrogen deposition in certain situations (high elevations and complex terrain, as well as areas with high cloud and fog deposition, and areas in the arid south and west). If your forest is concerned about the underestimation of atmospheric deposition you may want to complete the critical loads assessment, even if you do not have a CL exceedance on the forest. The assessment will show how close deposition is to calculated critical loads (magnitude of non-exceedance) and recent trends in deposition, which can help the forest interpret the likelihood of exceedance if accurate deposition was available. This information could be used to support monitoring recommendations.*

No exceedance of any CL



If there are missing values in the National Forest Exceedance Table for your forest, developing a [monitoring strategy](#) for collecting information to calculate these missing CLs would ensure that the potential impacts are not being overlooked.

If there is NO potential for CL exceedance on a forest, this finding should be documented and no further assessment is required. The Portal hosts a description of the National Forest Exceedance Table and documents the protocols used to create this table. This information can be incorporated into the Air Specialist Report for forest plan revision. [Annual reports](#) from the [National Atmospheric Deposition Program](#) (NADP) should be monitored for deposition trends. If deposition is increasing, CL exceedance should be reevaluated during the next forest plan revision.

One or more CLs exceeded



If a forest shows the potential for CL exceedance, proceed to [Step 2](#).