

STEP 3: Examine available data.

Before beginning your assessment of critical load exceedances, take stock of all available data. Most forests will use the [nationwide CL exceedance information](#) provided on the Air Quality Portal because this is the best information available. Some forests will have access to refined CLs and/or deposition data; this data should be used when available to reduce uncertainty inherent in nationwide efforts. If you are not aware of ongoing regional efforts to refine CLs or deposition information, please consult the list of [published data sources](#), available on the portal. Once you have compiled all available data, follow the instructions in the boxes below.



Published regional/local data is available

If published regional/local CLs or regionally refined deposition estimates are available and preferable for use in this air quality assessment, proceed to [Step 4](#) and Step 5 to create the exceedance maps you will use in Step 6.



Published regional/local data is not available

If regional/local CLs or deposition data are not available and you will be basing your analysis on the provided national data, proceed to [Step 6](#).