

STEP 5: Identify the appropriate deposition information to compare with critical loads and calculate exceedances.

To understand the threat of negative effects of deposition to your forest you must compare the CLs from Step 4 with current levels of total deposition (wet +dry). Deposition information is measured and modeled from a variety of sources. Absent specific rationale to the contrary, we recommend using the [3-year average TDEP deposition data](#) provided on the portal to maintain nationwide consistency. Regionally-refined deposition models that have documented QA/QC methods can be substituted where appropriate. In addition, you can [analyze recent trends in deposition](#) to assess the accuracy of the deposition data used to calculate CL exceedances.

After the appropriate deposition has been selected, exceedance is calculated using the following equation:

$$\text{Exceedance} = \text{Deposition} - \text{Critical Load}$$

[Instructions](#) for calculating CL exceedances are available on the portal.

You now have critical loads and critical load exceedance values specific to your forest or region.

Proceed to [Step 6](#) for guidance on examining and interpreting exceedance information.