

Expert Panel on Soils

CLAD (Critical Loads Ad-Hoc Committee)



CLAD

- **Critical Load** the exposure to a pollutant *below* which no harmful ecological effect occurs over the long term
- **CLAD**
 - Multi-agency group (EPA, NPS, FS, USGS)
 - Objectives are to promote and support CL work in US
 - Move towards developing a standard method
 - Co-operate with European efforts



Objective of Expert Panel on Soils

- Contribute to process of developing and documenting a standard approach for calculating CL in the US
- Initial objectives for improving CL calculations:
 - Identifying and addressing highest priority issues
 - Assessing current research to refine parameters and methods
 - Identifying key areas for future research

Examples of some topics to be addressed

- Refining values used for critical thresholds based on current research
 - Research relating plant response to chemical thresholds
 - Identifying most appropriate thresholds for different ecosystems, regions, and organisms
 - BC:Al, [Al], pH, base saturation, etc.
- How to fill in gaps in data
 - Which datasets to use
 - What assumptions to use



Approach

- Conference calls approximately every other month to define issues and outline tasks and review progress
- Update progress at CLAD bi-annual meetings
- Group with broad representation of areas of expertise and regions of the country
 - Combine plant response and soil chemistry in the *same* group
- Leadership?!
- Membership—will send out a note in next several weeks to this group to see who is interested



For more information

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