

***A Comparison the North Carolina Rapid Assessment Method with the Ohio Rapid Assessment Method Using the National Wetland Condition Assessment Sites***

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North Carolina had 47 wetland sites to survey for the National wetland Condition Assessment (NWCA). Given that the EPA funded Southeast Wetlands Monitoring Intensification Grant, is to be conducted next summer using various rapid assessment tools, it was decided to use the North Carolina Wetland Assessment Method (NCWAM) and the Ohio Rapid Assessment Method (ORAM) to begin to analyze how the two methods compared along with some observations about how the USA-RAM seems to compare.

The NCWAM was developed to provide a rapid wetland assessment tool that resulted in an evaluation of the wetland function. Three major sub functions are assessed: Water Quality, Hydrology, and Habitat. A score of High, Medium or Low is provided for each sub function as well as an overall score of the wetland's function. The ORAM has been around for several years and has an excellent reputation and has been used as a basis for many other state rapid assessment methods. NCWAM however was developed from the expertise of wetland scientists from North Carolina working for various state and federal agencies.

The Southeast Wetlands Monitoring Intensification Grant, to be conducted during the summer of 2012, will also use NCWAM and ORAM, as well as USA-RAM with the intent of using that data to form the basis for a regional rapid assessment. Since NCWAM puts emphasis on the sub functions of water quality, hydrology, and habitat, comparisons will be made with ORAM where its subsections correspond to NCWAM's sub functions. This will allow a more detailed assessment of the two rapid assessment tools. It will be noted how some of the sections of USA-RAM may relate to the sub functions of NCWAM (and ORAM), with the understanding that a scoring method for USA-RAM has not been finalized.

Correlations will be performed between the two rapid assessments and their various subcomponents to help determine how they relate. Differences and similarities will be discussed as well as how USA-RAM may relate. Finally, some discussion will be made as to how the southeast region may begin to develop a regional rapid assessment.

**Session H3: Information Systems for Accessing and Assessing Data**

Room B117-119

8:00 – 9:30 am

***StreamChemDB: Development of a Web-Accessible Database of Stream Chemistry for US Forest Service Experimental Forests and National Science Foundation Long-Term Ecological Research Sites***

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StreamChemDB aims to provide one-stop access to long-term stream chemistry data records and associated metadata for two national networks: the US Forest Service Experimental Forests and Range (EFR) system and the National Science Foundation's Long-term Ecological Research (LTER) sites. This proposed database builds on former LTER-EFR cyberinfrastructure projects ClimDB and HydroDB (<http://www.fsl.orst.edu/climhy/>), which similarly provide one-stop access to climate and hydrology data across 45 EFRs and LTERs. The project combines data sets that are currently unavailable on the web or are only accessible on disparate web sites in a variety of formats. Here we present the status of our prototype, which allows dynamic downloads of data from a relational database. The prototype contains nitrate data from four sites (Bonanza Creek Experimental Forest and LTER/Caribou-Poker Creeks Research Watershed in Alaska, H. J. Andrews Experimental Forest/LTER in Oregon, Luquillo Experimental Forest/LTER in Puerto Rico, Marcell Experimental Forest in Minnesota). Controlled vocabularies have been implemented in the database to standardize analytical and sampling methods, detection limits, analytes and units. Once completed, StreamChemDB will facilitate cross-site studies and long-term archival of EFR/LTER stream chemistry data and will be available through the LTER Network Information System in a format compatible with existing and emerging environmental observatories and related water quality databases, such as LTER's Network Information System, the National Environmental Methods Index, WQX/STORET, NEON, Critical Zone Observatories (CZO program), the National Network of Reference Watersheds and the CUAHSI Hydrologic Information System.