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A review of measurements of air-surface exchange of reactive nitrogen in natural ecosystems across North America

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Abstract

In this paper we summarize the state of the science of measurements of dry deposition of reactive nitrogen (Nr) compounds in North America, beginning with current understanding of the importance of dry deposition at the U.S. continental scale followed by a review of micrometeorological flux measurement methods. We then summarize measurements of Nr airsurface exchange in natural ecosystems of North America focusing on the U.S. and Canada. Drawing on thissynthesis, we identify research needed to address the incompleteness of dry deposition budgets, more fully characterize temporal and geographical variability of fluxes, and better understand air-surface exchange processes.

Our review points to several data and knowledge gaps that must be addressed to advance airsurface exchange modeling for North American ecosystems. For example, recent studies of particulate (NO_3^-) and gaseous (NO_x , HONO, peroxy nitrates) oxidized N fluxes challenge the fundamental framework of unidirectional flux from the atmosphere to the surface employed in most deposition models. Measurements in forest ecosystems document the importance of incanopy chemical processes in regulating the net flux between the atmosphere and biosphere, which can result in net loss from the canopy. These results emphasize the need for studies to quantify within- and near-canopy sources and sinks of the full suite of components of the Nr chemical system under study (e.g., NO_y or $HNO_3-NH_3-NH_4NO_3$). With respect to specific ecosystems and geographical locations, additional flux measurements are needed particularly in agricultural regions (NH₃), coastal zones (NO₃⁻ and organic N), and arid ecosystems and along urban to rural gradients $(NO₂)$. Measurements that investigate non-stomatal exchange processes (e.g., surface wetness) and the biogeochemical drivers of bidirectional exchange (e.g., NH3) are considered high priority. Establishment of long-term sites for process level measurements of

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reactive chemical fluxes should be viewed as a high priority long-term endeavor of the atmospheric chemistry and ecological communities.

Introduction

Atmospheric deposition is an important component of the nitrogen cascade (Galloway et al., 2003) that can contribute to eutrophication and acidification, reduced biodiversity, decreased resilience to climate variability and other effects in terrestrial and aquatic ecosystems (U.S. EPA, 2008). Deposition of reactive nitrogen (Nr) in excess of the ecosystem critical load (Nilsson and Grennfelt, 1988) can therefore negatively impact the services that ecosystems provide, such as clean water, climate regulation, food, recreational opportunities, and cultural and spiritual value (Compton et al., 2011; Cooter et al., 2013; Munns et al., 2016). A fundamental aspect of characterizing ecosystem risk from Nr over-enrichment is quantification of the amount of Nr entering the ecosystem via wet and dry deposition. Total (wet $+$ dry) budgets of Nr deposition are needed to quantify critical load exceedances (Clark et al., 2018) and to relate air concentrations to deposition rates to assess the secondary U.S. National Ambient Air Quality Standards (NAAQS, U.S. EPA, 2012), which protect public welfare (e.g., soils, water, vegetation).

North American monitoring networks that are used for deposition assessments include sites at which wet deposition is measured directly and sites where atmospheric concentrations of gases and particulate matter (PM) are monitored. The key networks measuring wet deposition and precipitation chemistry in North America are the National Atmospheric Deposition Program (NADP)/National Trends Network (NTN) and the Canadian Air and Precipitation Monitoring Network (CAPMoN). The NADP/NTN network ([http://](http://nadp.slh.wisc.edu/NTN/) nadp.slh.wisc.edu/NTN/) spans the continental U.S. (CONUS), extending into Canada, Puerto Rico, Mexico, and Alaska, and currently operates 257 sites at which precipitation chemistry and wet deposition are measured on a weekly basis. CAPMoN ([http://](http://data.ec.gc.ca/data/air/monitor/networks-and-studies/canadian-air-and-precipitation-monitoring-network-capmon/) [data.ec.gc.ca/data/air/monitor/networks-and-studies/canadian-air-and-precipitation](http://data.ec.gc.ca/data/air/monitor/networks-and-studies/canadian-air-and-precipitation-monitoring-network-capmon/)[monitoring-network-capmon/](http://data.ec.gc.ca/data/air/monitor/networks-and-studies/canadian-air-and-precipitation-monitoring-network-capmon/)) currently operates 30 sites at which precipitation chemistry and wet deposition are measured on a daily basis. With respect to wet deposition of Nr, NTN and CAPMoN provide measurements of ammonium (NH_4^+) and nitrate (NO_3^-) . The Clean Air Status and Trends Network (CASTNET) ([https://www.epa.gov/castnet\)](https://www.epa.gov/castnet) and CAPMoN monitor gas and particulate air concentrations of nitric acid ($HNO₃$), $NH₄$ +aerosol, and NO₃⁻ aerosol, on weekly and daily schedules, respectively. CASTNET currently operates 95 rural sites across the CONUS while CAPMoN operates 18 ambient monitoring sites across Canada. Additionally, the NADP Ammonia Monitoring Network (AMoN) provides biweekly measurements of ammonia $(NH₃)$ air concentrations at approximately 100 sites in the U.S. and Canada, approximately 70 of which are collocated with CASTNET and CAPMoN. Other ambient monitoring networks that measure Nr compounds include the Interagency Monitoring of Protected Visual Environments (IMPROVE, [http://](http://vista.cira.colostate.edu/Improve/) [vista.cira.colostate.edu/Improve/\)](http://vista.cira.colostate.edu/Improve/), several networks that collectively feed data into the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency Air Quality System (AQS, <https://www.epa.gov/aqs>; <https://www.epa.gov/amtic/amtic-ambient-air-monitoring-networks>) and the Canadian National Air Pollution Surveillance Program (NAPS; [https://www.canada.ca/en/](https://www.canada.ca/en/environment-climate-change/services/air-pollution/monitoring-networks-data/national-air-pollution-program.html)

[environment-climate-change/services/air-pollution/monitoring-networks-data/national-air](https://www.canada.ca/en/environment-climate-change/services/air-pollution/monitoring-networks-data/national-air-pollution-program.html)[pollution-program.html](https://www.canada.ca/en/environment-climate-change/services/air-pollution/monitoring-networks-data/national-air-pollution-program.html)).

While wet deposition is well characterized by NADP and CAPMoN, the magnitude and patterns of dry deposition are less understood due to a lack of observations. Ambient monitoring networks provide important information on the spatial patterns and trends in air concentrations of inorganic Nr, to which the patterns of dry deposition are related. However, these networks do not provide measurements of dry deposition. Rather, the measured air concentrations are used to estimate dry deposition using inferential modeling approaches (Clarke et al., 1997; Sickles and Shadwick, 2015; Zhang et al., 2009; Li et al., 2016) or by applying deposition velocities output from chemical transport models (CTMs) (Bowker et al., 2011; Schwede and Lear, 2014). These networks also do not provide information on organic forms of N (ON), which contribute significantly to total Nr deposition (Jickells et al., 2013). Enhanced monitoring of additional N species (nitric oxide (NO), nitrogen dioxide (NO2), total oxides of nitrogen (NOy), peroxyacetyl nitrate (PAN), other ON) is, however, periodically conducted at select sites within CASTNET and CAPMoN for deposition and atmospheric chemistry assessments (Zhang et al., 2009).

Most direct measurements (i.e., using micrometeorological flux methods) of air-surface exchange (i.e., dry deposition and bidirectional exchange) span periods of a few weeks to months, failing to capture the range of atmospheric, biogeochemical, and phenological conditions that drive annual scale fluxes. Such measurements are typically conducted to characterize exchange processes rather than to develop annual speciated dry deposition budgets. Inferential models or CTMs are therefore commonly used to estimate the dry component (Fenn et al., 2010; Schwede and Lear, 2014; Nanus et al., 2017; McDonnell et al., 2018; U.S. EPA, 2019) of total deposition for North American ecosystem assessments. Though estimates vary depending on the time period of the model simulation and the particular model that is used, dry deposition of Nr generally contributes 50% or more of CTM derived total N deposition budgets across the CONUS (Zhang et al., 2012a; Dennis et al., 2013; Zhang et al., 2018). While the importance of dry deposition is well established, dry deposition models used at the field scale and employed in CTMs can exhibit large uncertainty. Assessments in Europe (Flechard et al., 2011) and the U.S. (Schwede et al., 2011; Li et al., 2016; Wu et al., 2011, 2012) show that fluxes of Nr species from commonly used models can differ substantially, up to a factor of 3 or more, even when using the same meteorological inputs and surface parameters. Variability among models reflects differences in parameterizations of atmospheric and surface resistances and continued lack of understanding of the underlying processes driving net canopy-atmosphere exchange.

Additional measurements of air-surface exchange and associated measurements of surface chemical, physical, and biological characteristics are needed to improve site-specific deposition budgets and air-surface exchange algorithms used in field scale deposition models and gridded CTMs. Assessment of existing datasets is needed to inform these measurement needs with respect to chemical species, ecosystems and geographical locations, and air-surface exchange processes. In this paper, we summarize the state of the science of measurements of dry deposition of Nr compounds in North America, beginning with the current understanding of the importance of dry deposition to total deposition at the

U.S. continental scale, followed by a review of the micrometeorological and analytical methods used for direct measurements of air-surface exchange. We then summarize the existing measurements of Nr air-surface exchange measurements in natural ecosystems in North America, focusing on the U.S. and Canada. Based on this data synthesis, we outline research needed to address data gaps from the perspective of developing more complete deposition budgets and improving current understanding of air-surface exchange processes. We acknowledge that because the scope of this review is constrained to North America, the large body of Nr flux work performed in Europe and elsewhere, which established the basis for much of the work in the U.S., is not covered in detail.

State of the science

Deposition budget

To provide context for the discussion of dry deposition in the following sections, the total and dry components of the deposition budget for 2015 for the CONUS are shown in Figure 1. The budget was developed using version 5.2.1 of the Community Multi-scale Air Quality Model (CMAQ, www.epa.gov/CMAQ). The depositing species are categorized by wet or dry deposition and oxidized (labeled with 'OXN') versus reduced (labeled with 'REDN') forms of N. Reduced N comprises gaseous NH_3 and particulate NH_4^+ . OXN_NO_X includes NO and NO₂; OXN_PANT represents total peroxy nitrates (PNs) in the gas phase; OXN_ORGN represents other gas phase ON species such as isoprene nitrates; OXN_OTHR represents nitrogen pentoxide (N_2O_5) and HONO; NO_3^- and NH_4^+ represent particulate components; TNO₃ represents total gaseous $HNO₃ +$ particulate $NO₃⁻$; and REDN_ToT represents total gaseous NH_3 + particulate NH_4^+ . Relevant to the total budget, it is important to note that reduced forms of ON are not considered in either the dry or wet components, nor is the treatment of oxidized ON comprehensive. Thus, from a completeness standpoint the budget will be biased low with respect to total N deposition. With this caveat, the budgets shown in Figure 1 reflect the state of the science of deposition modeling as represented by a widely used regional CTM and, as such, are used here to illustrate the relative importance of the dry deposited fraction of Nr and the contribution of individual species or groups of compounds to the dry deposition budget for the U.S.

Nr deposition budgets have been previously developed for the U.S. and Canada using inferential modeling (Zhang et al., 2009), other versions of CTMs (Dennis et al., 2013; Zhang et al., 2012a; Zhang et al., 2018), and measurement-model fusion approaches (Schwede and Lear, 2014). Additionally, inferential approaches are now incorporating satellite observations to estimate dry deposition of a number of reactive nitrogen species, including NO2 (Cheng et al., 2013; Lu et al., 2013; Nowlan et al., 2014; Jia et al., 2016; Kharol et al., 2018), total nitrate $(HNO₃ + NO₃⁻)$ and $NH₄⁺$ (Jia et al., 2016), NO_y (Geddes and Martin, 2017), and NH₃ (Jia et al., 2016; Kharol et al., 2018).

The CMAQ simulation summarized in Figure 1 shows that dry deposition dominates the Nr budget at the continental scale, contributing 61% of total deposition compared to 39% from wet deposition. Oxidized and reduced forms of nitrogen account for 57% and 43% of total N deposition and 62% and 38% of dry deposition, respectively. The primary forms of dry deposition are $HNO₃$ (33.7%) and $NH₃$ (32.2%), which together account for approximately

 $2/3$ of dry N deposition. We note that in this simulation $NH₃$ fluxes are modeled using a bidirectional flux framework (Pleim et al., 2013; Bash et al., 2013). Deposition of $NO_3^$ aerosol ($OXN_NO_3^-$) contributes 9.3% of dry deposition. OXN_NO_X , which due to atmospheric processing is essentially all NO₂, contributes 6.2% of the dry budget, followed in importance by dry deposition of NH₄⁺ aerosol (5.8%). Dry deposition of gas phase organics $(OXN_PANT = 5.6\%; OXN_ORG = 5.1\%)$ together account for 10.7% of the dry budget while OXN_OTHR (N_2O_5 and HONO) contribute 2.0%. The domain-wide mass balance was not assessed in the CMAQ runs presented above; however, CTM predictions from earlier studies show that wet + dry deposition generally account for $\sim 65\%$ of oxidized Nr and ~ 75% of reduced Nr emissions, overall, at the U.S. continental scale (Dentener et al., 2006; Dennis et al., 2013). Acknowledging that the mass balance will be influenced by relationships between air concentrations and deposition as emissions change over time, these earlier studies illustrate the importance of deposition in the context of long-range transport.

While the budget presented above reflects the overall pattern at the continental scale, the contributions of individual species are strongly dependent on location, varying with proximity to sources, meteorological patterns, and atmospheric chemistry. Furthermore, the deposition budget contains uncertainty and biases related to model treatment of emissions, chemistry, deposition and other processes (Walker et al., 2019). Comparing CMAQ V5.2.1 to weekly NADP/NTN wet deposition for 2015 across the CONUS, the model tends to underestimate NH₄⁺ wet deposition (normalized mean bias = -29.9%) while NO₃⁻ wet deposition is only slightly biased at the continental scale (normalized mean bias = −7.6%). Model underestimation of wet deposition of NH₄⁺ likely reflects uncertainty in NH₃ emissions inventories and bidirectional air-surface exchange (Kelly et al., 2014; Butler et al., 2015; Battye et al., 2016; Zhang et al., 2018). As previously mentioned, incomplete representation of model organic N chemistry and deposition is an important source of uncertainty in total wet deposition of Nr. Lack of observations precludes an assessment of model biases in dry deposition at the continental scale and large differences in dry deposition models for the more common inorganic Nr species $(HNO₃, NH₃, NO₂, NO₃⁻,$ NH⁴ ⁺) have been previously noted (Flechard et al., 2011; Schwede et al., 2011; Li et al., 2016). While PAN has received some attention (Wu et al., 2012; Wolfe et al., 2011), dry deposition schemes for organic Nr compounds have been less extensively evaluated (Nguyen et al., 2015). Parameterizations of non-stomatal deposition processes and NH₃ compensation points are key sources of uncertainty in dry deposition estimates.

Flux measurement methods

Commonly used micrometeorological methods for direct measurement of Nr air-surface exchange include eddy covariance (EC), gradient methods, and relaxed eddy accumulation (Baldocchi et al., 1988; Moncrieff et al., 1997; Fowler et al., 2001; Zhang et al., 2010).

Eddy covariance—The most direct approach is the EC technique (Foken et al., 2012), in which the vertical flux (F) of mass through a horizontal plane in the atmosphere, such as above a forest canopy, is quantified as the covariance of the fluctuating components of the vertical wind velocity (w) and the concentration of the chemical species of interest (c) as:

$$
F = \overline{w'c'} \tag{1}
$$

The overbar in equation (1) represents time-averaging, usually 30 minutes, and the primes represent deviations from the mean as illustrated in equation (2):

$$
c' = c - \bar{c} \tag{2}
$$

The primary requirements for standard EC (e.g., ignoring advection and storage) are flat, homogeneous terrain over a sufficient area surrounding the measurement location, welldeveloped turbulence, and chemical and meteorological instruments of sufficient time response and precision to capture the range of eddy motions driving the air surface exchange. Time response requirements are typically between 1 and 10 measurements per second (hz) depending on the surface characteristics and corresponding sensor height.

Gradient methods—Gradient approaches involve measuring the vertical concentration profile at two or more heights above the exchange surface and applying the measured vertical concentration gradient to the measured eddy diffusivity for momentum, heat, or mass (Foken, 2008). The typical calculation (e.g., Thomas et al., 2009; Wolff et al., 2010; Rumsey and Walker, 2016; Ramsay et al., 2018) for F of chemical species c using concentration measurements at two heights takes the form:

$$
F_c = -\frac{u \cdot k}{\ln\left(\frac{z_2 - d}{z_1 - d}\right) - \psi_H\left(\frac{z_2 - d}{L}\right) + \psi_H\left(\frac{z_1 - d}{L}\right)} \cdot \Delta C \tag{3}
$$

where u^* is friction velocity, calculated from the momentum flux measured by EC, ψ_H is the integrated stability function for sensible heat, z_1 and z_2 are the measurement heights above ground between which the concentration gradient \overline{C} is measured, L is the Monin-Obukhov length typically calculated from the EC derived sensible heat flux, k is the von Karman constant ($k = 0.41$), and d is the zero plane displacement height. A variant of this method is the modified Bowen-ratio (MBR) (Meyers et al., 1996) in which the turbulent diffusivity is assumed to be equivalent to the turbulent diffusivity for heat such that the flux may be calculated as:

$$
F_c = \overline{w'T'} \frac{\Delta C}{\Delta T}
$$
 (4)

Here $\frac{1}{w'T'}$ is the k
mean concentration is the kinematic heat flux measured by EC, and $\Delta \overline{C}$ and $\Delta \overline{T}$ are co-located mean concentration and air temperature differences between heights z_1 and z_2 above the canopy. The ratio of the heat flux to the temperature gradient is also known as the eddy diffusivity for heat (K_h) . Gradient methods also require flat, homogeneous terrain and welldeveloped turbulence. Drawbacks relative to EC include the need to correct profiles for atmospheric stability (aerodynamic method), increased uncertainty during transition periods when heat fluxes (or other scalars on which the eddy diffusivity is based) become small

(MBR method), difficulty in estimating the flux footprint, and the need to correct for effects of sampling within the roughness sublayer in the case of tall vegetation. The advantage of gradient methods relative to EC is that they can be employed to measure fluxes of compounds for which fast sensors are not available. Fluxes are typically determined from gradients of concentrations integrated over 30 minutes to an hour.

Relaxed eddy accumulation—Relaxed eddy accumulation (REA; Businger and Oncley, 1990) is an alternative technique that allows for measurement of the flux at a single height but without the time response requirements of EC for concentration measurements. Measurement of the flux at a single height avoids the need for stability corrections and uncertainty in flux footprint estimation associated with gradient techniques. The REA approach employs fast switching based on measurement of the vertical wind speed to sample air concentrations in upward versus downward moving eddies from which the flux is determined as:

$$
F_c = \beta \sigma_w (X \uparrow -X \downarrow)
$$
\n⁽⁵⁾

Here c_{\uparrow} and c_{\downarrow} are the average air concentrations in the up- and down-drafts, respectively, σ_{w} is the standard deviation of the vertical wind velocity (measured at 10 Hz), and β is an empirical dimensionless parameter that can be estimated from EC measurements of temperature and other scalars (Katul et al., 1996). REA systems can employ continuous or time-integrated measurements of atmospheric concentrations, with averaging periods from 30 minutes to a few hours.

Flux datasets—Published datasets of Nr micrometeorological flux measurements for natural and semi-natural ecosystems in North America are summarized in Table 1. Data are categorized by flux measurement method and analytical (i.e., for online measurements) or sampling method (i.e., for time integrated approaches) is also indicated. Where possible, fluxes and deposition velocities (V_d) are reported with negative fluxes indicating deposition. Our review is limited to studies employing micrometeorological flux measurement techniques over natural ecosystems and focusses on studies in the U.S. and Canada. Earlier flux measurements conducted in North America and elsewhere have been previously summarized by Zhang et al. (2002).

Oxidized inorganic N—In addition to understanding the total deposition budget of Nr and categorizing the deposition processes to both wet and dry fractions, it is necessary to understand the composition of Nr deposition in order to identify portions that are subject to regulatory control. In the U.S., this is limited to the anthropogenic fraction of oxidized inorganic Nr, which primarily originates from fossil fuel combustion. The oxidized Nr chemical system is summarized in Figure 2, illustrating the diversity of inorganic and organic species in both the particle and gas phase that make up the NOy budget. The flux of total oxidized Nr can be quantified by measuring the total NO_v flux, which is dominated by inorganics but may contain a significant organic fraction, both in gaseous and particulate forms (e.g., organic nitrates). Daytime NO_v fluxes summarized in Table 1 range from ≈ -1.5 to –60.0 ng N m⁻² s⁻¹.

Fluxes of NO_v are typically measured by EC using a 3-D sonic anemometer for the micrometeorological parameters and the thermal conversion of all oxidized Nr to NO on a heated catalyst followed by detection of NO by chemiluminescence. While this approach is relatively straightforward compared to other techniques for specific compounds, existing North American datasets are limited to a few mixed deciduous forest sites (Haliburton Forest, central Ontario, Geddes et al., 2014; University of Michigan Biological Station (UMBS), Program for Research on Oxidants: PHotochemistry, Emissions, and Transport (PROPHET site), northern Michigan, Geddes et al., 2014; Harvard Forest, central Massachusetts, Munger et al., 1996; Horii et al., 2005) and coniferous forests in central North Carolina (Turnipseed et al., 2006) and Quebec (Munger et al., 1996). We note that the work of Munger and colleagues at Harvard Forest represents the only continuous multi-year long-term dataset of directly measured Nr dry deposition in North America. Because NO_v is a bulk measurement of multiple species, it is most useful for budget development rather than process analysis and is most beneficial when conducted over temporal scales that allow for calculation of seasonal or annual deposition budgets.

As illustrated in Figure 1, $HNO₃$ deposition is the largest contributor to the oxidized Nr dry deposition budget (33.7%), owing to its higher concentration relative to other compounds and large deposition velocity (V_d). V_d for HNO₃ is generally thought to be limited only by atmospheric rather than surface resistances to deposition. For this reason, it is one of the most studied components of the NO_y deposition budget across a range of North American ecosystems. As detailed in Table 1, fluxes of $HNO₃$ have been quantified using gradient and REA methods employing a variety of analytical and batch sampling techniques. More recently, advancements in online chemical ionization mass spectrometry (CIMs, Nguyen et al., 2015) and spectroscopic methods (Farmer et al., 2006) have allowed the use of EC techniques. $HNO₃$ fluxes are on the same order as NO_v , with average values reported in the studies summarized in Table 1 ranging from < 1.0 to –40.0 ng m⁻² s⁻¹. The measured (V_d) for HNO₃ is mostly in the range of 1.0 – 10.0 cm s⁻¹ (Brook et al., 1999, Table 1). V_d values of $1.0 - 4.0$ cm s⁻¹ are generally recommended for modeling, with higher values more applicable to tall canopies and daytime conditions (Zhang et al., 2003).

While a number of datasets exist for model evaluation across a range of ecosystems, additional studies are needed to better understand the potential influences of surface characteristics and processes on the $HNO₃$ canopy resistance (Pryor and Klemm, 2004). HNO₃ has often been assumed to deposit according to V_{dmax} , calculated as $1/(R_a + R_b)$ where R_a is the aerodynamic resistance to turbulent transfer and R_b is the diffusive resistance at the leaf boundary layer, resulting in a surface or canopy resistance (R_c) of zero (Hicks et al., 1987; Meyers et al., 1989; Sievering et al., 2001). Accumulation of HNO³ during dry periods (Tarnay et al., 2002) and equilibrium between $HNO₃$ and $NO₃⁻$ on foliage surfaces (Nemitz et al., 2004a) are examples of processes that may result in the presence of a "non-zero" R_c for HNO_3 . Additional field studies are needed to characterize these processes for North American conditions to validate $HNO₃$ R_c parameterizations in current CTMs (e.g., Zhang et al., 2003).

New field studies are also needed to quantify sources of uncertainty in measured canopy scale fluxes resulting from gas-particle interconversion within the $NH_4NO_3 + HNO_3 + NH_3$

system (i.e. flux divergence; Brost et al., 1988). As summarized by Nemitz et al. (2004b) and references therein, perturbation of the $NH₄NO₃$ thermodynamic equilibrium within and above the canopy affects the vertical gradients $NH_4NO_3 + HNO_3 + NH_3$. NH_4NO_3 evaporation near the surface, for example, can result in apparent emissions of HNO₃ and NH3 from the canopy (Huebert et al., 1988; Zhang et al., 1995; Pryor et al., 2001) and corresponding rates of NO_3^- and NH_4^+ deposition that are too large to be explained by deposition alone (Huebert et al., 1988; Brost et al., 1988; Wyers and Duyzer, 1997; Wolff et al., 2010; Aan de Brugh et al., 2013). This process can furthermore result in apparent emission of smaller particles from the canopy (Nemitz et al., 2004a).

At the continental scale, $NO_x (NO + NO_2)$, which is primarily NO_2 , may contribute on the order of 6% of the Nr dry deposition budget (Figure 1), though larger contributions (>10%) have been estimated at Canadian CAPMoN sites using a combination of measured air concentrations and inferential modeling (Zhang et al., 2009). The NO_x fraction of the oxidized inorganic Nr flux has been studied relatively extensively in the context of incanopy and near surface chemical processing within the NO_v system. Because the chemical timescale of the cycling of NO_x between NO and NO_2 is similar to the turbulence time scale, their canopy-scale fluxes will reflect a combination of emission from the soil, deposition to the canopy, and in-situ chemical processing. NO and $NO₂$ fluxes are measured by EC using several approaches. NO fluxes are measured directly by fast chemiluminescence (e.g., Geddes et al., 2014) whereby $NO₂$ fluxes may be determined directly by spectroscopic techniques (Horii et al., 2004; Farmer et al., 2006), or by fast NO chemiluminescence after conversion of $NO₂$ by photolysis (Geddes et al., 2014). In North America, canopy scale NO and NO₂ fluxes have been conducted in a few coniferous (Blodgett Forest, Sierra Nevada Mountains, California, Farmer et al., 2006; Min et al., 2014) and mixed deciduous forests (Harvard Forest, Massachusetts, Horii et al., 2004; Haliburton Forest, Ontario, Geddes et al., 2014; and the PROPHET site, Michigan, Geddes et al., 2014). Measurements at these sites exhibit patterns of upward and downward canopy-scale fluxes of NO and $NO₂$, reflecting the net result of chemical processing within the canopy air-space and turbulent exchange. Geddes et al. (2014) noted that the fluxes at different times of day tended to offset, yielding a total NO_x flux near zero, while net upward fluxes of NO and $NO₂$ were observed at Blodgett Forest (Min et al., 2014). Net downward fluxes of $NO₂$ consistent with the presence of a compensation point were observed at Harvard Forest (Horii et al., 2004). NO and NO₂ fluxes have also been measured by EC from aircraft over the southeastern U.S. (Wolfe et al., 2015).

Downward NO₂ fluxes reported in Table 1 are generally < 5.0 ng N m⁻² s⁻¹ except for the early work of Delany et al. (1986) where much higher concentrations (up to 40 ppb $NO₂$) were observed. The measured (V_d) for NO₂ is mostly in the range of <0.0 – 1.0 cm s⁻¹ (Wesely and Hicks, 2000; Zhang et al., 2002; Table 1). For practical reasons, dry deposition of NO can be neglected in the deposition budget. Typical V_d values of 0.1 – 0.8 cm s⁻¹ for NO2 are recommended for modeling over vegetated canopies and much smaller values over bare land and water surfaces (Zhang et al., 2003). As an example, Kharol et al. (2018) calculated the 10th – 90th percentiles of the annual average $V_d (NO_2)$ over North America to be $0.04 - 0.26$ cm s⁻¹ for 2013 using the dry deposition scheme of Zhang et al. (2003). Patterns of NO₂ concentrations and deposition inferred from satellite measurements over

North America (Nowlan et al., 2014; Kharol et al., 2018) highlight the need for additional NO_x flux measurements in locations such as urban to rural gradients where $NO₂$ contributes a more significant fraction of NO_v than experienced in the more rural locations reflected in Table 1. The accuracy of modeled $NO₂$ deposition rates is likely more critical in ecosystems experiencing higher exposure to NO_x . Site differences in patterns of NO_x air-surface exchange, and in the relative importance of in-situ chemical processing to the net canopyscale flux, reinforce the need for measurements and models that explicitly quantify incanopy and near-canopy sources and sinks as well as net-canopy scale exchange.

As shown in Figure 1, CMAQ simulations suggest that HONO and N_2O_5 (OXN_OTHR) likely make a relatively small contribution (2%) to the Nr deposition budget at the continental scale. Theoretically parameterized V_d values for HONO and N₂O₅ are as high as those for HNO₃ (Wesely and Hicks 2000; Zhang et al., 2003), however, negative HONO V_d are often observed. Of the gas phase oxidized inorganic Nr compounds, HONO has received less attention than NO_x in terms of canopy-scale fluxes in North American natural ecosystems. As noted in Table 1, only a few published studies were identified, which describe fluxes measured by REA at the PROPHET deciduous forest site in Michigan (Zhang et al., 2012b; Zhou et al., 2011) and the Blodgett Forest ponderosa pine site in California (Ren et al., 2011), both rural low- NO_x environments. Net upward fluxes from the canopy to the atmosphere (i.e., negative V_d) were observed at both forest sites, with lower fluxes at Blodgett Forest corresponding to lower concentrations. Viewed in the context of the deposition budget shown in Figure 1, which reflects a model algorithm in which HONO fluxes are unidirectional toward the surface, these studies point to the need for a more detailed treatment of within- and near-canopy chemistry in order to accurately resolve the net canopy-scale flux of HONO. Additional measurements are also needed in natural ecosystems experiencing higher atmospheric concentrations of HONO than observed at these two rural forested sites.

Measurements of N_2O_5 fluxes are more limited. The study by Huff et al. (2011) over a snow-covered agricultural field is the only published measurements that could be found for a North American terrestrial ecosystem. Fluxes suggested that $N₂O₅$ deposition was likely limited by turbulent transfer (i.e., similar to HNO₃), which is expected given its high solubility and is in agreement with N_2O_5 fluxes measured above the air-sea interface near San Diego, California (Kim et al., 2014). Additional measurements of N_2O_5 fluxes are needed, particularly in coastal ecosystems and downwind of urban areas (Thornton, et al., 2010).

 $NO₃⁻$ aerosol is estimated to contribute ~ 9% of the dry N deposition budget at the continental scale (Figure 1). While the regional patterns and trends of atmospheric concentrations are relatively well characterized by national monitoring networks (e.g., CASTNET, IMPROVE), there exist relatively few published studies in which $NO₃⁻$ fluxes and deposition velocities have been directly measured in North America (Table 1). Earlier measurements (Huebert et al., 1988; Rattray and Sievering, 2001) employed filter packs to measure fluxes in a gradient mode, while online techniques employing steam aerosol collection and ion chromatography have been used more recently (Rumsey and Walker, 2016). Gradient studies have been conducted in grassland (Huebert et al., 1985; Rumsey and

Walker, 2016) and alpine (Rattray and Sievering, 2001) environments. Recent advancement of online aerosol mass spectrometry has enabled the use of EC techniques for NO_3^- flux measurements at two North American forest sites (Blodgett Forest, Calilfornia, ponderosa pine, Farmer et al., 2011; 2013; Borden Forest, Ontario, mixed deciduous/coniferous, Gordon et al., 2011). NO_3^- fluxes measured in the studies summarized in Table 1 are typically < 1.0 ng N m⁻² s⁻¹.

In CTMs, size distributions of fine versus coarse mass fractions of $NO₃⁻$ need to be simulated reasonably well in order to estimate its dry deposition using size-resolved or modal-based dry deposition schemes. Typical V_d values are in the range 0.1–0.3 cm s⁻¹ for the fine particle fraction and nearly double for coarse particle fraction over vegetated canopies (Zhang and He, 2014). Thus, V_d of NO₃⁻ should be mostly in the range of 0.1–0.5 cm s−1 over vegetated canopies, noting that it has a substantial coarse fraction especially in warm seasons, and is likely < 0.1 cm s^{-1} over smooth surfaces. With the exception of fluxes measured at the high elevation Niwot Ridge site (Rattray and Sievering, 2001), the V_d summarized in Table 1 are generally consistent with this range. Coastal environments, where deposition of coarse mode NO_3^- may contribute more significantly to the Nr deposition budget than fine mode NO_3^- at inland sites, represent an important geographical data gap where flux measurements are needed. As previously noted, additional observations of $NO_3^$ flux, coincident with $HNO₃$ and $NH₃$ fluxes, are needed to better understand potential sources of uncertainty in measured canopy-scale fluxes resulting from gas-particle interconversion within the $NH_4NO_3 + HNO_3 + NH_3$ system (i.e. flux divergence). Gordon et al. (2011) note flux divergence as a possible explanation for the observed NO_3^- fluxes from the canopy to atmosphere in their study at Borden Forest.

Reduced inorganic N—Reduced inorganic N (NHx = gaseous NH₃ and particulate NH_4^+) in the atmosphere primarily originates from agricultural sources of NH_3 , including animal manure and fertilized soil (Reis et al., 2009). In contrast to oxidized N emissions, $NH₃$ emissions are not regulated in the U.S. $NH₄⁺$ aerosol is, however, relevant to the U.S. primary NAAQS as a component of $PM_{2.5}$. As illustrated in Figure 1, deposition of gaseous $NH₃$ is an important contributor to the continental scale Nr deposition budget (32.2% of dry N). Furthermore, the relative contribution of reduced forms of N to the atmospheric inorganic N budget is increasing over time as NO_x emissions continue to decline (Li et al., 2016). Li et al. (2016) show that reduced N now dominates the inorganic Nr deposition budget in many areas of the U.S., with the contribution of $NH₃$ dry deposition alone varying regionally from 19% (Northwest) to 63% (Southwest). Thus, knowledge of the role of $NH₃$ and NH_4^+ in Nr deposition budgets is becoming more important for understanding ecological impacts and for developing approaches to maintain or reduce deposition rates below critical N loads in North American ecosystems (Pardo et al., 2011; Ellis et al., 2013).

 $NH₃$ is unique to other Nr compounds in that it is exchanged bi-directionally between the atmosphere and biosphere depending on the compensation point and emission potential of the underlying surface. NH_3 may be emitted from or taken up at the leaf surface via stomatal and cuticular pathways and may emit from or deposit to soil and the overlying litter layer (see Massad et al., 2010 and Flechard et al., 2013). Bidirectional $NH₃$ air-surface exchange algorithms used in North American deposition assessments, both at the field scale (Li et al.,

2016) and within gridded CTMs (Zhang et al., 2010; Pleim et al., 2013; Bash et al., 2013; Zhu et al., 2015; Whaley et al., 2018), are largely based on parameterizations developed from European datasets (see Massad et al., 2010 and Flechard et al., 2013). Stomatal and soil exchange pathways are regulated by NH₃ emission potentials that vary by vegetation and soil type along with other aspects of ecosystem biogeochemistry. Cuticular exchange processes are affected by surface wetness and the acidity of the exchange surface, which is influenced by the vegetation itself as well as the chemical composition of material deposited to the surface (Flechard et al., 1999; Burkhardt et al., 2009; Burkhardt and Hunsch, 2013; Wentworth et al., 2016). Because these properties are to some extent ecosystem specific and dependent on atmospheric chemistry, datasets are needed to assess seasonal and annual net fluxes of $NH₃$ and to validate or revise current parameterizations for North American conditions.

While $NH₃$ fluxes in natural ecosystems generally reflect bidirectional exchange, reported V_d are in the range of 0.1 to ~ 4.0 cm s⁻¹ for semi-natural and natural terrestrial ecosystems, with highest V_d observed over coniferous forests (weighted average = 2.2 cm s⁻¹) and lower V_d over deciduous forests (weighted average = 1.1 cm s⁻¹) and grassland/heathland (weighted average = 0.9 cm s^{-1}) (Schrader and Brummer, 2014). Although bi-directional exchange models are now commonly used in CTMs, big-leaf dry deposition models (i.e., V_d) are still used for generating long-term fluxes over large spatial scales, such as the application of satellite NH_3 observations for deposition assessments (Kharol et al., 2018). Using the big-leaf deposition scheme of Zhang et al. (2003), Kharol et al. (2018) found 10th – 90th percentiles of the annual average V_d (NH₃) of 0.28 – 1.01 cm s⁻¹ over North America (Kharol et al., 2018). Where reported, average NH₃ V_d summarized in Table 1 range from \approx 1.3 to 4.0 cm s⁻¹, with higher values observed over grassland in the vicinity of a swine production facility (Phillips et al., 2004).

Fluxes of NH3 summarized in Table 1 reflect both emission and deposition in natural ecosystems, ranging in magnitude from <1.0 to >100.0 ng N m⁻² s⁻¹. The work of Langford et al. (1992) summarizes early studies of $NH₃$ fluxes at grassland (Pawnee grasslands, northeast Colorado) and forest sites (Walker Branch, Oak Ridge, Tennessee) measured using batch collection techniques in a flux gradient configuration. More recent measurements in North America have employed a range of gradient approaches using batch collection of NH³ on acid coated filters (alpine tundra, Colorado, Rattray and Sievering, 2001); NH₃ conversion to NO by heated catalyst/chemiluminescence in gradient mode (grass, North Carolina, Phillips et al., 2004) and continuously wetted denuder with online concentration measurement (Morgan-Monroe State Forest, deciduous, Indiana; Pryor et al., 2001; grass, North Carolina, Rumsey and Walker, 2016). REA has been used with batch NH₃ collection by denuder (grass, Florida, Myles et al., 2007) and by wet effluent diffusion denuder with online concentration measurement above a forest (Morgan-Monroe State Forest, Indiana, deciduous; Hansen et al., 2015). Shaw et al. (1998) report fluxes measured by EC over a grass field using a tandem mass spectrometer.

While a number of studies have been conducted in grasslands and to a lesser extent forests, coastal ecosystems and wetlands represent geographical gaps where $NH₃$ flux measurements are needed. Additionally, flux measurements are needed within and downwind of

agricultural areas to better characterize rates of $NH₃$ deposition to natural ecosystems experiencing elevated NH_3 concentrations. It is also notable that the only published datasets for North American forests (Langford et al., 1992; Pryor et al., 2001; and Hansen et al., 2015) are for mixed-hardwood ecosystems; published studies in coniferous North American forests could not be identified. From a process standpoint, additional flux datasets are needed in deciduous and coniferous forest ecosystems targeting a range of atmospheric concentrations of NH_3 and atmospheric acidity. Supporting datasets of surface wetness and biogeochemistry are also critical for interpreting fluxes within the context of surface emission potentials and cuticle chemistry.

From a technological standpoint, open-path measurement techniques suitable for EC NH₃ fluxes are advancing (Sun et al., 2015) and show promise for application to flux measurements in natural ecosystems. Open-path technology has an obvious advantage in avoiding inlet $NH₃$ effects which limit the effective response time of fast detectors such as quantum cascade (QCL), tunable diode laser (TDL), or CIMS systems in a "closed" configuration (Zöll et al., 2016; Famulari et al., 2004; Ellis et al., 2010; Sintermann et al., 2011; Ferrara et al., 2012).

Averaged over the CONUS, NH_4^+ aerosol makes a smaller contribution (5.8% of dry N) to the overall Nr deposition budget than NH₃ (Figure 1). Fluxes of NH₄⁺ aerosol summarized in Table 1 are typically $\lt -1.0$ ng N m⁻² s⁻¹. NH₄⁺ is mostly in fine particles, thus typical V_d are similar to those of fine mode NO_3^- mentioned above. Where concentrations of NH_3 are much lower than NH_4^+ , contributions of NH_3 and NH_4^+ may be similar. This pattern may be observed in locations distant from $NH₃$ sources, as was found at several rural Canadian locations (Zhang et al., 2009). As with $NO₃⁻$, the regional patterns and trends of atmospheric concentrations of NH⁴ ⁺ aerosol are relatively well characterized by national monitoring networks (e.g., CASTNET, IMPROVE, CAPMoN). However, published direct flux measurements for North American sites appear to be limited to three studies (Table 1). Rattray and Sievering (2001) employed batch collection with filter packs in a gradient configuration to measure fluxes above alpine tundra (Niwot Ridge, Colorado). Rumsey and Walker (2016) used a steam-jet aerosol collector with online ion-chromatography in gradient mode to measure fluxes over grass (Chapel Hill, North Carolina). Aerosol mass spectrometry was used to measure fluxes by EC at a single North American forest site (Blodgett Forest, California, ponderosa pine, Farmer et al., 2011; 2013). As with $NO₃⁻$, additional studies of NH₄⁺ deposition are needed to better understand potential sources of uncertainty in measured canopy scale fluxes resulting from gas-particle interconversion within the $NH_4NO_3 + HNO_3 + NH_3$ system (i.e. flux divergence).

Organic N—On a global basis, ON may contribute \sim 25% of the total N deposition in precipitation on average (Jickells et al., 2013). While both measurements (Jickells et al., 2013; Cape et al., 2011) and recent global modeling (Kanakidou et al., 2016) reflect the importance of ON to total N deposition, the composition, sources, and deposition processes for ON remain poorly characterized for all but a relatively few compounds or groups of compounds. ON comprises a wide range of gaseous and particulate forms whose sources include soil dust, biomass burning, agricultural, marine, and anthropogenic emissions. Classes of compounds include primary emissions and secondary reaction products such as

amines and amino acids, urea, nitrophenols, alkyl amides, N-heterocyclic alkaloids, and organic nitrates (Jickells et al., 2013; Cape et al., 2011). Dry deposition of ON remains poorly characterized at the global scale, though technological advances in measurement techniques suitable for flux measurements have led to an increase in dry deposition studies in recent years. Here we provide a brief summary of published measurements of dry deposition and bi-directional air-surface exchange of ON compounds for North American natural ecosystems.

Oxidized organic N—With respect to air-surface exchange, the oxidized portion of ON in the atmosphere has been studied in the context of particulate and gas phase organic nitrates. When volatile organic compounds (VOCs) are present, NQ_x can react with organic peroxy radicals ($RO₂$) to form peroxy nitrates (PNs , $RO₂NO₂$) and alkyl and multifunctional nitrates $(RONO_2)$ (Figure 2). PNs may account for 10–80% of total NO_y in high NO_x environments (Roberts, 1990; Roberts et al., 2004; Cleary et al., 2007; Murphy et al., 2006; Day et al., 2008), with PAN contributing the majority of the PN budget. PN species exist in the gas phase and are thermally unstable, with lifetimes ranging from a few hours to weeks depending on temperature. With respect to air-surface exchange, PNs are the most studied class of ON compounds in North America. Figure 1 shows that PNs may contribute $\sim 6\%$ of the total Nr dry deposition budget at the continental scale.

As summarized in Table 1, PNs are reported as speciated PAN, peroxypropionyl nitrate (PPN) and peroxymethacryloyl nitrate (MPAN), where total acyl peroxy nitrates (APN) = PAN + PPN + MPAN, or as total peroxy nitrates (Σ PN). With the exception of a single study employing the gradient method and offline analysis of bag samples (Doskey et al., 2004), fluxes are typically measured by EC using online CIMS (Turnipseed, 2006) or thermal dissociation to NO₂ followed by laser induced fluorescence (TDLIF, Farmer et al., 2008). In North America, PN fluxes have been measured over grass (Illinois, Doskey et al., 2004); loblolly pine (Duke Forest, Chapel Hill, North Carolina, Turnipseed et al., 2006); ponderosa pine (Blodgett Forest, California, Farmer et al., 2006; Wolfe et al., 2009; Min et al., 2012); and by aircraft over the southeastern U.S. (Wolfe et al., 2015). Both upward and downward fluxes have been reported, with average fluxes in Table 1 generally < 5.0 ng N m⁻² s⁻¹.

PN fluxes have been studied extensively at the Blodgett Forest and observations spanning multiple years reflect the complexities of PN air-surface exchange. Farmer et al. (2008) report a net upward flux of ΣPN from the canopy in a 2004 study, driven by production within the canopy air-space. Wolfe et al. (2009) report net deposition of PAN, PPN, and MPAN during the 2007 Biosphere Effects on Aerosols and Photochemistry Experiment (BEARPEX) experiment, with the majority of deposition attributed to stomatal uptake and vertical gradients in PAN decomposition, leaving a small residual flux attributed to "nonstomatal" uptake. Min et al. (2012) also report net deposition of APN during BEARPEX-2009, but much smaller net fluxes of ΣPN attributed to in-canopy production and emission of PN species other than APNs. Differences across years may be attributed to differences in photochemical conditions and biogenic emissions of PN precursors. Wolfe et al. (2009) estimated an overall contribution of PN to the N deposition budget at their site of 4–19%. Across PN species, Wolfe et al. (2009) report larger average mid-day deposition velocities for PPN (1.2 – 1.4 cm s⁻¹) than PAN and MPAN (0.4 – 0.6 cm s⁻¹) while

Turnipseed et al. (2006) report average mid-day deposition velocities of PPN and MPAN of $1.0 - 1.6$ cm s⁻¹ and slightly lower values for PAN (0.8 – 1.2 cm s⁻¹). Turnipseed et al. (2006) also report that approximately half of daytime deposition could be explained by stomatal uptake and that night-time fluxes tended to be larger when the canopy was wet. Theoretically parameterized V_d values for PAN, PPN and MPAN are slightly smaller than those of NO₂, which are typically in the range of $0.1 - 0.8$ cm s⁻¹ as mentioned above (Zhang et al., 2003).

Similar to studies of NO_x and HONO, which show a combination of net emission and deposition to the canopy across sites and time periods, measurements of PAN fluxes reiterate the importance of quantifying the role of in-canopy chemistry in net canopy exchange with the atmosphere, processes which are not captured in the model algorithms employed in most CTMs including CMAQ. Deciduous forests represent a notable data gap for PN fluxes where additional measurements are needed.

Alkyl and multifunctional nitrates (ANs), which can exist in the gas or particle phase, can be the dominant chemical sink for NO_x in high biogenic VOC (BVOC)/low NO_x environments (Browne and Cohen, 2012; Paulot et al., 2012; Browne et al., 2014). Recent aircraft and ground-based observations combined with Goddard Earth Observing System global CTM (GEOS-CHEM) simulations show that $25-50%$ of surface RONO₂ is contributed by gasphase isoprene nitrates, 10% from gas phase monoterpene nitrates, and $\sim 10\%$ is in the particle phase (Fisher et al., 2016). CMAQ simulations suggest that the gas phase portion of these "other" organic nitrates may contribute \sim 5% of the Nr dry deposition budget (Figure 1, "OXN_ORGN"). While understanding of the importance of ANs to the NO_x budget and the AN chemical system is expanding rapidly, the processes of AN air surface exchange are poorly known. Only four North American studies could be identified in which air-surface exchange of ANs was directly measured. In all cases, fluxes were measured by EC using TD-LIF (Farmer et al., 2006; Min et al., 2012) or CIMS (Wolfe et al., 2015; Nguyen et al., 2015). Measurements of total AN fluxes (gas + particulate) at Blodgett Forest during 2004 and 2005 showed net downward fluxes to the canopy, with a median V_d of 2.1 cm s⁻¹ (Table 1) indicating the presence of a surface resistance when compared with the maximum V_d allowed by turbulence (Farmer et al., 2006). Total AN fluxes were generally < −2.0 ng N m $-2 s^{-1}$ (Farmer et al., 2006; Table 1).

Published measurements of speciated AN fluxes at North American sites are also few (Table 1). EC fluxes of isoprene hydroxy nitrates (ISOPN) have been measured by CIMS (Wolfe et al., 2015; Nguyen et al., 2015). Wolfe et al. (2015) report an average V_d of 1.1 cm s⁻¹ from spatially integrated aircraft flux measurements over the "isoprene volcano" region of the Ozark mountains, which agrees with the ground-based flux measurements (mean V_d of 1.5 cm s−1) of Nguyen et al. (2015, Table 1) over a mixed coniferous/deciduous forest in the southeastern U.S. (Centerville SouthEastern Aerosol Research and CHaracterization Network (SEARCH) site, Brent, Alabama). Nguyen et al. (2015, Table 1) also report CIMS EC fluxes of several other multifunctional gas phase organic nitrates, including methacrolein and methyl vinyl ketone hydroxy nitrates (MACN + MVKN), propanone nitrate (PROPNN), isoprene nitrooxy hydroperoxide (IPN), and monoterpene nitrooxy hydroperoxide (MTNP). With the exception of MTNP, average deposition velocities of these compounds are similar

over the approximately 4-week period of study, ranging from 1.3 to 1.7 cm s⁻¹. The V_d for MTNP was lower, averaging 0.8 cm s⁻¹. All species deposited more slowly than allowable by purely turbulent exchange, indicating the presence of a surface resistance. These measurement-based V_d values are either not significantly different from or slightly higher than the theoretical values (Zhang et al., 2003), keeping in mind that existing dry deposition schemes could have large uncertainties even for well-studied species (Flechard et al., 2011). Fluxes of speciated ANs summarized in Table 1 are generally $\lt -1.0$ ng N m⁻² s⁻¹.

Reduced forms of organic N—While measurements of rainfall composition suggest that reduced N compounds may cumulatively make a significant contribution to the atmospheric ON budget (Neff et al., 2002; Altieri et al., 2012), the processes by which reduced ON compounds dry deposit are largely unknown. This component of the dry deposition budget is not represented in the budget shown in Figure 1. Fluxes of hydrogen cyanide (HCN) measured by Nguyen et al. (2015) are the only published dry deposition data for reduced ON compounds that could be identified in the literature for North America. HCN is of interest as a tracer for biomass burning (Rinsland et al., 1999). Nguyen et al. (2015) report a low average $V_d = 0.3$ cm s⁻¹ (flux < -0.5 ng N m⁻² s⁻¹) over a mixed coniferous/deciduous forest (Brent, Alabama) during summer, likely resulting from low solubility and reactivity at the leaf surface. Measurements of air-surface exchange of other gas phase reduced ON compounds, such as amino acids, aliphatic amines, and N containing nitroso compounds in North America could not be identified.

Future research

The data and knowledge gaps summarized above motivate research needed to address the incompleteness of dry deposition budgets, more fully characterize temporal and geographical variability of fluxes, and better understand air-surface exchange processes to improve models used for deposition assessments.

Completeness of deposition budgets –

Model deposition budgets used for critical loads assessments do not include the full contribution of ON forms. Global measurements (Jickells et al., 2013) suggest that omission of the water soluble ON fraction may result in a low bias of the wet N deposition budget by 25% on average; total contribution of ON to the dry deposition fraction is unknown. In the near term, PM measurements conducted by CASTNET and CAPMoN could be expanded to include an analysis of total water-soluble N, which would allow for estimation of bulk ON in PM after subtraction of the inorganic components ($NO₃⁻$ and $NH₄⁺$). Measurement of bulk water soluble ON in PM in a routine monitoring mode would represent a large step forward in understanding the contribution of ON to dry deposition in PM and its spatial and temporal patterns.

For dry deposition of gas phase reduced ON species, techniques which allow for direct measurement of the total reduced N flux (Brϋmmer et al., 2013) represent an important first step in accounting for this component of the dry deposition budget and could be implemented in the near term. For oxidized ON, application of bulk alkyl and peroxy nitrate converter methods (Farmer et al., 2006) to chemiluminescence detection for EC fluxes

should be explored. Separation of aerosol and gas phase contributions to the total oxidized ON flux using coincident online aerosol and gas phase mass spectrometry methods should be a long-term goal. Following advances in measurements of oxidized ON forms (Nguyen et al., 2015), application of online mass spectrometry techniques to quantify speciated fluxes of amines and amides (You et al., 2014; Yao et al., 2016) may also be possible in the short term.

While direct measurements of dry deposition are critically needed, a combination of measurements and inferential modeling may be a useful first step in complementing current monitoring networks for missing ON species. For example, some dry algorithms may be developed for the missing flux fractions by conducting scoping studies in which concentrations of ON species are measured, along with micrometeorology and canopy characteristics, over representative seasons and locations (e.g., Zhang et al., 2009; Flechard et al., 2011) and/or by modeling studies (such as using CMAQ for simulating more N species). Considering the large uncertainties in estimating fluxes of the monitored N species, such an approach may be worthwhile for the missing N species in the short-term.

Temporal and geographical variability of fluxes –

With exception of the work of Munger et al. (1996) at Harvard Forest, most air-surface exchange data sets span periods of a few weeks to months, failing to capture the range of atmospheric, biogeochemical, and phenological conditions that drive annual scale fluxes. For this reason, establishment of long-term sites for process level measurements of reactive chemical fluxes should be viewed as a high priority long-term endeavor of the atmospheric chemistry and ecological communities. Because the expense of process-level measurements makes the establishment of a large number of sites unfeasible, use of low-cost approaches for direct flux measurements, such as the Conditional Time-Averaged Gradient (COTAG) technique (Famulari et al., 2010), should be considered. Such techniques could potentially be deployed in a routine monitoring mode within existing infrastructure (e.g., CASTNET, NADP, Ameriflux) to quantify dry deposition for seasonal and annual deposition budgets at a relatively large number of sites.

Short term flux measurements also miss potentially important deposition episodes. For example, large enhancements of Nr compounds have been observed in smoke plumes (Benedict et al., 2017; Prenni et al., 2014; Geddes et al., 2014). While these observations demonstrate that smoke plumes represent a significant source of site-specific temporal variability in atmospheric Nr, there remains a paucity of measurements sufficient to characterize the importance of biomass burning episodes to annual deposition budgets, which may be particularly important at remote sites where background Nr deposition is low. Characterization of Nr deposition associated with smoke plumes is a high priority but likely a longer-term, opportunistic effort.

With respect to Nr flux measurements in natural ecosystems, low elevation forests and grasslands have been studied most extensively. However, with the exception of $HNO₃$, relatively few geographical locations have been characterized. As a general conclusion, more flux measurements are needed in forest ecosystems, particularly deciduous forests for

oxidized N and coniferous forests for NH3. Other geographical and ecosystem specific gaps are summarized below.

- **•** High elevation and alpine environments are particularly sensitive to Nr inputs (Bowman et al., 2015). Only two studies (Rattray and Sievering, 2001; Sievering et al., 2001) in high elevation (>3000 m) and alpine environments could be identified for North America (excluding the work of Lee et al. (1993) over lava at Mauna Loa, Hawaii). Such environments are challenging due to non-ideal terrain and the generally low concentrations observed in these remote areas.
- **•** Urban-to-rural gradients represent areas where deposition of oxidized Nr forms to natural ecosystems is expected to be large and poorly understood species such as $NO₂$ and HONO may make particularly important contributions. These areas are not characterized by the studies summarized in Table 1.
- Agricultural regions represent areas where NH₃ deposition is highly spatially variable. With the exception of Phillips et al. (2004), studies summarized here do not characterize NH₃ fluxes to natural ecosystems at high concentrations typical of agricultural areas. These may also be areas where reduced ON forms (e.g., aliphatic amines) may be particularly important.
- ◆ *Coastal zones* represent areas where coarse NO₃[−] aerosol and ON compounds from marine sources may be particularly important components of the dry deposition budget. Table 1 contains a single study at a coastal site (Myles et al., 2007).
- Dry deposition is the dominant pathway in *arid ecosystems*, which cover large areas of the western U.S., yet direct dry deposition measurements in these areas are lacking. Additional measurements that elucidate the processes of exchange with the soil surface are particularly needed in these ecosystems (Fenn et al., 20090; Padgett et al., 1999; 2001).

Experiments targeting these specific environments should be a long-term objective. We note, however, that this list is not comprehensive with respect to the need for direct measurements of deposition to sensitive ecosystems. For example, large areas of boreal forest are subject to deposition resulting from industrial emissions associated with extraction and processing of the Canadian oil sands (Proemse et al., 2013; Hsu et al., 2016; Makar et al., 2018).

Air-surface exchange processes –

While data are easily accessible for more routine measurements (e.g., wet deposition, air concentrations) collected within networks, direct measurements of air-surface exchange of particles and trace gases (i.e., dry deposition and bidirectional exchange) are typically conducted in intensive, shorter-term studies. These datasets are therefore often less visible and accessible to the user community. Establishment of a publicly available metadatabase for Nr flux measurements would serve the atmospheric science and ecological communities interested in better understanding the processes and drivers of land-atmosphere exchange of Nr and development of models to better simulate these processes.

Our review of existing North American flux datasets points to several data and knowledge gaps related to air-surface exchange processes that must be addressed in order to advance model algorithms. Recent studies of particulate and gas phase oxidized N fluxes (Farmer et al., 2006; Wolfe et al., 2009; Min et al., 2012; Gordon et al., 2011) in North American forest ecosystems document both emission and deposition at the canopy scale, challenging the unidirectional (i.e., deposition only) flux models employed in field scale and gridded CTMs. These studies highlight the importance of in-canopy chemical processes in regulating the net flux between the atmosphere and biosphere, which can result in net loss from the canopy. These results point to the need for studies to quantify within- and near-canopy sources and sinks of the components of the chemical system under study (e.g., NO_y or $HNO₃-NH₃-$ NH4NO3) such that models can be advanced to incorporate underlying biological, chemical, and physical processes. This is a high priority and represents a long-term effort.

Measurements to elucidate the role of surface wetness and cuticle chemistry in the "nonstomatal" canopy resistances for gas phase $HNO₃$, $NH₃$, and PNs are also seen as a high priority. Assessment of the volume and chemistry of dew (e.g., Wentworth et al., 2016) and guttation could be incorporated into flux experiments in the near term. For $NH₃$, flux measurements should also be accompanied by measurements of soil and vegetation chemistry in order to constrain the emission potentials responsible for soil and stomatal compensation points. Such measurements could also be incorporated into flux experiments in the short term.

From a technological standpoint, further development of open-path techniques for $NH₃$ flux measurements is a short-term, high priority objective. Extension of micrometeorological flux measurement techniques to complex terrain typical of Nr sensitive high-elevation environments is also a long-term objective.

Opportunities for collaboration –

This review also highlights the need for closer collaboration between the atmospheric chemistry and ecological communities with respect to advancement of Nr deposition budgets in North America. Coordinated multi-agency field studies, leveraging expertise and resources, can be a cost-effective approach to addressing the most urgent process-oriented research questions. Historically, large-scale atmospheric measurement campaigns in the U.S. have been developed and coordinated by the atmospheric chemistry community. While measurements of Nr and deposition are often components of these studies, the ecological community should engage with these efforts more directly where possible to advocate for science objectives that integrate atmospheric chemistry and ecological questions relevant to Nr deposition.

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Figure 1.

Nr deposition budget for the continental U.S. for 2015 (CMAQ V5.2.1). The top pie is the total Nr budget. Bottom pie is dry deposition only. The depositing species are categorized by wet versus dry deposition and oxidized (OXN) versus reduced (REDN) forms of nitrogen.

Figure 2.

Schematic of the NO_y system. Adapted from Seinfeld and Pandis, 1998.

Table 1.

Published datasets of Nr micrometeorological flux measurements for natural ecosystems in North America

Published datasets of Nr micrometeorological flux measurements for natural ecosystems in North America

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Atmospheric

1983 Not reported

0.68 FP Gradient

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Phase

Gas HCN

Gas

HCN

Gas INP

Gas

 $\mathbf{\hat{z}}$

Gas ISOPN

Gas

ISOPN

Gas

Gas MTNP

 \mbox{Gas}

MTNP

Sci Total Environ. Author manuscript; available in PMC 2021 January 01.

Mixed deciduous/ coniferous forest

Brent, Alabama, Brent, Alabama,
Centreville \mbox{SEARCH}^k site

MACN +MVKN

Mixed deciduous/ coniferous forest

Brent, Alabama, Brent, Alabama,
Centreville SEARCH^k site

Mixed deciduous/ coniferous forest

Brent, Alabama, Centreville $SEARCH^k site$

Brent, Alabama,

Mixed deciduous/ coniferous forest

Brent, Alabama, Brent, Alabama,
Centreville $SEARCH^k site$

 k_{site} June, 2013 $\begin{bmatrix} \text{Range from} \approx 0 & 0 \\ -0.56 & 1.3 \pm 0.6 \end{bmatrix}$ CIMS EC $\begin{bmatrix} \text{E}\text{C} \\ \text{aI., 2015} \\ \text{bI., 2015} \end{bmatrix}$ SOAS

 $1.3 + 0.6$

Range from ≈ 0 to
-0.56

June, 2013

CIMS

 \vec{k} site June, 2013 $\begin{bmatrix} \text{Range from} \approx 0 & 0 \\ -0.98 & 1.5 \pm 0.6 \end{bmatrix}$ CIMS EC $\begin{bmatrix} \text{E}{\rm C} \\ \text{B}{\rm C} \end{bmatrix}$ al., 2015 $\begin{bmatrix} \text{S} \text{OAS} \end{bmatrix}$

 $1.5 + 0.6$

Range from ≈ 0 to
-0.98

June, 2013

CIMS

 k_{site} June, 2013 $\begin{bmatrix} \text{Range from} \approx 0 & \text{to} \ 0.56 & 1.5 \pm 0.5 \end{bmatrix}$ CIMS EC $\begin{bmatrix} \text{E}\text{C} & \text{all} & \text{2015} \end{bmatrix}$ SOAS

 $1.5 + 0.5$

Range from ≈ 0 to
 -0.56

June, 2013

CIMS

 k_{site} June, 2013 $\begin{bmatrix} \text{Range from} \approx 0 & 0 \\ -0.11 & 0.8 \pm 0.4 \end{bmatrix}$ CIMS EC $\begin{bmatrix} \text{Reguven et} \\ \text{all, } 2015 \end{bmatrix}$ SOAS

 $0.8 + 0.4$

Range from ≈ 0 to
-0.11

June, 2013

CIMS

 k_{site} June, 2013 $\begin{bmatrix} \text{Fluxes range from} \text{ } \infty & 0 & 0.56. \end{bmatrix}$ 1.7±0.6 CIMS EC $\begin{bmatrix} \text{EC} & \text{Al.,} \text{2015} \\ \text{al.,} & \text{2015} \end{bmatrix}$ SOAS

 $1.7 + 0.6$

Fluxes range from $\approx 0.56.$

June, 2013

CIMS

 $SORS^f study$

Nguyen et
al., 2015

 \tilde{E}

 $SORS^f study$

Nguyen et
al., 2015

 \tilde{E}

 $SOAS$ ^{f}study

Nguyen et
al., 2015

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 $SOAS$ ^{f}study

Nguyen et
al., 2015

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 $SOAS$ ^{f}study

Nguyen et
al., 2015

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Mixed deciduous/ coniferous forest

Brent, Alabama, Brent, Alabama,
Centreville $SEARCH^k site$

 \ddot{z} **species**

a **Ecosystem Location Period Flux**

Location

Ecosystem

Period

 $b_{\text{(ng N m}^{-2})}$

through evening (≈ through evening (≈ 1.4)

between 1.3 between 1.3
and 18.0.

Vd (cm s−1

 Vd (cm s^{-1})

Analytical/ SamplingMethod *c*

Flux $\operatorname{Technique}^d$

 \tilde{E}

CIMS

 $0.3 + 0.1$

Range from ≈ 0 to
-0.28.

June, 2013

 2 Nr species

Gas PROPNN

Gas

PROPNN

Mixed deciduous/ coniferous forest

Brent, Alabama, Brent, Alabama,
Centreville $SEARCH^Ksite$

> INP: isoprene nitrooxy hydroperoxide INP: isoprene nitrooxy hydroperoxide

ISOPN: isoprene hydroxy nitrate ISOPN: isoprene hydroxy nitrate MACN+MVKN: hydroxy nitrates with carbon backbones of methacrolein and methylvinylketone MACN+MVKN: hydroxy nitrates with carbon backbones of methacrolein and methylvinylketone

MTNP: monoterpene nitrooxy hydroperoxide MTNP: monoterpene nitrooxy hydroperoxide

PROPNN: propanone or propanal nitrate PROPNN: propanone or propanal nitrate

 $b_{\rm fluxes}$

Negative fluxes indicate deposition. Concentration conversions assume 25 °C and 1 atmosphere where applicable. Negative fluxes indicate deposition. Concentration conversions assume 25 °C and 1 atmosphere where applicable.

 $c_{\rm Analytical/sampling \ methods}$ Analytical/sampling methods

AMS: aerosol mass spectrometer AMS: aerosol mass spectrometer

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