

Timber Harvest Task Force Update

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Recap of topics covered by the THTF

- Evaluating discrepancies between timber harvest acreage in CAST vs LULC data
- Improving reporting of timber harvests for the land use data
 - All states reported timber harvests for the next round of the land use!
- Improving reporting of timber harvests in the CAST land use
 - Harvested forest acreage must be reported annually (in August) or the default rate will be applied (currently 1.5%)
- Revisiting the default rate in CAST
 - Used FIA data and the land use data to evaluate the % of true forest that is harvested annually
 - **Recommendation to propose changing the default rate to 1.1% of true forest to align with watershed-wide FIA estimates**

Evaluating harvested forest loading in Phase 7

- Land use average load: The spatially-averaged and temporally-averaged nutrient loading export rate to a stream or other waterbody for a given land use (pre-BMPs). Independent of location within the watershed and physical characteristics.
- Nutrient loading factors for harvested forest were supposed to represent average increases for three years after harvest
 - Currently harvested forest reverts back to true forest after 1 year (erroneously)
 - **Recommendation is to correct this and have harvested forest loads apply for three years after harvest**

Questions for Phase 7

- Has there been significant new research that would merit revisiting the harvested forest loading rates (since 2015)?
- Have there been updates in forestry BMPs or new research (since 2009) that would merit revisiting the forest harvest BMP efficiencies?