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Preliminary review comments on *Reactive Nitrogen in the United States; An Analysis of Inputs, Flows, Consequences, and Management Option* (March 19, 2009 draft)

General comments (to be supplemented by more detailed comments by May 11th)

- Overall, the report is terrific. It is valuable because it conveys the nitrogen cycle and its implications to the general public in an easy to grasp way – a difficult job well done.
- The summary graphic, Figure 2 (Nr inputs and outputs for the US in 2002), could be enhanced by integrating information in the explanatory note that details why the budget is not complete directly into the graphic. If the 16 Tg N/yr for denitrification were added and the accumulation of nitrogen in terrestrial systems were added, the graphic would be more comprehensible and make sense in mass balance terms.
- The document frequently uses the verb "must," a word to be used carefully in science and science policy contexts. A careful examination of the entire document to ensure that the recommendations reflect exactly the committee's intentions would strengthen the report.
- The report would benefit from copy editing to ensure standard usage (commas, hyphen use and so on) throughout the document.