# Snow, Soil Frost, and Hydrologic Connectivity in Peatland Dominated Watersheds

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### Peatland methane emissions are controlled by spring water availability, independent of soil temperature.



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Feng et al. (2020) Geophysical Research Letters

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In low-relief peatland watersheds, hydrologic cascade shows the 'fillspill' dynamics that regulate the flow of snowmelt.





#### Frost dynamics are not well understood in low relief systems – but show strong correlation with spring water availability in wetland.



From Ala-aho et al. (2021)

**Forest** – How does canopy cover influence snow accumulation and melt dynamics?

1

**Forest** – How does canopy cover influence snow accumulation and melt dynamics?

2

1

**Frost** – Where does frost form in the watershed and how does it influence snowmelt processes?

**Forest** – How does canopy cover influence snow accumulation and melt dynamics?



3

**Frost** – Where does frost form in the watershed and how does it influence snowmelt processes?

**Flow** – How does snow melt and infiltration affect spring water availability in wetland watersheds?



0 80 160 320 Meters



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- 1







(1) Snow depth
and SWE
measurements
along a 150m
grid in each
watershed
(forest and
frost)





(1) Snow depth and SWE measurements along a 150m grid in each watershed (forest and frost)





80 160 320 Meters



(2) Leaf Area Index photos at each grid point to characterize canopy structure (forest and frost) (1) Snow depth
and SWE
measurements
along a 150m
grid in each
watershed
(forest and
frost)

2

320

S36

S46











(3) Installed multi-depth soil moisture and temperature sensors along two North-South transects to capture subsurface soil dynamics (*frost and flow*).

(**Result 1a: Forest)** In snow is spatially homogeneous in the deciduous watershed, coniferous watershed has more snow and > SWE in the bog compared to the lagg and uplands.



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#### (**Result 1b: Forest)** LAI is a strong control on LAI during snow accumulation and initial melt periods. $R^2 = 0.05$ Snow depth [cm] Slight trend uptick in LAI/snowpack correlation as melt season begins BOG +5.262e6 700 1.0 600 Upland 50 90 80< $R^2 = 0.23$ 500 Snow depth [cm] Easting 400 300 200 $R^2 = 0.64$ 0.0 2022-12-15 2023-01-15 2023-02-01 2023.02-15 2022-12-01 2023-01-01 Snow depth [cm] 100 464300 464400 464500 464600 464700 464800 464900 Northing LAI 5Ring

#### (**Result 2: Frost**) Snow depth and frost how inverse relationship under coniferous cover, not under deciduous cover.

S2

S6



**(Result 3: Flow)** Higher snow depths lead to higher soil moisture and temperature potentially due to midwinter melt events and insulation effects.



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Questions and queries? Mariel Jones jone3247@umn.edu

