

Point-to-point reply to reviewer #1's comments:

Review of Chen et al I am reviewing this paper as someone with quite a lot of experience of measuring bulk organic nitrogen but with much less expertise in organic matter characterisation. Overall I think this is a useful paper that demonstrates the potential importance of the organic nitrogen in this region and also provides some useful characterization of the some of the organic matter in the aerosol. The provision of data on organic carbon and nitrogen together is for me particularly useful. The wide range of data does allow some inter-component relationships to be used to suggest something about organic C and N cycling, although all the correlations may not prove a causal link. The sampling and analysis is state-of-the-art for the compounds analysed and provides a high quality and useful data set. I am happy to see it published but I would suggest a few changes before publication.

Specific comments

**Comment:** I do wonder if the title is really appropriate given how little of the organic nitrogen is characterised.

**Response:** One very important purpose of our study is to provide more information on N-containing species in aerosols in forest environments. Although the identified and quantified speciated N-containing organic compounds only contributed a small fraction of the total WSON, which is consistent with other studies, we feel our results add to the current scientific understanding of the issue and emphasizes the need to further characterize aerosol organic N composition in the atmosphere. We think the current title is appropriate considering our aim and purpose.

**Comment:** Line 69 There is now a global model of atmospheric organic nitrogen cycling that should perhaps be referenced – Kanakidou et al 2012 Global Biogeochemical Cycles doi 10.1029/2011GB004277.

**Response:** The reference by Kanakidou et al 2012 is now included in the text.

**Comment:** Line 72 To my mind the work of Altieri cited here and their more recent paper (Altieri et al 2012 ACP 12 355703571) represent the best effort to characterise the atmospheric organic nitrogen and yet neither here or later in the paper is this work discussed. It is relevant because it identifies reduced nitrogen as a dominant component of the atmospheric organic nitrogen, yet the authors here are characterising oxidised nitrogen based organic matter. The rationale for their choice of compounds is not really explained in the section line 112-125 where I might expect it to be.

**Response:** The reference by Altieri et al 2012 is now included in the Introduction section. The rationale for characterizing oxidized organic nitrogen is based on the possible sources of organic aerosols in a remote forest site. Emissions of the most abundant biogenic precursors, including isoprene, monoterpenes and sesquiterpenes, from the forest are expected to favor the formation of oxidized low volatility compounds to nucleate or condense on to the particle phase. Also, the possibility of wildfires, which are believed to be a significant contributor to atmospheric OM loadings, is considered a potential source to our remote forest site.

**Comment:** Line 140 The site map needs to be in the main text not the supplementary material.

**Response:** The site map is showing the relative location of the sampling site as well as the whole research forest lab to the nearby roads and towns. Although it is providing useful information to understand the sources of the pollutants, we do not think the standalone site map will provide as much important information as other results figures and tables in the main text. We prefer to keep it in the supplemental section.

**Comment:** Line 145-148 Given their importance from the results at this site, the authors might want to comment on ammonia sources.

**Response:** A brief description of local emission sources is provided at Line 141 “Typical rural development is present to the east of the site, consisting of houses and small scale farming for hay and crop production including some scattered cow and horse pastures, which are small local ammonia emission sources.” And also at Line 338 “Nitrogen component contributions to WSTN are presented in Figure 1a, which shows  $\text{NH}_4^+$  as the most abundant component, contributing  $85 \pm 11\%$  w/w to total WSTN mass. Typical  $\text{NH}_4^+$  concentrations at the site were below  $1.0 \mu\text{g}/\text{m}^3$  (with an average of  $0.32 \mu\text{g}/\text{m}^3$ ), which is expected for such a remote site with no major local and regional ammonia sources.”

**Comment:** Line 151 – how many samples in total? I guess about 60 but it does help to know when looking at the statistical work.

**Response:** The total number of samples collected is 58. This information is provided on line 156 in the main text.

**Comment:** Line 151-3 Gonzalez-Benitez discussed the issue of semi-volatile organic nitrogen and it may be useful to at least note this, although it is very hard for most of us to sample for this.

**Response:** The following sentence is added to the text regarding difficulty in sampling for semi-volatile organic nitrogen: “Under some conditions, the 24hr integrated filter sampling technique may not fully retain all semi-volatile organic nitrogen compounds (Gonzalez Benitez et al., 2009).”

**Comment:** Line 221 I think “less than” should be “better than” if I understand the point

**Response:** “less than” is changed to “better than”.

**Comment:** Section 2.4 Please explain what the PMF is being used to investigate. The section here is a detailed description of the mathematical manipulations but it does not explain anything about the process to the non specialist.

**Response:** The purpose and basic details of the PMF analysis are stated in the text as “Positive Matrix Factorization (PMF) was used to identify potential sources of compounds measured at Coweeta. Briefly, PMF resolves factor profiles and contributions from a series of PM compositional data with an uncertainty-weighted least-squares fitting approach. ”

**Comment:** Line 317-8 How does how ozone consumption lead to a seasonal maximum?

**Response:** The sentence is revised as “In addition, a spring maximum [O<sub>3</sub>] may be due to higher chemical consumption of O<sub>3</sub> by reactive monoterpenes and sesquiterpene emitted in the forest during summer.”

**Comment:** Line 337-340 For a wider audience I would suggest it is worth noting this %organic N is consistent with other data from the world beyond the USA.

**Response:** The following sentence is added “Moreover, the observed WSON contribution to WSTN in particles at Coweetais consistent with a global estimated range of 10-39% (Cape et al., 2011).”

**Comment:** Line 342-344 The claimed seasonal cycle looks very small to me from the graphs.

**Response:** The differences of OC during spring and summer compared to fall are discernible, but do not reflect a dramatic seasonal cycle..

**Comment:** Line 349-352. The correlations are presented for each season, and that is OK although with only about 20 samples and so many variables I wonder about the statistical validity of the approach. I would therefore suggest that the equivalent correlation for the whole data set should also be presented. The observation of the correlation of WSON and WSOC is interesting and there is rather limited such data valuable. I also note a much stronger correlation of WSON and NH<sub>4</sub> than NO<sub>3</sub>. This is consistent with other data (see Cape et al 2011 cited) and points along with the Altieri work above, to a key role for reduced nitrogen in WSON formation.

**Response:** The correlations for the entire dataset are now included in Table 2. We appreciate the comment regarding “a much stronger correlation of WSON and NH<sub>4</sub> than NO<sub>3</sub>”. The following statement is now included at line 368 “It is also noted that a stronger correlation of WSON with NH<sub>4</sub><sup>+</sup> than with NO<sub>3</sub><sup>-</sup> was observed, which might suggest a key role of reduced nitrogen in WSON formation (Cape et al., 2011; Jickells et al., 2013)”.

**Comment:** Line 359 “source contributions” of what? presumably WSON and C

**Response:** Yes. The sentence is revised as “However, the weak WSON-WSOC correlation suggests a variety of source contributions to WSON and WSOC over the different seasons.”

**Comment:** Line 374-7 We have all had problems such as described here, but is it really useful to include the samples collected when local burning impacted the sampler? This is particularly relevant because throughout much of the paper the authors show they can only characterise a few percent of the WSON. Then suddenly on line 508 they say they can characterize 28% which would be very impressive but I think this is for these local burning episodes and so by including this high percentage the authors may mislead readers into thinking as a community we are beginning to be able to characterise quite a lot of the WSON. This is also relevant to line 587 and the abstract. As the authors note in line 552 they and the rest of us have yet to be able to characterise very much of this material

**Response:** Yes, the particular sample characterized as 28% of WSON was impacted by local biomass burning. We agree that this was a special event and not typical of the other samples. However, we think it is relevant to be included as an example of the impact of local burning (i.e., “fresh” smoke). In order to avoid misleading the readers, we have revised the statement regarding this 28% characterized WSON: “On average, identified nitro-aromatic and nitrooxy-organosulfate compounds accounted for a small fraction of WSON, ranging from ~ 1% in spring

to ~ 4% in fall, though were observed to contribute as much as 28% w/w of WSON in individual samples which were impacted by local biomass burning.”

**Comment:** Line 434-5 Given how small a percentage of WSON appears to be made up of N containing organosulphate compounds, I’m not sure its correct to make the statement “which reflected: : : to WSON” here.

**Response:** The emphasis of this statement is the importance of nitrogen containing organosulfate in summer to WSON relative to the other seasons based on the significant correlations observed. The statement is now revised to “Organosulfates exhibited statistically significant correlations with WSON only in the summer ( $r=0.64$ ,  $p<0.01$ ), which reflected the importance of N containing organosulfates or their formation chemistry to WSON during summer compared to the other seasons.”

**Comment:** Line 440 group of ORGANIC compounds Line 447 is 6-9% (which is what I think your report) really “a substantial proportion”?

**Response:** Composition of atmospheric particulate OM is expected to be complex and could comprise hundreds and thousands of individual compounds. A single class of compounds with a particular functional group which contributes up to ~10% of overall OM loading is substantial considering the complexity and numbers of potential component groups.

**Comment:** Line 446-453 Here and elsewhere I think the authors need to be careful about interpreting correlations as showing causal links.

**Response:** We agree and appreciate the comment.

**Comment:** Line 562-565 I think the authors conclusions are valid for the material they have characterised, but that does not necessarily mean that all of the organic aerosol has been similarly aged.

**Response:** Thanks for the comment. We agree. The biogenic SOA tracers are most likely to reflect aging of the SOA portion of the organic aerosols, which was the intent of our statement in the text: “Warm periods in spring and summer exhibited highest production of terpenoic acids, when SOA correspondingly showed a higher degree of aging.”

**Comment:** Line 581-3 I do not understand what the sentence starting “PMF analysis” means. I am not really sure that figure 5 and 6 add much to manuscript

**Response:** One important piece of information the PMF analysis adds to the study is the contribution of resolved WSON containing OM contributed 20% to WSOC, demonstrating a significant portion of OC is nitrogenated in PM<sub>2.5</sub> at our study site. While our speciated analysis only identified a small fraction of the nitrogenated OC, there is definitely a need to conduct more in depth research to unveil a complete picture of organic N composition. We feel the results of the PMF analysis shown in Figures 5 and 6 provide useful information to readers.

Point to point reply to reviewer #2's comments:

This paper presents the analytical results of water-soluble organic nitrogen (WSON) for both bulk and related molecular compounds in PM 2.5 filter samples collected at a remote montane forest site in the U.S. The authors present the season variation of WSON and related organic molecular compounds to characterize aerosol WSON and investigate its possible sources. Combination of bulk WSON and molecular tracer compounds related to WSON and WSOC obtained in the forest environment provides new insights into our understanding on aerosol WSON particularly from terrestrial biogenic sources. While the data presented are valuable, there are some important issues that need to be worked out and clarified before I recommend its publication in ACP.

Specific comments

**Comment (1)** One of my concern is on the interpretation for the positive correlation between biogenic SOA tracers and ambient temperature (Lines 470-476, 562-565). The authors conclude that such a relationship indicates temperature dependence of "oxidation." It may be true to some extents, but how about the temperature dependence of VOC emissions? Most of terpenes generally show temperature dependence of emission, which can also explain the correlation shown in this manuscript.

**Response:** The positive correlation referred to here is not between the abundance of the biogenic SOA tracers with temperature, rather we are using the relative abundance (concentration ratios) with temperature instead. It is stated in the text "To assess the extent of aging, concentration ratios of higher generation oxidation products (C<sub>8</sub>H<sub>12</sub>O<sub>6</sub>, m/z 203 and C<sub>8</sub>H<sub>12</sub>O<sub>5</sub>, m/z 187) to early oxidation fresh SOA products (C<sub>8</sub>H<sub>12</sub>O<sub>4</sub>, m/z 171 and C<sub>10</sub>H<sub>16</sub>O<sub>6</sub>, m/z 231) are calculated." We do agree that most terpene emissions are temperature dependent, but we think the relative abundance of higher generation products to early oxidation products probably will cancel out such effects.

**Comment (2)** The authors use the term "aged biogenic SOA" (e.g., Lines. 560-565 and others) in the text. Please add more discussion about specific time scale on this aging (hours, days?). This should be discussed relative to the time scale of transport (e.g., vertical mixing within the forest canopy or between the canopy and the above atmosphere, horizontal transport, etc.).

**Response:** Under atmospherically relevant conditions, the lifetime of  $\alpha$ -pinene SOA was reported as several days (4-7days) as a result of heterogeneous and condensed phase oxidation processes (Epstein et al., 2014). In addition, the precipitation frequency during spring and summer at the Coweeta site was quite high (as in days) and we think the aged biogenic SOA probably had a time scale of aging of days before scavenged by the precipitation. Figure 1C also shows such scavenging effect after precipitation on WSOC (a drop in WSOC right after precipitation occasions). A brief discussion on this topic is now added to the text at Line 495 "Based on typical chemical lifetime of biogenic SOA by OH oxidation and the precipitation frequency at the Coweeta site, biogenic SOA at Coweeta probably had an atmospheric lifetime of several days before depletion by oxidation processes (Epstein et al., 2014) and/or scavenging by precipitation."

**Comment (3)** Nitro-aromatics: In section 3.3., the authors conclude that the contribution of nitroaromatics to WSON was generally "small," whereas they state potential importance

of nitro-aromatics to the atmospheric N deposition budget (L.507-509) in section 3.6. These statements do not seem to be consistent and confusing.

**Response:** L507-509 “Nitro-aromatics and nitrooxy-organosulfates were estimated to account for as much as 28% of WSON, which reflected the abundance and potential importance of these groups of species to the atmospheric N deposition budget.” Here we are referring to the contribution of Nitro-aromatics and nitrooxy-organosulfates combined to N deposition budget, not nitro-aromatics alone. The sentence is now revised to “Nitro-aromatics and nitrooxy-organosulfates combined were estimated to account for as much as 28% of WSON, which reflected the abundance and potential importance of these groups of species to the atmospheric N deposition budget.”

**Comment (4)** Lines 383-384: If the event cannot be attributed to local burning, then what is the most likely origin (source location)? “Long range transport” is not enough to explain the source of the observed particles in this event.

**Response:** The following analysis and discussion is now included at line 398: Clustering of backward trajectories (120hr duration for individual trajectories; 48 total trajectories covering the two-day event) suggests that northeast Georgia (shown in supplemental information Figure S5) is the most likely origin of the biomass burning event observed on October 24<sup>th</sup> and 25<sup>th</sup>.

**Comment (5)** Section 2.3: The authors should describe the measurement uncertainties for each analysis. This is particularly important for the analysis of WSON, whose measurement uncertainty includes propagation of errors of WSTN, NO<sub>3</sub><sup>-</sup>, NH<sub>4</sub><sup>+</sup>, : : .

**Response:** Yes, the measurement uncertainty of WSON includes propagation of errors of WSTN, NO<sub>3</sub><sup>-</sup>, NH<sub>4</sub><sup>+</sup> and NO<sub>2</sub><sup>-</sup>. We have included the estimated measurement uncertainties in the text at Line 332: “The measurement uncertainty of WSON was estimated to be ~ 30% from error propagation of WSTN (2%), NH<sub>4</sub><sup>+</sup> (1%), NO<sub>3</sub><sup>-</sup> (1%) and NO<sub>2</sub><sup>-</sup> (1%).”

**Comment (6)** Figure 6: I think that the author should show time series of integrated factor contributions vs. the measured WSOC concentrations to show how well the PMF reproduced the measurements. Then the authors should show fractional contribution of each factor to WSOC in the time series as they discuss it in the text.

**Response:** A linear regression plot for integrated factor contributions with measured WSOC is now included in the supplemental information as Figure S6. Linear regression coefficients are also provided in the figure. In Figure 6, the mean fractional contributions of each factor to WSOC are now included.

**Comment (7)** The authors use the term “N/C ratio” in the manuscript: Lines 42,43, 517, 524, 592,and 593. Should this term be “(WS)ON/OC ratio?” “N/C” includes inorganic N and elemental C.

**Response:** Yes, we are referring to WSON/WSOC ratio. We have revised the term “N/C ratio” throughout the manuscript to “WSON/WSOC ratio”.

**Comment (8)** Lines 522-525: The identified-ON/WSON ratios also show a seasonal difference (Table 4). Can the authors add a few more statement on this difference in terms of unidentified compounds?

**Response:** The following discussion is included in the text regarding seasonal differences observed for identified-ON/WSON: “Moreover, identified ON/WSON ratio was estimated to be 1.0, 2.0 and 4.4 for spring, summer and fall, respectively. Such differences further suggest much more unidentified WSON compounds exist in spring when organic N was most enriched from biological processes.”

Minor comments

**Comment (9)** Abstract: The authors should specify that the sampled aerosols are PM2.5.

**Response:** Yes, PM2.5 is specified now in the abstract on line 24.

**Comment (10)** L.312: Please define “[O3]” here.

**Response:** [O3] definition is added as ozone concentration.

**Comment (11)** L.394: Correct “extreme” to “extremely.”

**Response:** “extreme” is changed to “extremely”.

1 **Characterization of organic nitrogen in aerosols at a forest site in**  
2 **the southern Appalachian Mountains**

3  
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22  
23 **Abstract**

24 This study investigates the composition of organic particulate matter in PM<sub>2.5</sub> in a remote  
25 montane forest in the southeastern U.S., focusing on the role of organic nitrogen (N) in sulfur-  
26 containing secondary organic aerosol (nitrooxy-organosulfates) and aerosols associated with  
27 biomass burning (nitro-aromatics). Bulk water soluble organic N (WSO<sub>N</sub>) represented ~ 14%  
28 w/w of water soluble total N (WSTN) in PM<sub>2.5</sub>, on average, across seasonal measurement  
29 campaigns conducted in the spring, summer, and fall of 2015. Largest contributions of WSO<sub>N</sub> to  
30 WSTN were observed in spring (~ 18% w/w) and lowest in the fall (~10% w/w). On average,  
31 identified nitro-aromatic and nitrooxy-organosulfate compounds accounted for a small fraction  
32 of WSO<sub>N</sub>, ranging from ~ 1% in spring to ~ 4% in fall, though were observed to contribute as  
33 much as 28% w/w of WSO<sub>N</sub> in individual samples which were impacted by local biomass  
34 burning. Highest concentrations of oxidized organic N species occurred during summer (average  
35 of 0.65ngN/m<sup>3</sup>) along with a greater relative abundance of higher generation oxygenated

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36 terpenoic acids, indicating an association with more aged aerosol. Highest concentrations of  
37 nitro-aromatics (eg. nitrocatechol and methyl-nitrocatechol), levoglucosan, and aged SOA tracers  
38 were observed during fall, associated with aged biomass burning plumes. Nighttime nitrate  
39 radical chemistry is the most likely formation pathway for nitrooxy-organosulfates observed at  
40 this low NO<sub>x</sub> site (generally <1ppb). Isoprene derived organosulfate (MW216, 2-methyltetrol  
41 derived), which is formed from isoprene epoxydiols (IEPOX) under low NO<sub>x</sub> conditions, was  
42 the most abundant individual organosulfate. Concentration weighted average WSON/WSOC  
43 ratios for nitro-aromatics + organosulfates + terpenoic acids were one order of magnitude lower  
44 than the overall aerosol WSON/WSOC ratio, indicating the presence of other uncharacterized  
45 higher N content species. Although nitrooxy-organosulfates and nitro-aromatics contributed a  
46 small fraction of WSON, our results provide new insight into the atmospheric formation  
47 processes and sources of these largely uncharacterized components of atmospheric organic N,  
48 which also helps to advance the atmospheric models to better understand the chemistry and  
49 deposition of reactive N.

50

## 51 **1. Introduction**

52

53 There is extensive evidence showing that boreal and temperate forests are affected by  
54 anthropogenic activities, both industrial and agricultural. Such activity results in unprecedented  
55 quantities of reactive nitrogen (N) being released into the atmosphere, subsequently altering  
56 global nitrogen and carbon (C) biogeochemical cycles (Bragazza et al., 2006; Doney et al., 2007;  
57 Ollinger et al., 2002; Magnani et al., 2007; Neff et al., 2002a,b; Pregitzer et al., 2008). Nitrogen  
58 enters natural ecosystems through atmospheric deposition and biological fixation, and is mainly  
59 lost through leaching and gaseous fluxes back to the atmosphere (Hungate et al., 2003).

60 Atmospheric deposition of N to terrestrial ecosystems may lead to soil and aquatic acidification,  
61 nutrient imbalance and enrichment, plant damage and microbial community changes as well as  
62 loss of biodiversity (Bobbink et al., 1998; Magnani et al., 2007; Lohse et al, 2008; Simkin et al.,  
63 2016).

64 In the United States, deposition of atmospheric pollutants including N is monitored by  
65 the National Atmospheric Deposition Program (NADP) and EPA's Clean Air Status and Trends  
66 Network (CASNET). However, these networks focus only on inorganic N species (eg.  
67 NH<sub>3</sub>/NH<sub>4</sub><sup>+</sup> and HNO<sub>3</sub>/NO<sub>3</sub><sup>-</sup>). Recent studies shed light on the importance of organic N

68 deposition, which is not routinely measured in national networks. On a global basis, organic N  
69 may contribute ~ 25 percent of the total N deposition (Gonzalez Benitez et al., 2009; Jickells et  
70 al., 2013; [Kanakidou et al., 2012](#); Keene et al., 2002; Neff et al., 2002a; Zhang et al., 2012).  
71 Although ubiquitous, widespread routine monitoring of organic N in the atmosphere is inhibited  
72 due to difficulties in sampling (Walker et al, 2012) and inability to fully speciate the wide range  
73 of constituents that make up this large pool of atmospheric N (Altieri et al., 2009, [2012](#); Cape et  
74 al., 2011; Neff et al., 2002a; Samy et al., 2013). For these reasons, understanding of the sources,  
75 atmospheric chemistry, and deposition of organic nitrogen remains limited.

76 Atmospheric N from biogenic and anthropogenic emissions sources undergoes complex  
77 transformation processes and photochemical reactions. Consequently, apportionment of  
78 atmospheric organic N to potential sources is challenging. However, such information is required  
79 to advance atmospheric N models applied to better understand the global N cycle. For example,  
80 Miyazaki et al. (2014) examined aerosols collected in a deciduous forest and found in the  
81 summer that water soluble organic N (WSO<sub>N</sub>) correlated positively to biogenic hydrocarbon  
82 oxidation; and during fall WSO<sub>N</sub> in the coarse particle fraction was associated with primary  
83 biological emissions (e.g. emitted from soil, vegetation, pollen and bacteria). Such patterns  
84 underscore that atmospheric organic N measured in forested landscapes originates from a variety  
85 of sources that contribute differently across seasons.

86 Recent advancements have been made in speciation of organic N in aerosol for some  
87 groups of compounds including amines, amino acids and other nitrogenated functional groups  
88 such as organonitrates (Day et al., 2010; Place et al., 2017; Samy et al., 2013). Organic N in  
89 secondary aerosol and aerosols associated with biomass burning sources are areas of increasing  
90 interest, from both atmospheric chemistry and ecosystem exposure perspectives, where more  
91 information is needed. Studies of secondary organic aerosols (SOA) have identified a variety of  
92 nitrated organosulfate compounds (e.g. nitrooxy-organosulfates) in both chamber and ambient  
93 aerosol samples following isoprene and monoterpenes oxidation. These compounds are either  
94 produced under high NO<sub>x</sub> conditions or from nighttime NO<sub>3</sub> radical chemistry (Surratt et al.,  
95 2006, 2007, 2008, 2010; Darer et al., 2011; Lin et al., 2013a; He et al., 2014; Worton et al.,  
96 2013). Potential SOA precursors such as unsaturated green leaf volatiles (GLVs) released by  
97 wounded plants (e.g. crop harvesting and insect attacks) may contribute substantially to the  
98 budget of biogenic SOA formation especially in remote forests (Gomez-Gonzalez et al., 2008;

99 Hamilton et al., 2013; Shalamzari et al., 2016). The detection of reaction products such as  
100 organosulfates and nitrooxy-organosulfates in ambient aerosols provides strong evidence of  
101 influence from anthropogenic sources (e.g. SO<sub>2</sub> and NO<sub>x</sub>) interacting with biogenic precursors to  
102 form nitrogenated SOA (Chan et al., 2010; Lin et al., 2013a; Meade et al., 2016).

103 In addition to being present in sulfur-containing SOA, organic nitrogen, specifically  
104 nitro-aromatic compounds (e.g. nitrophenols and nitrocatechols), have been characterized as  
105 chemical tracers from biomass burning (e.g. wildland and prescribed smoke, bushfires,  
106 residential wood burning). This is in addition to levoglucosan, a widely used tracer of biomass  
107 burning (Iinuma et al., 2010, 2016; Kahnt et al., 2013; Kitanovski et al., 2012; Gaston et al.,  
108 2016). These nitrated compounds can form during pyrolysis of plant biopolymers such as  
109 cellulose. Furthermore, as combustion byproducts, these compounds are often defined as brown  
110 carbon (BrC) and thus potentially light absorbing (Mohr et al., 2013; Liu et al., 2015).  
111 Presumably, nitro-aromatics could constitute a substantial portion of atmospheric organic N in  
112 aerosols collected in regions affected by biomass burning.

113 This study investigates the composition of organic particulate matter in a remote montane  
114 forest in the southeastern U.S., focusing on the role of organic N in sulfur-containing SOA and  
115 aerosols associated with biomass burning. Measurements target four groups of compounds: 1)  
116 nitro-aromatics associated with biomass burning; 2) organosulfates and nitrooxy-organosulfates  
117 produced from biogenic SOA precursors (i.e., isoprene, monoterpenes and unsaturated  
118 aldehydes) interacting with anthropogenic pollutants; 3) terpenic acids formed from  
119 monoterpene oxidation; and 4) organic molecular markers including methyltetrols, C-5 alkene  
120 triols, 2-methylglyceric acid, 3-hydroxyglutaric acid and levoglucosan. Terpenic acids and  
121 organic markers are included to assist in characterizing the extent of biogenic compound  
122 oxidation and atmospheric processing (i.e., aerosol aging) as well as contributions from biomass  
123 burning sources. Aerosol bulk chemical measurements are conducted to estimate total water  
124 soluble organic N and C concentrations. Characterization of seasonal patterns in concentrations  
125 of organic N species and assessment of potential sources and formation processes are  
126 emphasized.

127

## 128 **2. Experimental methods and materials**

### 129 **2.1 Sampling site and atmospheric aerosol collection**

130 The study was conducted at the U.S. Forest Service Coweeta Hydrologic Laboratory, a  
131 2185-ha experimental forest in southwestern, North Carolina, USA (35°3' N, 83°25' W) near the  
132 southern end of the Appalachian Mountain chain. The climate is classified as maritime, humid  
133 temperate, with mean monthly temperatures ranging from 3.3°C in January to 21.6°C in July  
134 (Swift et al., 1988). Elevation ranges from 675 to 1592 m with a corresponding range in annual  
135 precipitation of 1800 to 2500 mm (Swank and Crossley, 1988). The vegetation is characterized  
136 as mixed coniferous/deciduous including oak, pines, and hardwoods (Bolstad et al, 1998).  
137 Atmospheric measurements were conducted in the lowest part of the basin (686 m), collocated  
138 with long term measurements of air and precipitation chemistry conducted by CASTNET and  
139 NADP networks, respectively.

140 The sampling site is 5 km west of Otto, NC (population 2500) and Highway 23 (Figure  
141 S1, supplemental material). Land to the north, west and south of Coweeta is undeveloped forest.  
142 Typical rural development is present to the east of the site, consisting of houses and small scale  
143 farming for hay and crop production including some scattered cow and horse pastures, which are  
144 small local ammonia (NH<sub>3</sub>) emission sources. The nearest metropolitan areas include Atlanta,  
145 Georgia (175 km southwest), Chattanooga, Tennessee (175 km west), Knoxville, Tennessee (110  
146 km north/northwest), Asheville, North Carolina (100 km northeast), and Greeneville, South  
147 Carolina (100 km southeast). The location of the sampling site within the context of NO<sub>x</sub> and  
148 SO<sub>2</sub> point sources in the eastern U.S. is shown in supplemental material (Figure S2). Only minor  
149 point sources are present within ~ 100 km of the site.

150 The study period summarized here comprises three seasonal intensives conducted during  
151 the spring, summer and fall of 2015. Each campaign was conducted for approximately 3 weeks  
152 (21 May to 9 June, 6 August to 25 August, 9 October to 26 October). A high-volume Tisch TE-  
153 1000 (Tisch Environmental, Cleves, OH) dual cyclone PM<sub>2.5</sub> sampler operated at a flow rate of  
154 230 L/min was set up on the ground to collect 24 hr (started at 7am local time) integrated  
155 samples on pre-baked (550°C for 12hrs) quartz fiber (QF) filters (90mm, Pall Corporation, Port  
156 Washington, NY). Under some conditions, the 24hr integrated filter sampling technique may not  
157 fully retain all semi-volatile organic nitrogen compounds. (Gonzalez Benitez et al., 2009). Field  
158 blanks were collected the same way except being loaded in the sampler without the pump  
159 switched on. A total of 58 ambient samples and 10 field blanks were obtained. Collected filter

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167 samples were transferred back to the laboratory in a cooler and stored in a freezer at -20 °C  
168 before chemical analysis.

## 169 2.2 Trace gas and meteorological measurements

170 During the spring 2015 campaign, NO<sub>x</sub> concentrations were measured on a short tower  
171 (7 m above ground) co-located with the CASTNET and high volume PM samplers. NO<sub>x</sub>  
172 concentrations were measured using a commercial NO-NO<sub>2</sub>-NO<sub>x</sub> analyzer (model 42S, Thermo  
173 Environmental Instruments, Incorporated, Franklin, MA). Briefly, nitric oxide (NO) is measured  
174 directly on one channel by chemiluminescence. On a 2<sup>nd</sup> channel, NO<sub>2</sub> is converted to NO by a  
175 molybdenum catalyst heated to 325°C, yielding the concentration of NO<sub>x</sub> (NO + NO<sub>2</sub>). This  
176 approach may overestimate NO<sub>x</sub> since other oxidized nitrogen gases such as HNO<sub>3</sub>, PAN and  
177 HONO could also be reduced to NO on the heated molybdenum surface (Fehsenfeld et al., 1987;  
178 Williams et al., 1998; Zellweger et al., 2000). However, the use of an inlet filter and  
179 approximately 12 m of sample line between the atmospheric inlet and converter likely minimized  
180 the potential bias from HNO<sub>3</sub>. For subsequent campaigns, NO<sub>x</sub> concentrations were estimated  
181 from a co-located NO<sub>y</sub> analyzer. Similar to the NO<sub>x</sub> instrument, NO<sub>y</sub> and HNO<sub>3</sub> were also  
182 measured using a modified model 42S NO-NO<sub>2</sub>-NO<sub>x</sub> analyzer. The NO<sub>y</sub> technique is described  
183 in detail by Williams et al. (1998). Briefly, total oxidized reactive nitrogen (NO<sub>y</sub>) is converted to  
184 NO using a molybdenum catalyst heated to 325°C. On a 2<sup>nd</sup> channel, a metal denuder coated with  
185 potassium chloride (KCl) is used to remove HNO<sub>3</sub> before passing through a 2<sup>nd</sup> molybdenum  
186 converter heated to 325°C. The difference between the total NO<sub>y</sub> measurement and the HNO<sub>3</sub>-  
187 scrubbed NO<sub>y</sub> measurement is interpreted as HNO<sub>3</sub>. NO<sub>x</sub> concentrations were estimated from  
188 the differences between measured NO<sub>y</sub> and HNO<sub>3</sub>, which provided an upper bound estimation as  
189 gaseous N containing species were not excluded (eg. PAN and organic nitrates). Hourly ozone  
190 concentrations were measured by CASTNET (U.S. EPA, 2017) on a co-located 10m tower.  
191 Hourly meteorological data were provided by CASTNET (U.S. EPA, 2017) and Forest Service  
192 (Miniat et al 2015; Oishi et al., 2017), including temperature, relative humidity, solar radiation  
193 and precipitation.

194

## 195 2.3 Chemical analysis

### 196 2.3.1 Elemental and organic carbon analysis

197 A 1.5cm<sup>2</sup> QF punch was analyzed for elemental carbon (EC) and organic carbon (OC) using  
198 a thermo-optical transmittance (TOT) method (Sunset Laboratory Inc, Oregon, USA) (Birch and  
199 Cary, 1996).

### 200 2.3.2 Water soluble species by Ion Chromatography (IC) and Total Organic Carbon/Total 201 Nitrogen (TOC/TN) analyzers

202 A second QF punch (1.5cm<sup>2</sup>) from each sample was extracted with DI water (18.2  
203 MΩ-cm, Milli-Q Reference system, Millipore, Burlington, MA) in an ultrasonic bath for 45 min.  
204 The sample extract was filtered through a 0.2μm pore size PTFE membrane syringe filter (Iso-  
205 disc, Sigma Aldrich, St. Louis, MO) before subsequent analyses.

206 Water soluble organic carbon (WSOC) and total N (WSTN) concentrations were  
207 measured using a chemiluminescence method that included a total organic carbon analyzer  
208 (TOC-Vcsh) combined with a total nitrogen module (TNM-1) (Shimadzu Scientific Instruments,  
209 Columbia, MD). For WSOC measurements, 25% phosphoric acid was mixed with sample  
210 extract (resulting in a 1.5% acid mixture) and sparged for 3 min to remove any existing  
211 carbonate/bicarbonate.

212 Inorganic species (NH<sub>4</sub><sup>+</sup>, NO<sub>3</sub><sup>-</sup>, NO<sub>2</sub><sup>-</sup> and SO<sub>4</sub><sup>2-</sup>) were analyzed using ion chromatography  
213 (IC, Dionex model ICS-2100, Thermo Scientific, Waltham, MA). The IC was equipped with  
214 guard (IonPac 2mm AG23) and analytical columns (AS23) for anions. The samples were  
215 analyzed using an isocratic eluent mix carbonate/bicarbonate (4.5/0.8mM) at a flow rate of 0.25  
216 mL/min. Cations were analyzed by Dionex IonPac 2mm CG12 guard and CS12 analytical  
217 columns; separations were conducted using 20mM methanesulfonic acid (MSA) as eluent at a  
218 flow rate of 0.25mL/min. Multi-point (≥5) calibration was conducted using a mixture prepared  
219 from individual inorganic standards (Inorganic Ventures, Christiansburg, VA). A mid-level  
220 accuracy check standard was prepared from certified standards mix (AccuStandard, New Haven,  
221 CT) for quality assurance/quality control purposes.

222

### 223 2.3.3 UV-Vis light absorption analysis

224 Several studies have shown that methanol can extract aerosol OC at higher efficiencies  
225 than water, and that a large fraction of light absorption in the near-UV and visible ranges is  
226 ascribed to water insoluble OC (Chen and Bond, 2010; Liu et al., 2013; Cheng et al., 2016). In  
227 this study, a QF punch (1.5 cm<sup>2</sup>) was extracted with 5 mL methanol (HPLC grade, Thermo

228 Fisher Scientific Inc.) in a tightly closed amber vial, sonicated for 15 min, and then filtered  
229 through a 0.2  $\mu\text{m}$  pore size PTFE filter (Iso-disc, Sigma Aldrich, St. Louis, MO). The light  
230 absorption of filtered extracts was measured with a UV-Vis spectrometer over  $\lambda = 200\text{-}900\text{ nm}$  at  
231 0.2 nm resolution (V660, Jasco Incorporated, Easton MD). The wavelength accuracy is better,  
232 than  $\pm 0.3\text{ nm}$ ; the wavelength repeatability is less than  $\pm 0.05\text{ nm}$ . A reference cuvette  
233 containing methanol was used to account for solvent absorption. The UV-Vis absorption of field  
234 blank samples was negligible compared to ambient samples, but used for correction nonetheless.  
235 For ease of analysis, the absorption at 365 nm referencing to absorption at 700 nm was used as a  
236 general measure of the absorption by all aerosol chromophore components (Hecobian et al.,  
237 2010).

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#### 238 2.3.4. Analysis of isoprene and monoterpene SOA markers and anhydrosugars by GC-MS

239 Aliquots of each filter (roughly  $\frac{1}{4}$ ) were extracted by 10 mL of methanol and methylene  
240 chloride mixture (1:1, v/v) ultrasonically twice (15 minutes each). The total extract was filtered  
241 and concentrated to a final volume of  $\sim 0.5\text{ mL}$ . Next, extracts were transferred to a 2 mL glass  
242 vial and concentrated to dryness under a gentle stream of ultrapure  $\text{N}_2$  and reacted with 50  $\mu\text{L}$  of  
243 N, O-bis(trimethylsilyl)trifluoroacetamide (BSTFA) containing 1% trimethylchlorosilane  
244 (TMCS) and 10  $\mu\text{L}$  of pyridine for 3 h at 70  $^\circ\text{C}$ . After cooling down to room temperature,  
245 internal standards (mixture of 17.6  $\text{ng } \mu\text{L}^{-1}$  acenaphthalene-d10 and 18.6  $\text{ng } \mu\text{L}^{-1}$  pyrene-d4  
246 mixed in hexane) and pure hexane were added. The resulting solution was analyzed by an  
247 Agilent 6890N gas chromatograph (GC) coupled with an Agilent 5975 mass spectrometer (MS)  
248 operated in the electron ionization mode (70 eV). An aliquot of 2  $\mu\text{L}$  of each sample was injected  
249 in splitless mode. The GC separation was carried out on a DB-5 ms capillary column (30 m  $\times$   
250 0.25 mm  $\times$  0.25  $\mu\text{m}$ , Agilent Technologies, Santa Clara, CA). The GC oven temperature was  
251 programmed from 50  $^\circ\text{C}$  (hold for 2 min) to 120  $^\circ\text{C}$  at 30  $^\circ\text{C min}^{-1}$  then ramped at 6  $^\circ\text{C min}^{-1}$  to  
252 a final temperature of 300  $^\circ\text{C}$  (hold for 10 min). Linear calibration curves were derived from six  
253 dilutions of quantification standards. Anhydrosugars (levoglucosan) were quantified using  
254 authentic standard; 2-methyltetrols (2-methylthreitol and 2-methylerythritol) and C-5 alkene  
255 triols were quantified using meso-erythritol; other SOA tracers (e.g., hydroxyl dicarboxylic acid)  
256 were quantified using cis-ketopinic acid (KPA) (refer to supplemental information Table S1).  
257 The species not quantified using authentic standards were identified by the comparison of mass  
258

260 spectra to previously reported data (Claeys, et al., 2004, 2007; Surratt et al., 2006; Kleindienst et  
261 al., 2007). Field blanks were collected and no contamination was observed for identified species.

262

### 263 2.3.5. Analysis of organosulfates, terpenoic acids and nitro-aromatics by High Performance 264 Liquid Chromatography- electrospray ionization-Quadrupole time-of-flight-Mass 265 Spectrometer (HPLC-ESI(-)-QTOF-MS)

266 Approximately 3-5 mL of methanol was used to ultrasonically extract (twice for 15 min)  
267 roughly half of each 90mm QF sample. Internal standards (I.S.) were spiked onto each filter  
268 sample prior to extraction (refer to Table S2, S3 and S4 for individual compounds and surrogate  
269 standards used for each group of compounds). Extracts were filtered into a pear-shaped glass  
270 flask (50 mL) and rotary evaporated to ~0.1 mL. The concentrated extracts were then transferred  
271 into a 2 mL amber vial that was rinsed with methanol 2-3 times. The final sample extract volume  
272 was ~500  $\mu$ L prior to analysis. All the glassware used during the extraction procedure was pre-  
273 baked at 550°C overnight. Extracted samples were stored at or below -20 °C prior to analysis and  
274 typically analyzed within 7 d.

275 An HPLC coupled with a quadrupole time-of-flight mass spectrometer (1200 series LC  
276 and QTOF-MS, Model 6520, Agilent Technologies, Palo Alto, CA) was used for target  
277 compound identification and quantification. The QTOF-MS instrument was equipped with a  
278 multimode ion source operated in electrospray ionization (ESI) negative (-) mode. Optimal  
279 conditions were achieved under parameters of 2000 V capillary voltage, 140 V fragmentor  
280 voltage, 65 V skimmer voltage, 300 °C gas temperature, 5 L/min drying gas flow rate and 40  
281 psig nebulizer. The ESI-QTOF-MS was operated over the m/z range of 40 to 1000 at a 3  
282 spectra/s acquisition rate. Target compounds separation was achieved by a C18 column (2.1 $\times$ 100  
283 mm, 1.8  $\mu$ m particle size, Zorbax Eclipse Plus, Agilent Technologies) with an injection volume  
284 of 2  $\mu$ L and flow rate of 0.2 mL/min. The column temperature was kept at 40 °C, and gradient  
285 separation was conducted with 0.2% acetic acid (v:v) in water (eluent A) and methanol (eluent  
286 B). The eluent B was maintained at 25% for the first 3 min, increased to 100% in 10 min, held at  
287 100% from 10 to 32 min, and then dropped back to 25% from 32 to 37 min, with a 3 min post  
288 run time. During each sample run, reference ions were continuously monitored to provide  
289 accurate mass corrections (purine and HP-0921 acetate adduct, Agilent G1969-85001).  
290 Typically, the instrument exhibited 2 ppm mass accuracy. Tandem MS was conducted by



291 targeting ions under collision-induced dissociation (CID) to determine parent ion structures.  
292 Agilent software Mass hunter was used for data acquisition (Version B05) and for further data  
293 analysis (Qualitative and Quantitative Analysis, Version B07). The mass accuracy for compound  
294 identification and quantification was set at  $\pm 10$  ppm. Calibration curves were generated from  
295 diluted standard compound mixtures. Recoveries of the extraction and quantification were  
296 performed by spiking known amounts of standards to blank QF filters. Then the spiked blank  
297 filters were extracted and analyzed the same way as ambient collected samples. The average  
298 recoveries of standard compounds are listed in supplemental information Table S5 and ranged  
299 from  $75.2 \pm 5.6$  to  $129.4 \pm 4.2\%$ . Isomers were identified for several compounds, no further  
300 separation was conducted and combined total concentrations are reported in this study.

301

#### 302 2.4 Source apportionment by Positive Matrix Factorization

303 Positive Matrix Factorization (PMF) was used to identify potential sources of compounds  
304 measured at Coweeta. Here we use the PMF2 model (Paatero, 1998a, b) coupled with a bootstrap  
305 technique (Hemann et al., 2009), which has been applied in a number of previous studies (Xie et  
306 al., 2012, 2013, 2014.). Briefly, PMF resolves factor profiles and contributions from a series of  
307 PM compositional data with an uncertainty-weighted least-squares fitting approach; the coupled  
308 stationary bootstrap technique generates 1000 replicated data sets from the original data set and  
309 each was analyzed with PMF. Normalized factor profiles were compared between the base case  
310 solution and bootstrapped solutions, so as to generate a factor matching rate. The determination  
311 of the factor number was based on the interpretability of different PMF solutions (3-6 factors)  
312 and factor matching rate ( $>50\%$ ). Detailed data selection criteria are presented in supplemental  
313 information.

314

### 315 3. Results and discussion

#### 316 3.1 Meteorology, NO<sub>x</sub>, and O<sub>3</sub>

317 Statistics of atmospheric chemistry and meteorological measurements are summarized by  
318 season in Table 1. In general, the sampling site was humid and cool, even in the summer, with  
319 an average summer temperature of  $\sim 21^\circ\text{C}$  and RH of 82%. During the fall, much lower  
320 temperature ( $\sim 12^\circ\text{C}$ ) and less humid conditions (RH=78%) were observed. NO<sub>x</sub> concentrations

321 were generally less than 1ppb, which is considered typical for such a remote forest site removed  
322 from major emission sources.

323 [O<sub>3</sub>] (O<sub>3</sub> concentration) was generally low (Table 1) with seasonal averages of 15 ppb to  
324 25 ppb. Historical seasonal [O<sub>3</sub>] over the past 5 years (2011 to 2015) are shown in supplemental  
325 information Figure S3. A spring maximum in [O<sub>3</sub>] is typically observed at this site, with lower  
326 concentrations during summer. Seasonal clustered back trajectories (Figure S4 in supplemental  
327 information) suggest that during spring the Coweeta sampling site was under the influence from  
328 air masses transported from Atlanta urban areas. In addition, a spring maximum [O<sub>3</sub>] may be due  
329 to higher chemical consumption of O<sub>3</sub> by reactive monoterpenes and sesquiterpenes emitted in  
330 the forest during summer. With observed relatively moderate summer temperatures and  
331 generally low [NO<sub>x</sub>], the site also experiences frequent cloud cover in summer lowering the  
332 intensity of solar radiation which may suppress ozone production relative to spring conditions.  
333 Additionally, deposition of O<sub>3</sub> to the forest would be expected to peak during the summer, when  
334 leaf area is greatest. O<sub>3</sub> correlates positively with NO<sub>x</sub> in summer and fall but not spring,  
335 indicating O<sub>3</sub> production might be relatively more VOC-limited in spring than the other seasons  
336 in this region.

337

### 338 3.2 Bulk water soluble organic nitrogen and carbon

339 Water soluble bulk organic N (WSON) was estimated as the difference between WSTN  
340 and the sum of the inorganic N species (NH<sub>4</sub><sup>+</sup>, NO<sub>3</sub><sup>-</sup> and NO<sub>2</sub><sup>-</sup>). The measurement uncertainty of  
341 WSON was estimated to be ~30% from error propagation of WSTN (2%), NH<sub>4</sub><sup>+</sup> (1%), NO<sub>3</sub><sup>-</sup> (1%)  
342 and NO<sub>2</sub><sup>-</sup> (1%). Nitrogen component contributions to WSTN are presented in Figure 1a, which  
343 shows NH<sub>4</sub><sup>+</sup> as the most abundant component, contributing 85±11% w/w to total WSTN mass.  
344 Typical NH<sub>4</sub><sup>+</sup> concentrations at the site were below 1.0 μg/m<sup>3</sup> (with an average of 0.32 μg/m<sup>3</sup>),  
345 which is expected for such a remote site with no major local or regional NH<sub>3</sub> sources. The  
346 oxidized inorganic N components (NO<sub>3</sub><sup>-</sup> and NO<sub>2</sub><sup>-</sup>) accounted for less than 2% w/w of WSTN  
347 measured. Such a small contribution of NO<sub>3</sub><sup>-</sup> to inorganic N (typically <10% of inorganic N  
348 (NO<sub>3</sub><sup>-</sup>+NH<sub>4</sub><sup>+</sup>)) in PM<sub>2.5</sub> is consistent with long term CASTNET measurements at Coweeta. The  
349 average contribution of WSON to WSTN over the entire study period was 14±11% w/w. This  
350 fraction reached a maximum of ~18% w/w in the spring (average) and minimum of ~10% in the  
351 fall (average), exhibiting pronounced seasonal variability. Within individual samples (Figure 1b),

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356 values ranged from near zero to 45%. Our study wide average of 14% falls within the range of  
357 measurements at North American forest sites, including Duke Forest, North Carolina (~33%, Lin  
358 et al., 2010) and Rocky Mountain National Park (14-21%) (Benedict et al., 2012). Moreover, the  
359 observed WSON contribution to WSTN in particles at Coweeta is consistent with a global  
360 estimated range of 10-39% (Cape et al., 2011).

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361 WSOC accounted for roughly  $62 \pm 13\%$  of OC throughout the entire study period with no  
362 significant seasonal variability. A time series of OC and WSOC along with temperature and  
363 precipitation is presented in Figure 1c. On average, OC concentrations increased during warmer  
364 spring and summer seasons and decreased when the temperature decreased in fall.  
365 Concentrations of OC were positively correlated with temperature ( $r=0.30$ ,  $p<0.05$ ), presumably  
366 in response to emissions of biogenic precursors and formation of secondary organic aerosols by  
367 photooxidation. Spring and summer were generally moist and warm with frequent precipitation  
368 (relative humidity presented in Table 1). Precipitation events corresponded to decreasing OC and  
369 WSOC concentrations demonstrating the scavenging effect due to wet deposition.

370 Spearman rank correlation coefficients among measured species and meteorological  
371 variables as well as other gas phase measurements are presented in Table 2 for each season  
372 ( $p<0.01$  for values in bold). As expected,  $\text{NH}_4^+$  and  $\text{SO}_4^{2-}$  tracked well over each season ( $r>0.9$ ,  
373  $p<0.01$ ).  $\text{NH}_4^+$  was mainly associated with  $\text{SO}_4^{2-}$  given the fact that  $\text{NO}_3^-$  and  $\text{NO}_2^-$  were  
374 generally negligible compared to  $\text{SO}_4^{2-}$ . WSOC is often used as an SOA surrogate and accounts  
375 for a significant portion (62% w/w) of OC during all sampling periods. WSOC correlated  
376 strongly with OC over both summer and fall ( $r>0.95$ ,  $p<0.01$ ), but less so during spring ( $r=0.74$ ,  
377  $p<0.01$ ). WSOC also positively correlates with WSON over spring and fall ( $r>0.75$ ,  $p<0.01$ ) but  
378 less so during summer ( $r = 0.5$ ,  $p > 0.01$ ). Note that both [WSOC] and [OC] are highest in the  
379 summer, which likely indicates higher biogenic emissions and SOA formation. However, the  
380 weak WSON-WSOC correlation suggests a variety of source contributions to WSON and WSOC  
381 over the different seasons. [EC] was negligible over the entire study except a modest spike at the  
382 end of October when wood burning was the most likely the source. **It is also noted that a stronger**  
383 correlation of WSON with  $\text{NH}_4^+$  than with  $\text{NO}_3^-$  was observed, which might suggest a key role  
384 of reduced nitrogen in WSON formation (Cape et al., 2011; Jickells et al., 2013). Details of this  
385 event are discussed in the subsequent sections.

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### 392 3.3 Nitro-aromatics

393 Concentrations of nitro-aromatics, organosulfate/nitrooxy-organosulfate, and terpenoic  
394 acids are summarized in Tables 3, S2, S3 and S4. A time series of compound class totals are  
395 presented in Figure 2. Generally negligible concentrations of nitro-aromatics were observed  
396 during spring and summer except for occasional spikes. However, higher concentrations of nitro-  
397 aromatics were observed in the fall when moderate correlations were observed with levoglucosan  
398 (Figure 3,  $r \geq 0.5$ ,  $p < 0.01$ ; see table SI 6 for correlation coefficients). A residential wood burning  
399 contribution is likely given the lower temperatures observed during this season. Similar positive  
400 correlations between nitro-aromatics and wood burning are also reported during the winter  
401 season (Gaston et al., 2016; Kahnt et al., 2013; Kitanovski et al., 2012; Iinuma et al., 2010,  
402 2016). Smoke at the sampling site on October 19<sup>th</sup> and 21<sup>st</sup> coincided with firewood burning at  
403 the main office of the Coweeta Hydrologic Laboratory, immediately adjacent to the sampling  
404 location. Nitro-aromatics were relatively elevated, but no significant increase in organosulfates  
405 or terpenoic acids were found from these fresh smoke events. In contrast, an example of an aged  
406 biomass burning signal is illustrated on October 24<sup>th</sup> and 25<sup>th</sup>. Pronounced spikes of  
407 nitrocatechol( $C_6H_5NO_4$ ), methyl-nitrocatechol( $C_7H_7NO_4$ ) and levoglucosan were observed  
408 (Figure 3), along with elevated concentrations of organosulfates, OC and aged biogenic aerosol  
409 tracers (terpenoic acids  $m/z$  203 and 187 shown in Figure 4a, detailed discussion can be found in  
410 the subsequent section). However, EC was only slightly higher. This event did not correspond to  
411 local burning at Coweeta and was most likely associated with long range transport. Clustering of  
412 backward trajectories (120hr duration for individual trajectories; 48 total trajectories covering the  
413 two-day event) suggests that northeast Georgia (shown in supplemental information Figure S5) is  
414 the most likely origin of the biomass burning event observed on October 24<sup>th</sup> and 25<sup>th</sup>.

415 Nitro-aromatics correlate with EC across the seasons; both are likely emitted from  
416 biomass burning (Gaston et al., 2016; Iinuma et al., 2010; Kahnt et al., 2013; Mohr et al., 2013).  
417 Interestingly, light absorption at  $\lambda = 365\text{nm}$  is highly correlated ( $r = 0.80$ ,  $p < 0.01$ ) with nitro-  
418 aromatics in the fall when nitro-aromatic concentrations were elevated. In addition,  $NO_x$   
419 correlates inversely ( $r = -0.72$ ,  $p < 0.01$ ) with temperature in the fall. Lower fall temperatures in the  
420 region may have resulted in frequent residential wood burning, which emits  $NO_x$  and light  
421 absorbing BrC (eg. nitro-aromatics) (Liu et al., 2015; Mohr et al., 2013). Although nitro-

**Deleted:** In order to further identify possible origin of the aged biomass burning event on October 24<sup>th</sup> and 25<sup>th</sup> 2015, trajectories backwards for 120 hours (a total of 48 trajectories used covering the two-day spike event period) were clustered, which

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428 aromatics account for a minor fraction of OM, they could potentially contribute to 4% of light  
429 absorption by BrC (Mohr et al., 2013). Overall, nitro-aromatics displayed relatively weak  
430 correlation with WSON ( $r < 0.65$ ) across all seasons; the extremely low concentrations observed  
431 suggest a generally small contribution of nitro-aromatics to WSON at the sampling site, hence  
432 the lack of strong correlation.

433

#### 434 3.4 Organosulfates and nitrooxy-organosulfates

435 Organosulfate concentrations were highest in summer and lowest in fall (Table 3), contributing  
436 3.9 and 1.0 % w/w of organic matter (OM, estimated by applying an OM/OC factor of 2) mass,  
437 respectively, during these seasons. Organosulfate formation is an example of heterogeneous  
438 chemistry involving uptake of reactive precursors on acidified sulfate aerosols requiring a  
439 mixture of biogenic and anthropogenic emissions. The air masses at Coweeta are mainly from  
440 the southwest and westerly directions in spring and summer, but during fall may become more  
441 stagnant and slow moving during southwesterly conditions or shift to the northwest (see  
442 clustered back trajectories are shown in Figure S4). Because Atlanta, GA is southwest of  
443 Coweeta, southwesterly flow during spring and summer may be associated with long range  
444 transport of urban pollutants and precursors, including sulfate and sulfuric acid, leading to  
445 elevated organosulfate formation compared to fall when the prevailing wind direction changes.

446 Among all organosulfates identified, the isoprene derived organosulfate ( $m/z$  215, 2-  
447 methyltetrol derived), which is formed from isoprene derived epoxydiols (IEPOX) under low  
448 NO<sub>x</sub> conditions, was the most abundant; concentrations reached 167 ng/m<sup>3</sup> in summer. Similar  
449 high concentrations were also reported in ambient samples collected at other sites in the  
450 southeastern U.S. (Lin et al., 2013b; Worton et al., 2013). Of the six nitrooxy-organosulfates  
451 identified, isoprene derived  $m/z$  260 was most abundant, approximately 6-fold higher than  
452 monoterpene derived  $m/z$  294 nitrooxy-organosulfate.

453 A subset of possible organosulfates and nitrooxy-organosulfates produced from isoprene  
454 and monoterpene oxidation exhibit strong correlations with distinctive SOA tracers (eg. markers  
455 2-methylglyceric acid, C-5 alkene triols and methyltetrols for isoprene oxidation products; tracer  
456 3-Hydroxyglutaric acid for pinene oxidation products) (see table SI 7). Lack of correlation  
457 between nitrooxy-organosulfate  $m/z$  294 and 3-hydroxyglutaric acid may indicate a nighttime  
458 nitrate radical formation pathway rather than photochemical oxidation. Given that NO<sub>x</sub> levels at

459 the rural Coweeta sampling site were typically less than 1ppb, photo-oxidation pathways  
460 involving high [NO<sub>x</sub>] to form nitrooxy-organosulfates are not likely. Nighttime nitrate radical  
461 chemistry is the most likely formation mechanism under such conditions. In contrast to our  
462 observations, He et al. (2014) report good correlations ( $r>0.5$ ,  $p<0.01$ ) of m/z 294 with 3-  
463 hydroxyglutaric acid and higher daytime m/z 294 concentrations for summer samples collected  
464 in Pearl River Delta, China, where a seasonal average NO<sub>x</sub> level of 30 ppb was observed. The  
465 authors suggested that the dominant m/z 294 formation pathway was through daytime  
466 photochemistry rather than nighttime NO<sub>3</sub> chemistry. The extremely low NO<sub>x</sub> levels at our study  
467 site compared to that measured by He et al. may explain the opposite behavior in terms of m/z  
468 294 formation mechanisms.

469 Organosulfates exhibited statistically significant correlations with WSON only in the  
470 summer ( $r=0.64$ ,  $p<0.01$ ), which reflected the importance of N containing organosulfates or their  
471 formation chemistry to WSON during summer compared to the other seasons. During this  
472 season, nitrooxy-organosulfates accounted for ~2% of bulk WSON, on average. A strong  
473 correlation may therefore not be expected.

474

### 475 3.5 Terpenoic acids

476 Terpenoic acids, which provide insight into the extent of biogenic compound oxidation  
477 and atmospheric processing (i.e., aerosol aging), were the most abundant group of compounds  
478 relative to nitro-aromatics and organosulfates. On average, terpenoic acids accounted for 6.5 to  
479 8.7% w/w of OM in PM<sub>2.5</sub>. The warmer spring and summer periods show higher production of  
480 terpenoic acids compared to the cool and drier fall season. Higher emissions of biogenic VOC  
481 precursors as well as higher solar radiation intensities during warm seasons, which drive  
482 photochemistry, are factors contributing to observed seasonal variability.

483 The terpenoic acids correlate well with WSOC and OC (Table 2). This is expected as  
484 terpenoic acids account for a substantial portion of OM at the site. Individual acids (except  
485 compounds C<sub>7</sub>H<sub>10</sub>O<sub>4</sub> and C<sub>9</sub>H<sub>14</sub>O<sub>4</sub>) exhibit strong correlations with the pinene derived SOA  
486 tracer 3-hydroxyglutaric acid ( $r>0.75$ ,  $p<0.01$ ; correlation coefficients shown in the supplemental  
487 information Table S8), indicating the presence of  $\alpha$ -/ $\beta$ -pinene oxidation products. The poor  
488 correlations between acids C<sub>7</sub>H<sub>10</sub>O<sub>4</sub> (m/z 157) and C<sub>9</sub>H<sub>14</sub>O<sub>4</sub> (m/z 185) suggests the presence of

489 biogenic VOC precursors other than  $\alpha$ - $\beta$ -pinene, such as limonene and  $\Delta^3$ -carene (Gomez-  
490 Gonzalez et al., 2012).

491 Recent chamber studies identified several terpenic acid structures also observed in  
492 ambient aerosol samples, including 3-methyl-1,2,3-butanetricarboxylic acid (MBTCA,  $C_8H_{12}O_6$ ,  
493 m/z 203), 2-hydroxyterpenylic acid ( $C_8H_{12}O_5$ , m/z 187), terpenylic acid ( $C_8H_{12}O_4$ , m/z 171) and  
494 diaterpenylic acid acetate (DTAA,  $C_{10}H_{16}O_6$ , m/z 231) (Claeys et al., 2009; Kahnt et al., 2014).  
495 MBTCA and 2-hydroxyterpenylic acid have been identified as highly oxygenated, higher  
496 generation  $\alpha$ -pinene SOA markers, and observed in high abundance in ambient aerosols (Gomez-  
497 Gonzalez et al., 2012; Kahnt et al., 2014; Muller et al., 2012; Szmigielski et al., 2007).

498 Additionally, terpenylic acid and DTAA are characterized as early photooxidation products from  
499  $\alpha$ -pinene ozonolysis. Claeys et al. (2009) proposed further oxidation processes (aging) of  
500 terpenylic acid involving OH radical chemistry to form 2-hydroxyterpenylic acid. Figure 4  
501 provides a time series of the terpenic acids identified in this study. In general, 2-  
502 hydroxyterpenylic acid was the most abundant species across the seasons. To assess the extent of  
503 aging, concentration ratios of higher generation oxidation products ( $C_8H_{12}O_6$ , m/z 203 and  
504  $C_8H_{12}O_5$ , m/z 187) to early oxidation fresh SOA products ( $C_8H_{12}O_4$ , m/z 171 and  $C_{10}H_{16}O_6$ , m/z  
505 231) are calculated. Estimated seasonal averages of these ratios are 3.98, 4.37 and 2.44 for  
506 spring, summer and fall, respectively. Thus, during spring and summer, aerosols observed at the  
507 site were more aged. Figure 4 shows the correlation of these ratios with temperature ( $r=0.79$ ,  
508  $p<0.001$ ) and solar radiation ( $r=0.23$ ,  $p<0.1$ ). A clear relationship between temperature and OH  
509 radical initiated oxidation (aging) is evident. However, oxidation appears less dependent on solar  
510 radiation at our sampling site. Similar higher contribution of these aged biogenic SOA tracers  
511 was also reported under warm summer conditions characterized by high temperature and high  
512 solar radiation (Claeys et al., 2012; Gomez-Gonzalez et al., 2012; Hamilton et al., 2013; Kahnt et  
513 al., 2014). Based on the typical chemical lifetime of biogenic SOA by OH oxidation and the  
514 precipitation frequency at Coweeta site, biogenic SOA collected at Coweeta probably had an  
515 atmospheric lifetime of several days before depletion by oxidation processes and/or scavenging  
516 by precipitation (Epstein et al., 2014).

517 Terpenic acids may also provide some insight into the formation mechanisms of  
518 organosulfates. While organosulfate concentrations are highest during summer, correlations with  
519  $SO_4^{2-}$  are strongest during spring and fall and weakest during summer. Conversely,

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523 organosulfates and terpenoic acids correlate strongly ( $r=0.91$ ,  $p<0.01$ ) during summer.  
524 Terpenoic acids are either first or second generation oxidation products from gas phase  
525 monoterpenes; particulate  $\text{SO}_4^{2-}$  abundance should not substantially influence the gas-particle  
526 partitioning of terpenoic acids. The strong correlation between organosulfates and terpenoic  
527 acids in summer suggests organosulfate formation is limited by monoterpene emissions rather  
528 than  $\text{SO}_4^{2-}$  availability while in the spring and fall (especially fall), organosulfate production may  
529 be more limited by  $\text{SO}_4^{2-}$ . Degree of particle neutralization, calculated as the molar ratio of  $\text{NH}_4^+$   
530 to the sum of  $\text{SO}_4^{2-}$  and  $\text{NO}_3^-$ , averaged 0.94, 0.98 and 0.94 for spring, summer and fall,  
531 respectively. Neutralization being close to but less than unity implies that aerosols are slightly  
532 acidic at the site. Chamber studies have illustrated that acidified  $\text{SO}_4^{2-}$  could enhance  
533 heterogeneous reactions to form SOA from isoprene and monoterpenes (Iinuma et al., 2009;  
534 Surratt et al., 2007, 2010). Similar positive correlations observed at the Coweeta site were also  
535 found between isoprene tracers including isoprene derived organosulfates and  $\text{SO}_4^{2-}$  by Lin et al.  
536 (2013b) at a rural site in the southeastern U.S. However, in contrast to chamber experiments, this  
537 study and other ambient field measurements have not provided clear evidence of acidity  
538 enhancement of organosulfate formation (He et al., 2014; Lin et al., 2013b; Worton et al., 2011),  
539 indicating possible differences in exact mechanisms and processing to form these organosulfates  
540 under atmospheric conditions relative to chamber studies. Recent mechanistic modeling  
541 simulations by Budisulistiorini et al., (2017) suggest that the role of sulfate on IEPOX-  
542 organosulfates formation might be through surface area uptake of IEPOX and rate of particle  
543 phase reaction.

544 Very good correlations between WSON and terpenoic acids were observed during summer  
545 and fall ( $r\geq 0.7$ ,  $p<0.01$ ). Given the secondary nature of terpenoic acids, this finding may suggest  
546 that WSON during these two seasons is associated with more aged air masses and perhaps  
547 dominated by secondary organic components rather than primary emitted N containing  
548 constituents such as pollens, fungi and bacteria (Elbert et al., 2007; Miyazaki et al., 2014).

### 549 3.6 Contribution of identified N containing species to WSTN and WSON

550 Nitro-aromatics and nitrooxy-organosulfates combined were estimated to account for as  
551 much as 28% of WSON, which reflected the abundance and potential importance of these groups  
552 of species to the atmospheric N deposition budget. Seasonal average ratios of identified WSON  
553 to WSTN ranged from 1.0 to 4.4% with the highest recorded for fall (Table 4). Nitrooxy-



554 organosulfates dominated over nitro-aromatics as a source of organic nitrogen, contributing >  
555 90% to identified WSON across seasons. However, during episodes of biomass burning, nitro-  
556 aromatics contribute as much as 32% of identified WSON compounds. The ratio of WSON to  
557 WSOC was estimated to be 0.05, 0.04 and 0.02 for spring, summer and fall, which implies  
558 organic N being most enriched during spring, reflecting a spring maximum in seasonal emissions  
559 of organic N from biological sources (e.g. pollens, spores, leave litter decomposition) combined  
560 with smaller contributions from secondary atmospheric processes. The observed WSON/WSOC  
561 ratios in this study were slightly lower than those reported for other forest sites (0.03-0.09) (Lin  
562 et al., 2010; Miyazaki et al., 2014), which are not as remote and pristine as the forest site in this  
563 study. Anthropogenic influences at the study sites described by Lin et al. (2010) and Miyazaki et  
564 al. (2014) such as  $[SO_4^{2-}]$  and  $[NO_x]$  were ~ 5 times higher than those measured at the Coweeta  
565 site. Concentration weighted average WSON/WSOC ratios for identified compounds (nitro-  
566 aromatics, organosulfates/nitrooxy-organosulfates and terpenoic acids) in this study were  
567 estimated to be 0.003. This value is 10 times less than the overall WSON/WSOC ratio observed  
568 at the site, which indicates existence of other higher N content species in the aerosols. Moreover,  
569 the identified ON/WSON ratio was estimated to be 1.0, 2.0 and 4.4 for spring, summer and fall,  
570 respectively. Such differences further suggest much more unidentified WSON compounds exist  
571 in spring when organic N was most enriched from biological processes.

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### 573 3.7 PMF analysis

574 PMF analysis was conducted to identify individual source contributions to total WSOC.  
575 Factor profiles and time series of factor contributions are presented in figures 5 and 6. Listed in  
576 order of percent contribution to WSOC, the five factors which were resolved include secondary  
577 sulfate processing (35.3%), isoprene SOA (24.3%), WSON containing OM (20.0%), biomass  
578 burning (15.1%) and monoterpene SOA (5.2%). Overall, these factors could explain  $89 \pm 2\%$  of  
579 observed WSOC ( $r=0.88$ ,  $p<0.0001$ ). The secondary sulfate profile contained a signature of high  
580  $SO_4^{2-}$ , which was most likely present as fine particulate  $(NH_4)_2 SO_4$  and  $NH_4HSO_4$ . Secondary  
581 sulfate was the most important factor during spring, though was a significant contributor in  
582 summer and fall as well. Isoprene SOA, which was identified based on isoprene derived  
583 organosulfates and isoprene SOA markers, was the most important factor during summer. The  
584 biomass burning factor, which exhibited a high portion of nitro-aromatic and levoglucosan

587 markers, dominated in the fall. This pattern agreed well with observed patterns of nitro-aromatic  
588 compounds. Monoterpene SOA, which was resolved based on the composition of monoterpene  
589 derived organosulfates, was overall a minor contributor with the exception of a few samples  
590 during the fall intensive.

591 WSON containing OM contributed 20% to WSOC, overall, demonstrating a significant  
592 association between organic N and C in  $PM_{2.5}$  at our study site. The WSON containing OM  
593 source profile exhibited weak correlation with most measured species with the exception of  
594 modest correlations with terpenoic acids. WSON containing OM contributed more to WSOC in  
595 late spring and early summer, which was consistent with observed higher production of nitrooxy-  
596 organosulfates during these sampling periods as well as terpenoic acids. The relationship with  
597 terpenoic acids may reflect an association of WSON with more aged air masses. Because nitro-  
598 aromatics and nitrooxy-organosulfates contribute only a small portion of WSON, on average, the  
599 20% contribution of WSON containing OM to WSOC primarily reflects the contribution of  
600 organic N present in bulk WSON but unspciated in this work.

601

#### 602 4. Conclusions

603 Ambient  $PM_{2.5}$  collected at a temperate mountainous forest site were investigated on a bulk  
604 chemical and a molecular level during spring, summer, and fall of 2015. Analyses focused on  
605 speciation of nitro-aromatics associated with biomass burning, organosulfates produced from  
606 biogenic SOA precursors, and terpenoic acids formed from monoterpene oxidation. Among these  
607 three groups, terpenoic acids were estimated to be most abundant, contributing up to a seasonal  
608 average of 8.7% of OM in  $PM_{2.5}$  during spring. Warm periods in spring and summer exhibited  
609 highest production of terpenoic acids, when SOA correspondingly showed a higher degree of  
610 aging. Relative abundance of aged biogenic SOA tracers (MBTCA and 2-hydroxyterpenylic  
611 acid), which reflect the degree of organic aerosol aging, showed a strong correlation with  
612 temperature. Such a relationship might indicate temperature dependence of OH radical initiated  
613 oxidation steps or aging in the formation of higher generation oxidation products.

614 Organosulfates showed a peak in summer and lowest concentrations during fall,  
615 contributing averages of 3.9 and 1.0 % of OM mass, respectively, during these seasons. Isoprene  
616 derived organosulfate ( $m/z$  215, 2-methyltetrol derived), formed from isoprene derived  
617 epoxydiols (IEPOX) under low  $NO_x$  conditions, was the most abundant identified organosulfate

618 (up to 167 ng/m<sup>3</sup> in summer). This observation is consistent with observations of low NO<sub>x</sub>  
619 levels (< 1ppb on average) at our study site. Nighttime nitrate radical chemistry is most likely the  
620 dominant formation mechanism for nitrooxy-organosulfates measured at this remote site with  
621 background level NO<sub>x</sub>.

622 Nitro-aromatics were most abundant at our study site during the fall (up to 0.01% of OM  
623 mass). Moderate correlations were observed between nitro-aromatics and the biomass burning  
624 marker levoglucosan, indicating a common origin. Nitro-aromatics also correlated well with EC  
625 across seasons. Highest concentrations of nitro-aromatics, specifically nitrocatechol and methyl-  
626 nitrocatechol, were associated with aged biomass burning plumes as indicated by  
627 correspondingly high concentrations of terpenic acids.

628 Bulk measurements determined that WSOC accounted for 62±13% of OC throughout the  
629 entire study period without significant seasonal variability. PMF analysis indicated that a  
630 significant portion of this organic carbon was associated with a resolved factor of WSON  
631 containing OM. As a component of total nitrogen in PM<sub>2.5</sub>, largest contributions of WSON to  
632 WSTN were observed in spring (~ 18% w/w) and lowest in the fall (~10% w/w). On average,  
633 identified nitro-aromatic and nitrooxy-organosulfate compounds accounted for a small fraction  
634 of WSON, ranging from ~ 1% in spring to ~ 4% in fall, though were observed to contribute as  
635 much as 28% w/w of WSON in individual samples which were impacted by local biomass  
636 burning. Of the organic N compounds speciated in this study, nitrooxy-organosulfates dominated  
637 over nitro-aromatics as a source of organic nitrogen, contributing > 90% to WSON across  
638 seasons. As a component of WSON, nitro-aromatics were most important during episodes of  
639 biomass burning, when their contribution to identified and total WSON was as much as 32% and  
640 3%, respectively. Concentration weighted average WSON/WSOC ratios for compounds  
641 identified in this study were estimated to be 0.003. This number is an order of magnitude lower  
642 than the overall WSON/WSOC ratio observed, indicating a predominance of other  
643 uncharacterized N species. Other N containing substituents of WSON could include amino  
644 acids, amines, urea and N-heterocyclic compounds as well as substances of biological origin  
645 such as spores, pollens and bacteria (Cape et al., 2011; Neff et al., 2002a). Ratios of WSON to  
646 WSOC indicate organic C being most enriched by organic N during spring, perhaps reflecting a  
647 spring maximum in seasonal emissions of organic N from biological sources combined with  
648 smaller contributions from secondary atmospheric processes (e.g., nitrooxy-organosulfates).

649 Although nitro-aromatics and nitrooxy-organosulfates contribute a relatively small  
650 fraction of organic N in PM<sub>2.5</sub> at our study site, our observations shed light on this complex but  
651 largely unknown portion of the atmospheric N budget. Our results provide further understanding  
652 of the patterns and composition of SOA in a remote mountain environment previously  
653 uncharacterized. Similar to our results, other studies generally find that individual groups of  
654 organic N compounds (e.g., amines, amino acids, urea) cannot explain the majority of bulk  
655 WSON, (Cape et al., 2011; Day et al., 2010; Place et al., 2017; Samy et al., 2013), which  
656 globally accounts for ~25% of total N in rainfall (Cape et al., 2011; Jickells et al., 2013). As  
657 methodological advances allow for greater speciation of this large pool of atmospheric N, future  
658 work should emphasize analysis of both primary and secondary forms of organic N in individual  
659 samples, in addition to bulk analyses, so that a more complete picture of organic N composition  
660 may be developed for specific atmospheric chemical and meteorological conditions.  
661 Additionally, as progress is made in better characterizing the composition and sources of  
662 atmospheric organic N, the ecological and atmospheric science communities must work together  
663 to develop a better understanding of the role of atmospheric organic N in ecosystem N cycling.

664

#### 665 **Supplemental Information available**

666

#### 667 **Acknowledgements**

668

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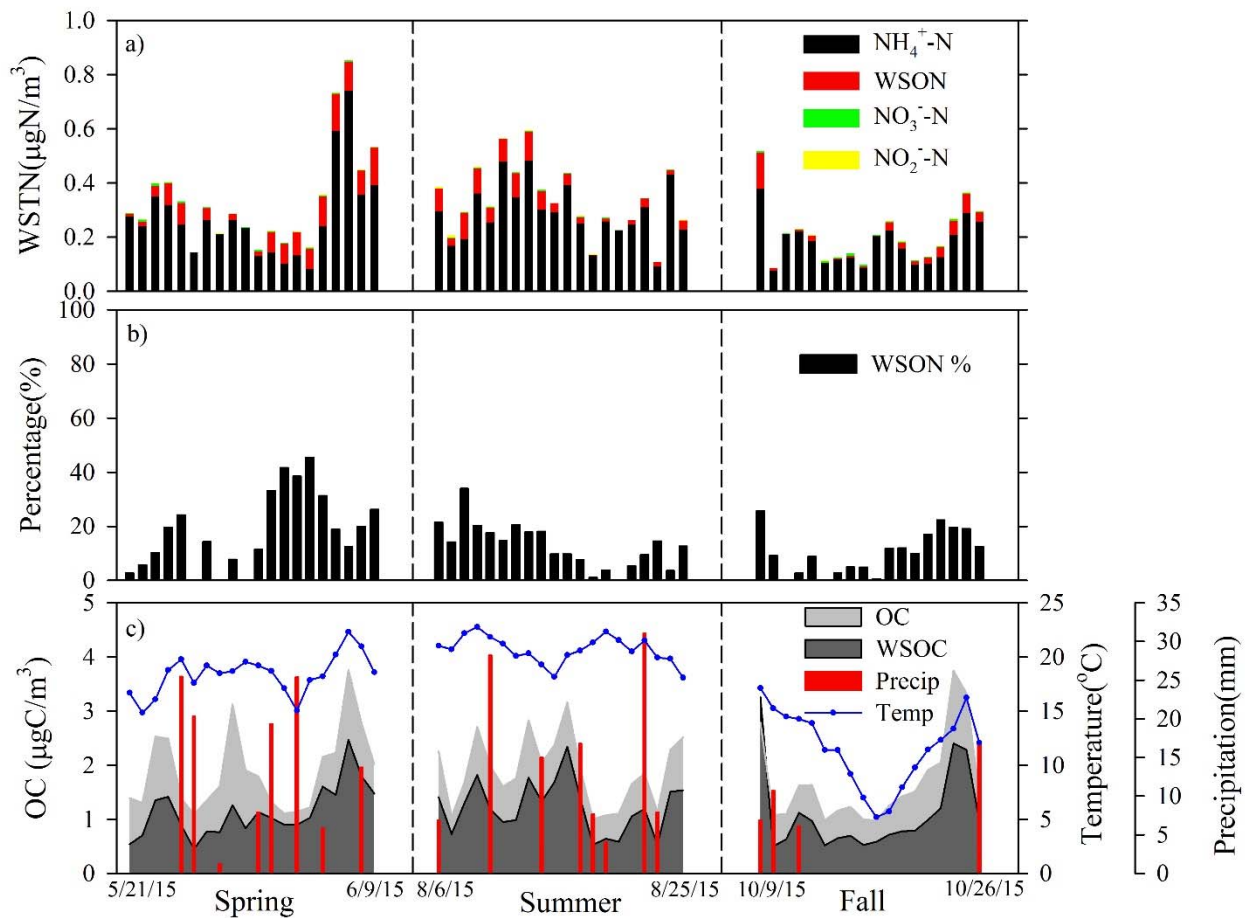


Figure 1. a) Individual concentrations of nitrogen components to WSTN ( $\text{NH}_4^+$ ,  $\text{NO}_3^-$ ,  $\text{NO}_2^-$  and WSON); b) Percent contribution of WSON to WSTN; c) Time series of OC, WSOC, temperature and precipitation. Start and end dates of each intensive sampling periods are shown.

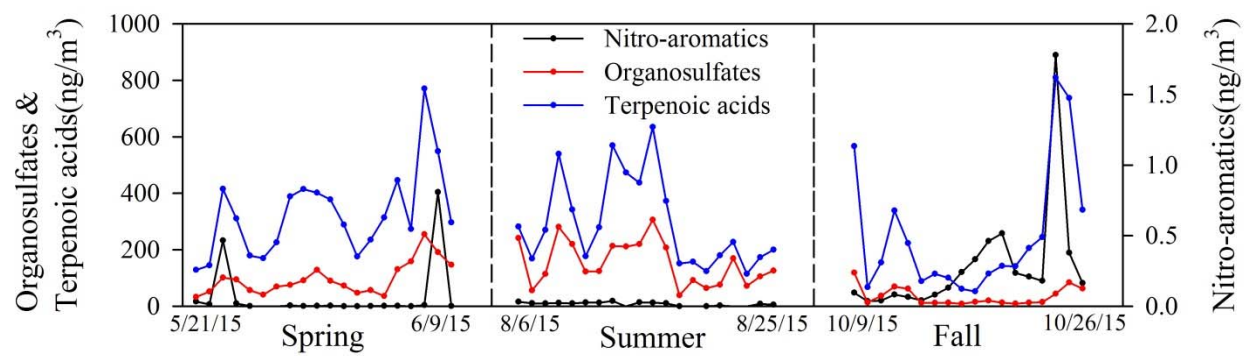


Figure 2. Time series of summed compound group concentrations of nitro-aromatics, organosulfates and terpenoic acids.

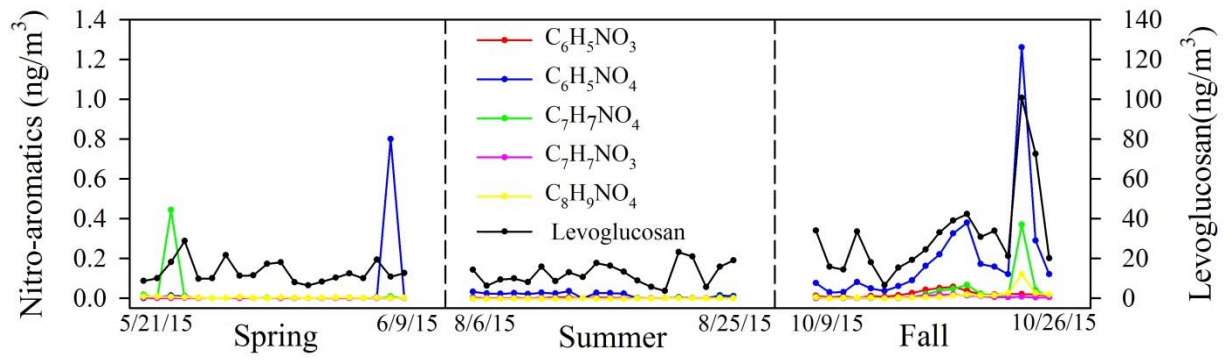


Figure 3. Time series of individual nitro-aromatics compounds as well as levoglucosan.

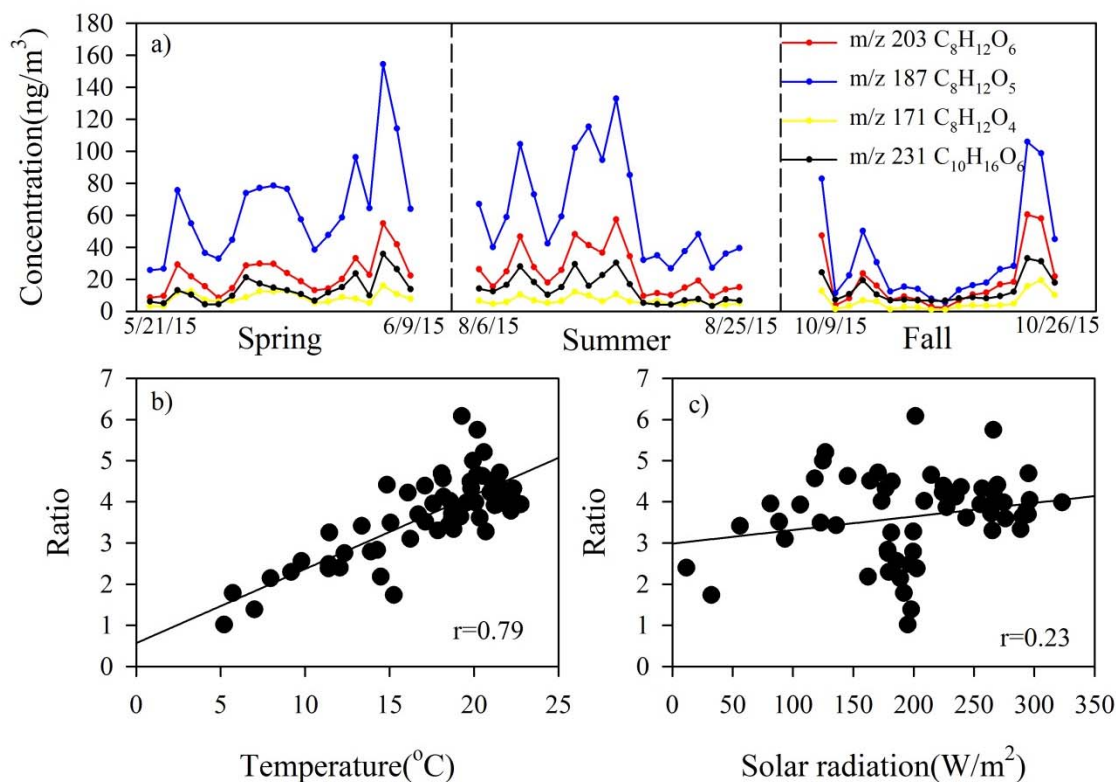


Figure 4. a) Time series of these four identified terpenoic acids(3-methyl-1,2,3-butane-tricarboxylic acid(MBTCA, C<sub>8</sub>H<sub>12</sub>O<sub>6</sub>, m/z 203), 2-hydroxyterpenylic acid(C<sub>8</sub>H<sub>12</sub>O<sub>5</sub>, m/z 187), terpenylic acid(C<sub>8</sub>H<sub>12</sub>O<sub>4</sub>, m/z 171) and Diaterpenylic acid acetate(DTAA, C<sub>10</sub>H<sub>16</sub>O<sub>6</sub>,m/z 231)); b) correlation of concentration ratios of higher generation oxidation products( C<sub>8</sub>H<sub>12</sub>O<sub>6</sub>, m/z 203 and C<sub>8</sub>H<sub>12</sub>O<sub>5</sub>, m/z 187) to early oxidation fresh SOA products(C<sub>8</sub>H<sub>12</sub>O<sub>4</sub>, m/z 171 and C<sub>10</sub>H<sub>16</sub>O<sub>6</sub>,m/z 231) with temperature and ; c) with solar radiation.



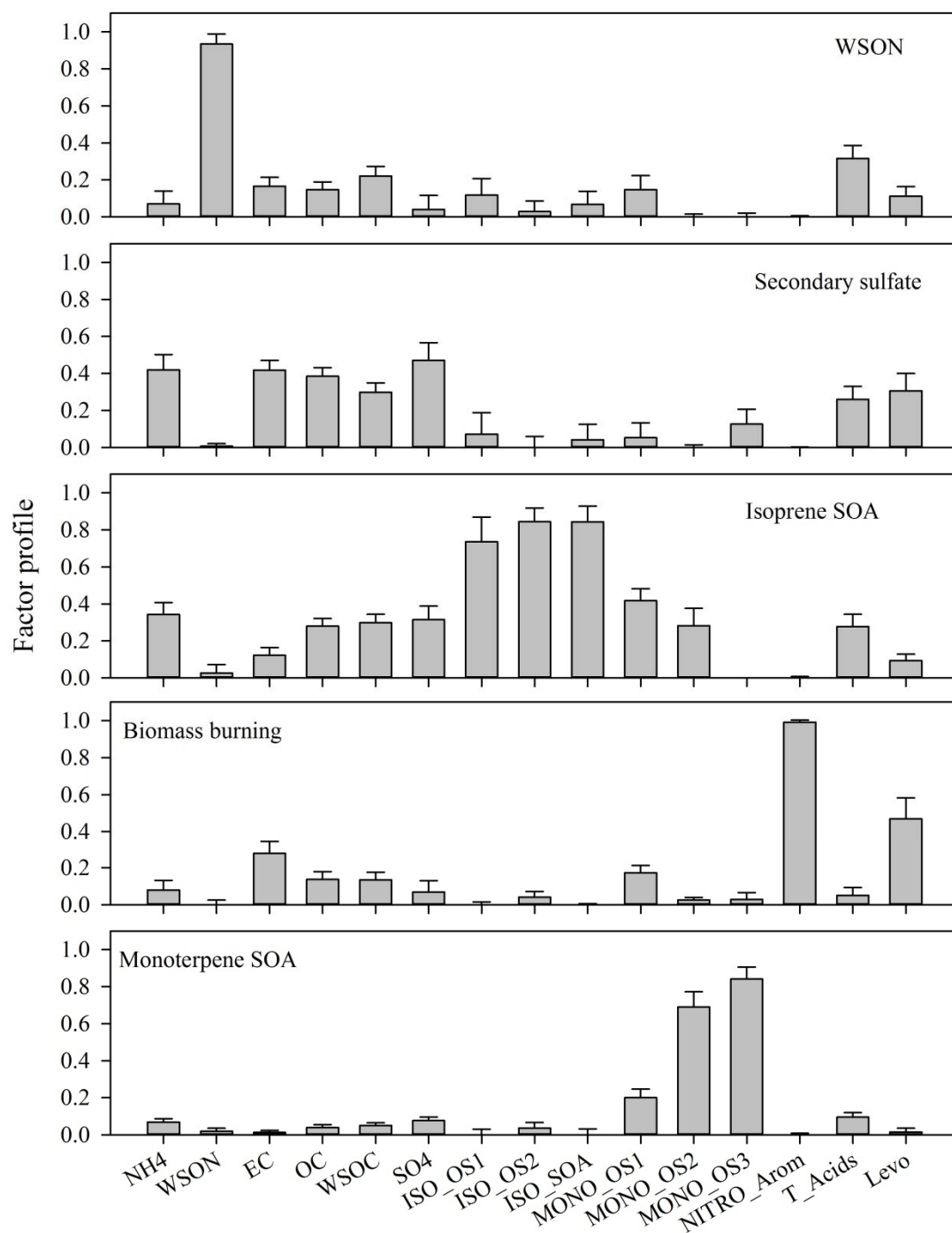


Figure 5. Normalized factor profiles (error bar represents one standard deviation).

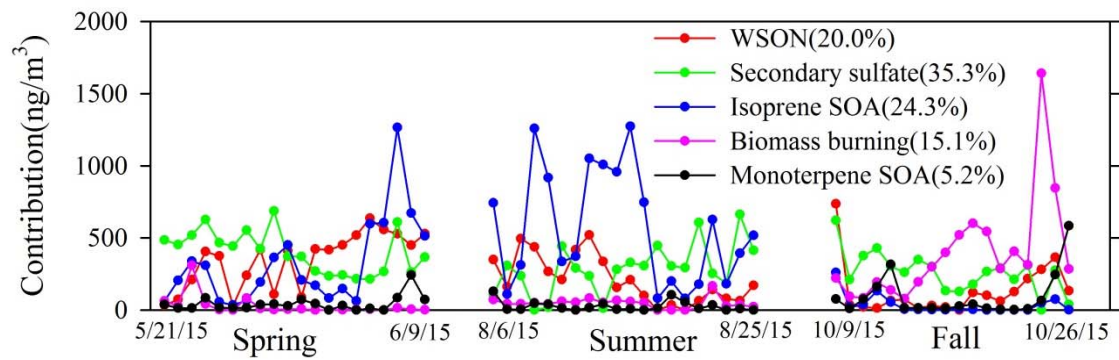


Figure 6. Time series of factor contributions to WSOC (mean factor contribution shown in brackets).

Table 1. Summary of particulate and gaseous species measured at Coweeta sampling site in 2015.

(µg/m <sup>3</sup> )	Spring				Summer				Fall			
	mean	median	min	max	mean	median	min	max	mean	median	min	max
OM (OC*2)	3.77	3.41	2.18	7.52	3.80	3.79	2.00	6.32	3.36	2.85	1.96	7.49
EC	0.05	0.05	0.03	0.10	0.05	0.05	0.02	0.08	0.07	0.07	0.03	3.75
WSOC	1.14	1.03	0.45	2.47	1.22	1.24	0.53	2.34	1.09	0.78	0.50	3.25
WSTN	0.33	0.29	0.14	0.86	0.34	0.32	0.11	0.59	0.21	0.20	0.08	0.52
WSON	0.06	0.07	ND	0.14	0.05	0.03	ND	0.11	0.03	0.02	ND	0.13
NH <sub>4</sub> <sup>+</sup> -N	0.27	0.24	0.08	0.74	0.29	0.28	0.09	0.48	0.18	0.17	0.08	0.38
NO <sub>3</sub> <sup>-</sup> -N	0.00	0.00	ND	0.01	0.00	0.00	ND	0.01	0.00	0.00	ND	0.01
NO <sub>2</sub> <sup>-</sup> -N	0.00	0.00	ND	0.00	0.00	0.00	ND	0.01	0.00	0.00	ND	0.00
SO <sub>4</sub> <sup>2-</sup>	0.99	0.93	0.26	2.44	1.01	0.95	0.31	1.85	0.63	0.58	0.30	1.33
O <sub>3</sub> (ppb)	25.1	21.6	13.9	46.1	15.8	15.8	9.0	22.8	19.4	20.5	11.1	26.9
NOx(ppb)	0.75	0.79	0.45	1.03	0.54	0.58	0.24	0.91	0.65	0.68	0.43	0.89
Temp(°C)	18.4	18.6	14.8	22.3	20.7	20.6	18.1	22.8	11.6	11.7	5.2	17.1
RH%	81.7	84.9	61.0	94.8	82.1	83.1	71.9	88.5	77.7	74.9	65.1	92.0
Radiation	235	265	81	296	205	201	106	323	151	180	12	203





Table 3. Seasonal statistics of measured groups of compounds.

(ng/m <sup>3</sup> )	Spring				Summer				Fall			
	mean	median	min	max	mean	median	min	max	mean	median	min	max
Nitro-aromatics	0.07	0.00	ND	0.81	0.02	0.02	ND	0.04	0.28	0.17	0.04	1.78
Organo-sulfates <sup>1</sup>	96.77	83.05	33.07	255.17	153.36	125.41	38.93	306.66	34.69	15.27	0.17	118.68
Terpenoic acids	325.62	304.05	128.68	771.16	294.01	249.19	115.08	634.99	250.66	148.91	52.94	809.46
% of OM <sup>2</sup>												
%Nitro-aromatics	0.00	0.00	ND	0.02	0.00	0.00	ND	0.00	0.01	0.01	0.00	0.02
%Organo-sulfates	2.47	2.42	1.19	3.64	3.87	3.80	1.95	5.56	0.98	0.63	0.31	2.21
% Terpenoic acids	8.65	8.29	4.62	12.88	7.50	7.77	3.80	11.64	6.48	5.21	2.70	12.00

<sup>1</sup> including nitrooxy-organosulfates; <sup>2</sup>Fraction of each group of identified compounds (combined total) to organic matter

Table 4. Ratios of identified nitrogen containing compounds (nitro-aromatics and nitrooxy-organosulfates) to WSON.

(ngN/m <sup>3</sup> )	Spring				Summer				Fall			
	mean	median	min	max	mean	median	min	max	mean	median	min	max
WSON	59	74	ND	140	46	33	ND	105	25	15	ND	133
Identified ON	0.48	0.36	0.1	1.75	0.65	0.53	0.12	1.83	0.46	0.26	0.07	1.70
Identified ON/WSON %	1.02	0.64	ND	3.09	2.04	1.71	ND	7.84	4.37	1.50	ND	27.90