



## Dissolution of wollastonite during the experimental manipulation of Hubbard Brook Watershed 1

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**Abstract.** Powdered and pelletized wollastonite ( $\text{CaSiO}_3$ ) was applied to an 11.8 ha forested watershed at the Hubbard Brook Experimental Forest (HBEF) in northern New Hampshire, U.S.A. during October of 1999. The dissolution of wollastonite was studied using watershed solute mass balances, and a  $^{87}\text{Sr}/^{86}\text{Sr}$  isotopic tracer. The wollastonite ( $^{87}\text{Sr}/^{86}\text{Sr} = 0.70554$ ) that was deposited directly into the stream channel began to dissolve immediately, resulting in marked increases in stream water Ca concentrations and decreases in the  $^{87}\text{Sr}/^{86}\text{Sr}$  ratios from pre-application values of 0.872 mg/L and 0.72032 to values of  $\sim 2.6$  mg/L and 0.71818 respectively. After one calendar year, 401 kg of the initial 631 kg of wollastonite applied to the stream channel was exported as stream dissolved load, and 230 kg remained within the stream channel as residual  $\text{CaSiO}_3$  and/or adsorbed on streambed exchange sites. Using previously established values for streambed Ca exchange capacity at the HBEF, the dissolution rate for wollastonite was found to be consistent with dissolution rates measured in laboratory experiments. Initially, Ca was released from the mineral lattice faster than Si, resulting in the development of a Ca-depleted leached layer on mineral grains. The degree of preferential Ca release decreased with time and reached stoichiometric proportions after  $\sim 6$  months. Using Sr as a proxy for Ca, the Ca from wollastonite dissolution can be accurately tracked as it is transported through the aquatic and terrestrial ecosystems of this watershed.

### Introduction

Chemical weathering of silicate minerals is of central importance to understanding global biogeochemical cycles and long-term trends in the climate of the Earth (Berner et al. 1983; Kump et al. 2000). Chemical mass balance techniques in small watersheds have frequently been used to estimate mineral weathering rates (e.g., Casey et al. (1993); Drever and Zobrist (1992); Likens and Bormann (1995); Mast et al. (1990); Paces (1983) and Velbel (1985)). In this paper, we present two years of geochemical data from a watershed scale experiment where wollastonite ( $\text{CaSiO}_3$ ) was applied to a forested catchment, with the goal of characterizing the fate of material applied directly to the stream channel. The experimental design allowed us to compare laboratory studies of the rate and mechanism of wollastonite dissolution with a large-scale experiment in a natural stream channel.

*Field location & description*

The Hubbard Brook Experimental Forest (HBEF) is located within the White Mountain National Forest of northern New Hampshire (43°56' N, 71°45' W). This study was conducted within the 11.8 ha south-facing watershed 1 (W-1, Figure 1). Watershed 1 is a third order perennial catchment with a northern hardwood forest of primarily sugar maple, (*Acer saccharum*), American beech (*Fagus grandifolia*), and yellow birch (*Betula alleghaniensis*), with red spruce (*Picea rubens*), balsam fir (*Abies balsamea*), and white birch (*Betula papyrifera*) at the highest elevations within the watershed. The ridgeline at 747 m forms the upper boundary of the watershed, with the east and west boundaries delineated by local topographic highs. The bottom of the watershed is delineated by the stream-gauging weir at 488 m elevation. The watershed is underlain by the Silurian age upper Rangeley formation, a rusty weathering pelitic schist of sillimanite metamorphic grade. The bedrock is covered with a variably thin (0–3 m) layer of Pleistocene ice-contact deposits with Spodosols (Haplorthods) developed to an average depth of 60 cm (Johnson et al. 2000, 1991).

Studies of the interactions between chemical weathering and solute fluxes have been investigated at the HBEF for over 30 years (Johnson et al. 1981, 1968; Likens and Bormann 1995). Precipitation input to W-1 averages 130 cm/yr, with stream output accounting for 80 cm; and evapotranspiration the remaining 50 cm (Federer et al. 1990; Likens and Bormann 1995). In 1999–2000, stream discharge ranged from 0 to 300 L/s, with a median value of 1.4 L/s. The stream flowed nearly continuously throughout this study, with undetectable discharge occurring for only two days during the two-year period. High flow events have been used to characterize the hydrologic flowpaths that influence the concentration of elements during storm-flow generation (Hogan et al. 2000). Both Ca and Sr concentrations were found to be nearly independent of discharge, while Si and Na exhibited slight dilution during periods of increased flow.

The long-term depletion of Ca from the soil exchange complex has been observed in this (Likens et al. 1996, 1998) and other nearby watersheds (e.g., Bailey et al. (1996) and Hyman et al. (1998)), and provided the impetus to investigate the watershed response to the experimental addition of Ca. As part of a larger project designed to study the effects of Ca supply on the structure and function of a base-poor forested ecosystem, Ca was applied by helicopter to the watershed forest floor in the form of the mineral wollastonite. The extensive monitoring of the watershed and the accurate chemical and isotopic characterization of the wollastonite allows the dissolved material to be traced with a high degree of sensitivity during transport through the ecosystem, providing an ideal opportunity for the study of silicate weathering rates. The use of Ca/Sr and <sup>87</sup>Sr/<sup>86</sup>Sr ratios to study Ca biogeochemistry has been discussed previously (e.g., Capo et al. (1998)) and has been applied successfully to studies of the Hubbard Brook Experimental Forest and other New England watersheds (e.g., Blum et al. (2000, 2002) and Bailey et al. (1996)). In this study, <sup>87</sup>Sr/<sup>86</sup>Sr and Ca/Sr ratios are used to apportion stream water solutes to either wollastonite dissolution or stream background. These solute fluxes can then

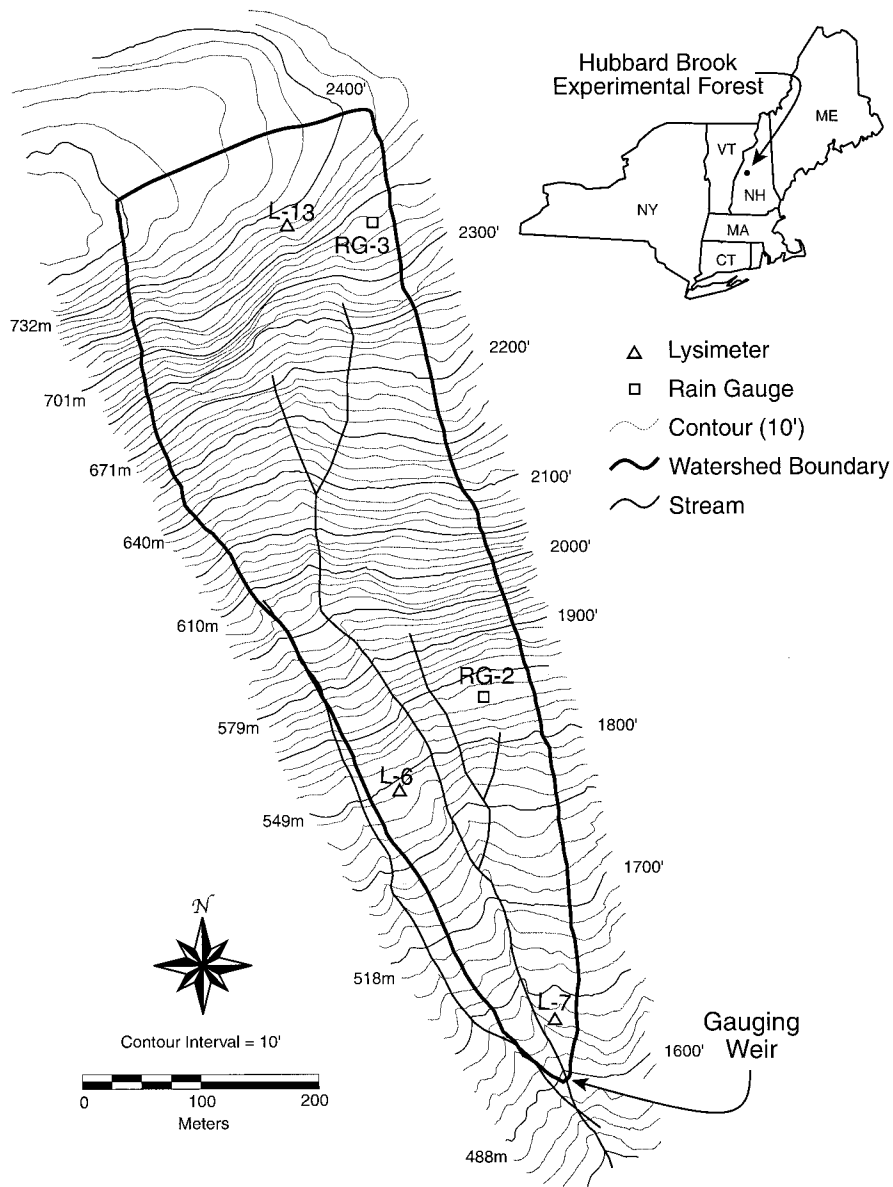


Figure 1. Location map of Hubbard Brook Experimental Forest and Watershed-1.

be utilized to calculate export rates for the dissolving wollastonite, resulting in a measurement of the dissolution rate. Before presenting the results of the field application, we review a few previous field-based Ca manipulation experiments, and the most relevant laboratory wollastonite dissolution experiments.

*Previous Ca manipulation experiments*

In an experiment designed to examine the stream response to the addition of base cations, solutions of  $\text{CaCl}_2$  and  $\text{NaHCO}_3$  were added to two parallel streams at the HBEF (Hall et al. 2001). The manipulated stream reaches were located approximately 250 m downstream of the watershed-scale experiment described in this study, and have comparable pH values to W-1 (pH 5.6–7). Both  $\text{CaCl}_2$  and  $\text{NaHCO}_3$  were added to one stream, while only  $\text{CaCl}_2$  was added to the other stream, at variable rates in order to maintain a stream Ca concentration of  $\sim 120 \mu\text{eq/L}$ . Solution chemistry was measured above and 50–80 m below the addition site. Calcium was preferentially retained relative to Cl in both stream reaches, with more adsorption observed in the stream that received both  $\text{CaCl}_2$  and  $\text{NaHCO}_3$ , resulting in a positive relationship between pH and Ca retention. After additions of  $\text{CaCl}_2$  and  $\text{NaHCO}_3$  ceased, Ca was shown to desorb slowly from exchange sites. Over the 2-month experiment, Ca retention on the exchange sites within the stream channel was estimated to be between 0.5 and 2.5 eq  $\text{Ca/m}^2$  channel area (Hall et al. 2001).

As part of the Experimental Watershed Liming Study (EWLS) in the Adirondack Mountains of New York,  $\text{CaCO}_3$  was applied to both a ponded and a free flowing watershed (Driscoll et al. 1996). After 2 years, the free flowing watershed had delivered 2.2% of the  $\text{CaCO}_3$  to the lake, while the ponded catchment had delivered 60% (Cirimo and Driscoll 1996). The continuous wetting of the  $\text{CaCO}_3$  in the ponded watershed was the primary explanation for faster dissolution. A significant amount of Ca had also adsorbed onto organic matter within wetted areas in the ponded watershed. The exchangeable fraction of Ca on sphagnum moss within the treatment area was approximately 10 times that measured in an adjacent untreated plot and accounted for nearly 8% of the total  $\text{CaCO}_3$  applied (Cirimo and Driscoll 1996). A concurrent study examined the behavior of Ca along a 3 km stream reach draining the watershed area. Before the addition of  $\text{CaCO}_3$ , Ca concentrations were constant along the length of the stream reach, with a value of 120  $\mu\text{eq/L}$ . After the  $\text{CaCO}_3$  addition, streamwater pH decreased from 6.7 to 5.7 along the stream reach, with a corresponding 50–65% reduction in the Ca concentration. While most elements behaved conservatively, Ca was apparently partially removed through adsorption onto materials in the streambed.

*Laboratory dissolution experiments*

Wollastonite dissolution rates have been measured in several studies using fluidized bed reactors (Rimstidt and Dove 1986; Weissbart and Rimstidt 2000; Xie and Walther 1994). Most experimental work has been conducted on crushed, sieved, and alcohol washed wollastonite grains in the 75 to 250  $\mu\text{m}$  size range, with BET surface areas between 0.133 and 0.302  $\text{m}^2/\text{g}$  (Rimstidt and Dove 1986; Weissbart and Rimstidt 2000; Xie and Walther 1994). Rates measured using these techniques range from  $5.0 \times 10^{-13}$  to  $1.6 \times 10^{-12}$  mol  $\text{Ca/cm}^2/\text{s}$  (Figure 2). While some results initially suggested that the dissolution rate is pH dependant (Rimstidt and Dove 1986; Xie and Walther 1994), later experiments conducted over a broad range of

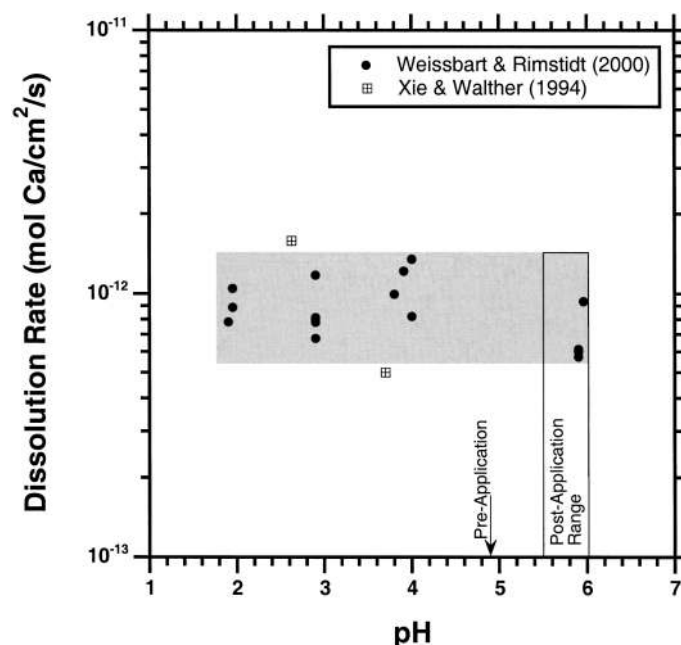


Figure 2. Wollastonite dissolution rates measured in laboratory experiments (Weissbart and Rimstidt 2000; Xie and Walther 1994). The gray box delineates the range of dissolution rates ( $6 \times 10^{-13}$  to  $1.5 \times 10^{-12}$  mol Ca/cm<sup>2</sup>/s) from laboratory experiments. Arrows and a box on the x-axis indicate the pH values of the W-1 stream at Hubbard Brook.

pH values (pH 2–pH 6) demonstrated that the dissolution rate is not dependent on pH (Weissbart and Rimstidt 2000). The pH of the W-1 stream at the HBEF is within the range of pH values studied in laboratory experiments, with a pre-application pH value of  $\sim 4.95$  and post-application pH values of  $\sim 5.5$  to  $\sim 6.0$ . Dissolution rates for wollastonite have been shown to be temperature dependent, with the rate at 40 °C approximately 2–3 times faster than at 23.5 °C (Rimstidt and Dove 1986). Dissolution rates calculated using the average annual streamwater temperature and the activation energy range from  $1.6 \times 10^{-13}$  to  $4.2 \times 10^{-13}$  mol Ca/cm<sup>2</sup>/s.

Wollastonite has been observed to dissolve incongruently in laboratory experiments, with Ca released preferentially relative to Si, leading to the development of a leached layer (Weissbart and Rimstidt 2000; Xie and Walther 1994). The development of the leached layer results in increases in BET measured surface area and decreases in release rates of both Ca and Si (Weissbart and Rimstidt 2000). The morphology of this leached layer surface has been investigated and confirmed through interferometry (Grove et al. 2000) and high-resolution transmission electron microscopy (Banfield et al. 1995).

## Methods

Wollastonite was mined from the No. 4 Quarry of the Valentine Mine in the northwestern Adirondack Mountains of New York, a skarn deposit related to the Proterozoic Diana Complex metasyenite (Gerdes and Valley 1994). The wollastonite was crushed to a mean grain size of 16  $\mu\text{m}$  and formed into 1 to 3 mm pellets using a water-soluble lignin sulfonate binder. The specific surface area of the wollastonite was measured using gas adsorption (BET) techniques and found to be 1.6  $\text{m}^2/\text{g}$ .

Streamwater samples were collected 10 m above the gauging weir at the base of W1 in acid-cleaned bottles. Water from lysimeters was pumped using a peristaltic pump, syringe filtered through a 0.45  $\mu\text{m}$  polypropylene membrane, and stored in acid cleaned bottles. Elemental analysis of all water samples was conducted using Inductively Coupled Plasma Optical Emission Spectrometry (ICP-OES), Inductively Coupled Plasma Mass Spectrometry (ICP-MS) and ion chromatography (IC). The ICP-OES (PE-3300DV, Perkin Elmer, Norwalk, CT) and ICP-MS (ELEMENT, Finnigan, Bremen, Germany) instruments were calibrated using custom multielement standards that were carefully matched to the streamwater composition. Working standards were prepared from concentrated stock solutions the day of analysis. Calibration curves consistently had  $R^2$  values greater than 0.9999 and were linear over the calibrated range. Secondary standards (NIST-1643d) at full strength, and diluted 1:10 to match stream chemistry were analyzed before and after each sequence of samples. Measured values agreed with certified values to within 5%.

Strontium isotope ratios were determined by Thermal Ionization Mass Spectrometry (TIMS). A volume of water containing between 100–300 ng of Sr was evaporated and digested in a single drop of concentrated ultrapure  $\text{HNO}_3$ . Samples were evaporated again, redissolved in 3 M  $\text{HNO}_3$ , and the Sr was separated using a Sr specific resin (Eichrom, Darien, IL, USA). Approximately 75 ng of Sr was evaporated, redissolved in 0.3 M  $\text{H}_3\text{PO}_4$  and loaded onto tungsten single filaments with  $\text{Ta}_2\text{O}_5$  powder. The strontium isotopic composition was analyzed using a TIMS (MAT-262, Finnigan, Bremen, Germany) operated in static mode with the background measured at half mass. The  $^{87}\text{Sr}/^{86}\text{Sr}$  ratios were corrected for instrumental fractionation by normalizing the  $^{86}\text{Sr}/^{88}\text{Sr}$  ratio to 0.1194. Repeated measurements of NBS-987 resulted in a mean  $^{87}\text{Sr}/^{86}\text{Sr}$  value of  $0.710252 \pm 0.000013$  ( $n = 161$ ).

## Results

### *Initial conditions*

To characterize the chemical variability of the streamwater prior to wollastonite application, stream samples were collected weekly and analyzed for one year prior to the date of application (Figures 3a–3g). Sixteen stream samples were also collected during precipitation events to measure solute variability during fluctuations in hydrologic discharge. During the one-year period, the  $^{87}\text{Sr}/^{86}\text{Sr}$  isotopic composition

of streamwater ranged from 0.72014 to 0.72060, ( $\bar{x} = 0.72032 \pm 0.00006$ ,  $1\sigma$ ), and Sr concentrations ranged from 2.37 to 7.30  $\mu\text{g/L}$  ( $\bar{x} = 5.76 \pm 0.49$   $\mu\text{g/L}$ ,  $1\sigma$ ).

Calcium concentrations ranged from 0.71 to 1.06 mg/L ( $\bar{x} = 0.87 \pm 0.086$  mg/L,  $1\sigma$ ), Na concentrations ranged from 0.59 to 1.24 mg/L ( $\bar{x} = 0.87 \pm 0.12$  mg/L,  $1\sigma$ ), and Si concentrations exhibited the largest variability, with concentrations ranging from 1.2 to 2.5 mg/L ( $\bar{x} = 2.1 \pm 0.26$  mg/L,  $1\sigma$ ) during the pre-application year. The concentrations of Ca and Na have been measured weekly for 36 years, and Si concentrations for 29 years as part of the Hubbard Brook Ecosystem Study (Likens and Bormann 1995). The one-year pre-application values are statistically identical to the long-term record for all elements except Ca (Table 1). Calcium concentrations had decreased over the long-term study (Likens et al. 1998) and were approximately 0.872 mg/L immediately prior to the application, compared to the 36-year mean of 1.40 mg/L. For consistency, all calculations of changes in streamwater chemistry due to the wollastonite were based on the one-year pre-application values.

#### *Wollastonite application*

The chemical composition of the applied wollastonite is summarized in Table 2. The wollastonite has a considerably lower  $^{87}\text{Sr}/^{86}\text{Sr}$  ratio and a higher Ca/Sr ratio than the pre-application stream values. Solutes from wollastonite dissolution, when mixed with the streamwater, should decrease the  $^{87}\text{Sr}/^{86}\text{Sr}$  ratio and increase the Ca/Sr ratio. The wollastonite was applied at a rate of 4.6 metric tons/ha (1.6 metric tons Ca/ha) over the entire watershed using a helicopter equipped with a 1-ton motorized spreader and a GPS navigation system to ensure an even application rate. To determine the amount of wollastonite that had been deposited into the stream channel, we surveyed the channel area by measuring the bank to bank width at 5-m intervals along the length of the stream. The total streambed area was calculated to be 1,804 m<sup>2</sup>, comprising 1.53% of the total 11.8 ha watershed. Using this area and the application rate of 350 g/m<sup>2</sup>, approximately 631 kg of the total 55 tons of wollastonite is estimated to have fallen directly into the stream channel area during the application.

More than 98% of the wollastonite was added to the forest floor rather than the streambed, and the possible influence of this wollastonite through shallow groundwater flowpaths was considered. Measurements of  $^{87}\text{Sr}/^{86}\text{Sr}$  and Ca/Sr in water collected from lysimeters placed in the Oa, Bh, and Bs soil horizons in 3 locations throughout the watershed indicate that Ca and Sr derived from wollastonite dissolution was not substantially transported beyond the upper soil horizons during the first year after the application. Groundwater has been shown to contribute the majority of water to streams, even during storm events (Kendall and MacDonnell 1998), and solutes from wollastonite would first have to be dissolved and transported in soil water to reach groundwater. Therefore, all calculations assume that the streamwater response to the experimental treatment is predominantly due to

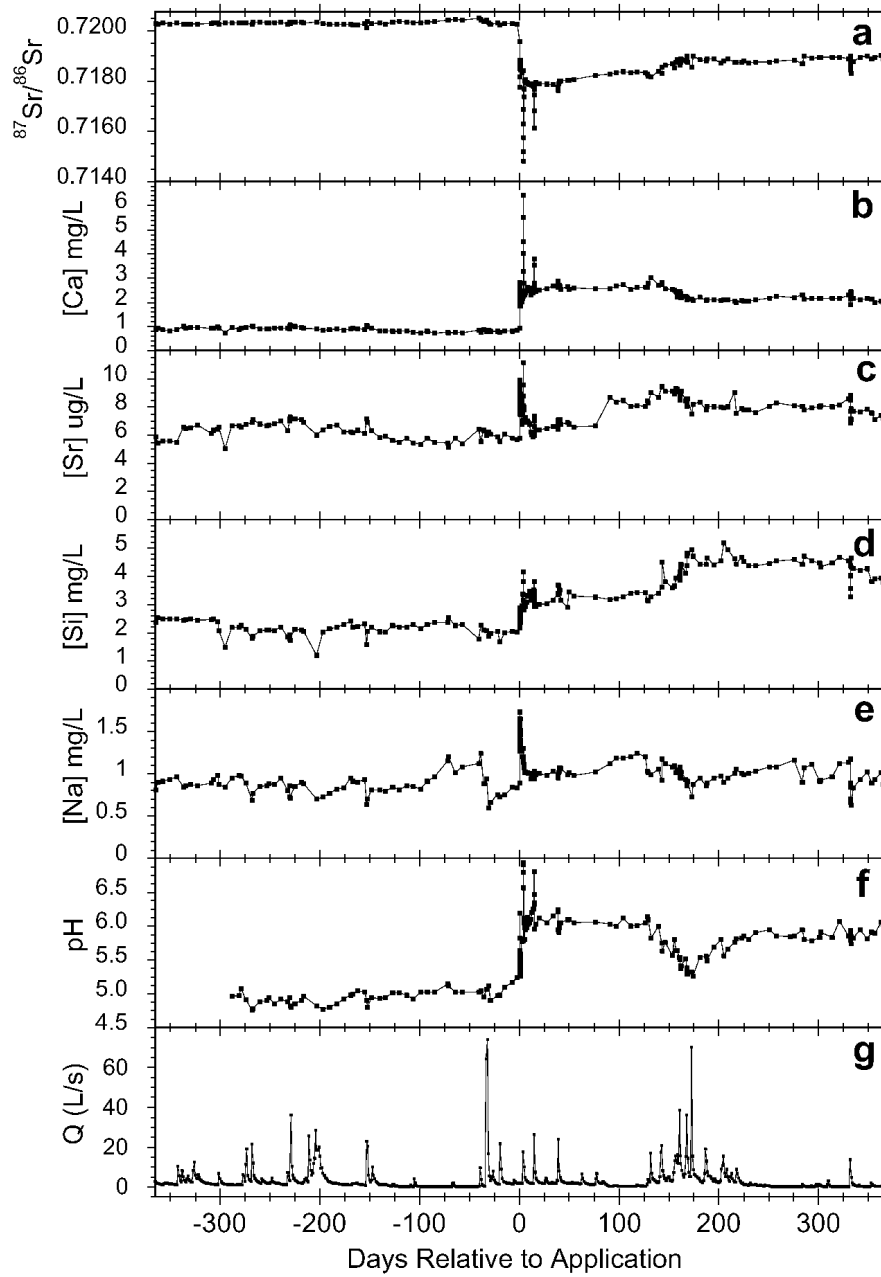


Figure 3. Chemical analysis and discharge of Watershed 1 streamwater: (a)  $^{87}\text{Sr}/^{86}\text{Sr}$ , (b) [Ca], (c) [Sr], (d) [Si], (e) [Na], (f) pH, (g) Discharge (Q, l/s). Time is in days relative to the wollastonite application date of October 19, 1999.



Table 1. Pre-application chemical composition of streamwater in W1. Variability is expressed as  $1\sigma$ .

	36 year pre-application	1 year pre-application
$^{87}\text{Sr}/^{86}\text{Sr}$	N/A	$0.72032 \pm .00006$
Ca	$1.40 \pm 0.35$ mg/L	$0.872 \pm .086$ mg/L
Sr	N/A	$6.23 \pm 0.57$ $\mu\text{g/L}$
Na	$0.82 \pm 0.16$ mg/L	$0.86 \pm 0.12$ mg/L
Si	$2.00 \pm 0.21$ mg/L	$2.13 \pm 0.26$ mg/L
Ca/Sr (mol)	N/A	306

Table 2. Wollastonite pellet composition. Major element oxides are listed as weight percent. LOI is loss on ignition at 800 °C to constant mass.

	Wollastonite
$^{87}\text{Sr}/^{86}\text{Sr}$	0.70554
CaO	41.6%
SiO <sub>2</sub>	48.3%
Ca/Sr (mol)	2,900
MgO	1.82%
Al <sub>2</sub> O <sub>3</sub>	0.49%
Na <sub>2</sub> O	0.25%
K <sub>2</sub> O	0.21%
LOI	7.3%
Mean particle size	16 $\mu\text{m}$
BET surface area	1.6 m <sup>2</sup> /g

wollastonite dissolving in the streambed without significant contributions from the wollastonite deposited on the land surface.

The potential for suspended transport of particulate wollastonite from the watershed was also considered. To measure particulate export, streamwater samples were collected and filtered throughout the experiment at various discharges ranging from low flow (min = 0.025 L/s) to stormflow (max = 69 L/s). Particulates retained on the filters were then digested and analyzed, with detectable Ca found in 6 of 54 samples. Two of the six samples were collected on the first day of application, and the remaining four were collected during stormflow events on days 4, 15, and 161. During stormflow events, all filters with detectable Ca also contained Al and Mg, indicating some transport of minerals other than wollastonite. If all of the Ca were attributable to wollastonite transport, the two samples obtained on the first day of application would represent particulate Ca concentrations of 44 and 80  $\mu\text{g/L}$ . This would correspond to approximately 3.3% and 6.1% of the total dissolved Ca from wollastonite during the same period. Similarly for the stormflow periods, particulate Ca concentrations of 136, 119, and 80  $\mu\text{g/L}$  on days 4, 15, and 161 would correspond to 7.7%, 7.6%, and 6.9% of the total Ca concentrations from wollastonite for the same time periods. Analysis of particulate Al and Mg on the same filters

indicated Al concentrations of 40, 35, and 60  $\mu\text{g/L}$  and Mg concentrations of 8, 3.5, and 7  $\mu\text{g/L}$ , suggesting that a significant portion of the exported particulate Ca during storm events may not have been from wollastonite. In all cases, particulate Ca concentrations represent a maximum of 10% of the total dissolved concentration of Ca from wollastonite and for only limited time periods, and thus can be disregarded for the purposes of this investigation.

#### *Stream response to wollastonite application*

Upon application of the wollastonite to W1 on October 19, 1999, the  $^{87}\text{Sr}/^{86}\text{Sr}$  isotopic composition and Ca concentration of stream water changed markedly, reaching the most extreme values of 0.71481 and 6.43 mg/L during the first precipitation event four days after the application (Figure 3a, 3b). Within a few weeks, the stream chemistry stabilized to a  $^{87}\text{Sr}/^{86}\text{Sr}$  isotopic ratio of  $\sim 0.71818$  and Ca concentration of  $\sim 2.6$  mg/L.

The concentration of Sr in stream water increased immediately, reaching a maximum value of 11.2  $\mu\text{g/L}$  during a precipitation event 4 days after the application date (Figure 3c). Following the event, Sr concentrations returned to nearly pre-application values. The concentration of Si in the stream increased to a maximum value of 4.17 mg/L immediately after the application date (Figure 3d). This peak was followed by a twelve-month period with moderately stable concentrations, with an average value of  $\sim 3.4$  mg/L. The concentration of Na in stream water increased after the application, reaching a maximum value of 1.73 mg/L on the first day of the application (Figure 3e). After 4 days, Na concentrations returned to pre-application values. The Na is attributed to the immediate dissolution of the sodium lignin-sulfonate binder used to pelletize the wollastonite, indicating disaggregation of these pellets in the stream channel. Streamwater pH increased following the application, reaching a maximum value of 6.93 during a precipitation event four days after the application and then stabilized at an average value of  $\sim 6.0$  after 21 days (Figure 3f).

Precipitation events that occurred 1, 4, and 15 days after the application resulted in pulses of increased Ca and Si concentrations, and corresponding decreases in the  $^{87}\text{Sr}/^{86}\text{Sr}$  ratio (Figure 3g). After two months, elevated discharge related to precipitation events had either no effect, or only slightly reduced the Ca and Si concentrations.

## **Discussion**

### *Initial conditions & immediate stream response*

The measurement of stream chemistry for the year prior to the wollastonite application confirmed that the strontium isotopic composition and Ca concentration of this stream were extremely stable, and that the effects of small additions of Ca and

Sr bearing material could be distinguished from stream background values. Also important is the observation that the one year of pre-application data are not statistically different from the 36-year archive of stream chemistry, except for Ca. These data suggest that we have an accurate measure of the pre-application conditions with which to compare to the post-application results. The pulses of increased Ca and Si concentrations on days 1, 4 and 15 are most likely due to the dissolution of the finest particle sizes within the stream banks that were wetted as the water level rose during these high flow periods. Following the initial dissolution of this fine fraction, concentrations appeared to stabilize for the remainder of the experiment. This accelerated dissolution rate early in the experiment is similar to observations made in laboratory dissolution experiments.

#### *Apportioning solutes using Sr isotopes*

The dissolution of wollastonite in the stream was examined using a two-component isotope solute mixing model. A strontium isotope mixing diagram was constructed with the pre-application stream background and wollastonite endmembers plotted and connected by a thick gray line (Figure 4). Stream chemistry data were plotted as a series of connected points in chronological order. Mixing appears to have been linear between the two endmembers, with two large excursions toward the wollastonite endmember coinciding with increases in Ca and decreases in  $^{87}\text{Sr}/^{86}\text{Sr}$  during post-application precipitation events. The strontium isotopic composition of the streamwater was the result of the contribution of Sr from wollastonite dissolution ( $X_{\text{Sr}}$ ) mixed with the background streamwater Sr, which is described by the following equation:

$$\left(\frac{^{87}\text{Sr}}{^{86}\text{Sr}}\right)_{\text{Stream}} = (X_{\text{Sr}}) \left(\frac{^{87}\text{Sr}}{^{86}\text{Sr}}\right)_{\text{Wollastonite}} + (1 - X_{\text{Sr}}) \left(\frac{^{87}\text{Sr}}{^{86}\text{Sr}}\right)_{\text{Bkgnd}}$$

Although the rigorous solution for this mixing relation necessitates the use of  $^{87}\text{Sr}/\text{Sr}_{\text{total}}$ , substituting the  $^{87}\text{Sr}/^{86}\text{Sr}$  ratio does not significantly alter the results when endmember isotopic compositions are within 10%, as was the case in this study. Solving for  $X_{\text{Sr}}$ , the fraction of streamwater Sr that was attributable to wollastonite, yields the equation:

$$X_{\text{Sr}} = \left[ \frac{\left(\frac{^{87}\text{Sr}}{^{86}\text{Sr}}\right)_{\text{Stream}} - \left(\frac{^{87}\text{Sr}}{^{86}\text{Sr}}\right)_{\text{Bkgnd}}}{\left(\frac{^{87}\text{Sr}}{^{86}\text{Sr}}\right)_{\text{Wollastonite}} - \left(\frac{^{87}\text{Sr}}{^{86}\text{Sr}}\right)_{\text{Bkgnd}}} \right]$$

Using Sr as a proxy for Ca, the mole fraction of Ca in the stream water that was

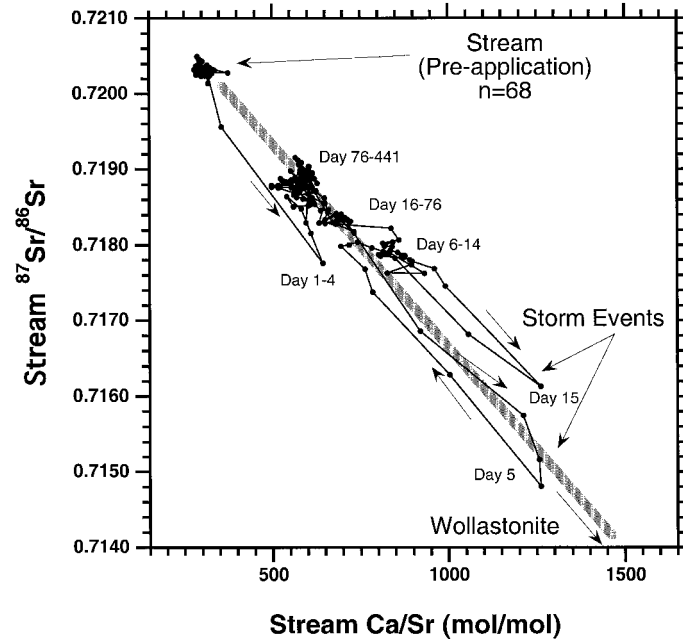


Figure 4. Isotope mixing diagram. One year of pre-application data are plotted as the streamwater background endmember. The wollastonite endmember from Table 2 plots below the x-axis. The gray line is a linear mixing calculation between these two endmembers. The two large excursions towards the wollastonite endmember coincide with storm events immediately following the application. Samples were taken hourly during storm events, daily for the first 17 days, and weekly thereafter.

derived from wollastonite dissolution is given by:

$$X_{Ca} = \left[ \frac{\left( \left( \frac{^{87}Sr}{^{86}Sr} \right)_{Stream} - \left( \frac{^{87}Sr}{^{86}Sr} \right)_{Bkgnd} \right) \left( \frac{Sr}{Ca} \right)_{Bkgnd}}{\left( \left( \frac{^{87}Sr}{^{86}Sr} \right)_{Stream} - \left( \frac{^{87}Sr}{^{86}Sr} \right)_{Bkgnd} \right) \left( \frac{Sr}{Ca} \right)_{Bkgnd} + \left( \left( \frac{^{87}Sr}{^{86}Sr} \right)_{Wollastonite} - \left( \frac{^{87}Sr}{^{86}Sr} \right)_{Stream} \right) \left( \frac{Sr}{Ca} \right)_{Wollastonite}} \right]$$

where Sr/Ca is the ratio of Sr to Ca in each endmember. This factor ( $X_{Ca}$ ) is plotted as a function of stream water  $^{87}Sr/^{86}Sr$  and stream water Ca/Sr in Figure 5, and then multiplied by the stream water Ca concentration to apportion the solutes to either the stream background or the dissolution of wollastonite (Figures 6b, 6c).

#### Calculation of wollastonite dissolution rate

In laboratory experiments, mineral dissolution rates ( $r_i$ ) are generally calculated using the following equation:

$$r_i = \left( \frac{r_f \times ([m]_{(in)} - [m]_{(out)})}{(mass) \times A_{sp}} \right)$$

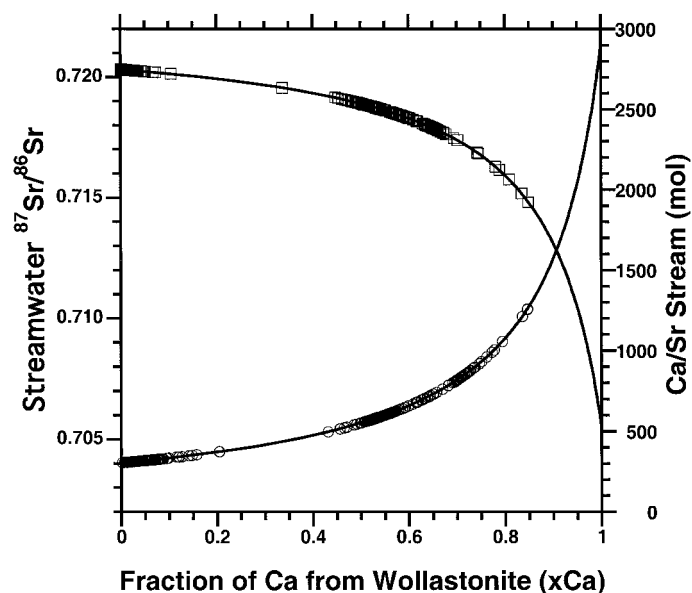


Figure 5. Mixing diagram showing  $^{87}\text{Sr}/^{86}\text{Sr}$  and Ca/Sr of streamwater as a function of the proportion of Ca from wollastonite ( $X_{\text{Ca}}$ ). Solid lines illustrate continuous calculated mixing between the background stream and wollastonite endmembers, with Ca/Sr (circles) and  $^{87}\text{Sr}/^{86}\text{Sr}$  (squares) plotted for individual streamwater samples.

where  $r_f$  is the solution flow rate and  $([m]_{(\text{in})} - [m]_{(\text{out})})$  is the change in the solute concentrations through a column or reactor. These two variables, taken together, define the release rate for the reaction. This release rate is then divided by the total surface area, given by the product of the mass of the reacting substance and its specific surface area,  $A_{\text{sp}}$ . We have treated the stream as a reactor, and thus, the arrangement of all parameters is similar, though larger in scale. The release rate, or flux of Ca from wollastonite dissolution ( $J_{\text{Ca}}$ ) is given by:

$$J_{\text{Ca}} = X_{\text{Ca}} \times [\text{Ca}]_{\text{Stream}} \times J_{\text{H}_2\text{O}}$$

where  $J_{\text{H}_2\text{O}}$  was the flux of water measured at the gauging weir. The Ca flux was then converted to a mass of exported wollastonite by dividing by the amount of Ca per unit of wollastonite (0.345 g/g). This wollastonite flux was then subtracted from the initial quantity of wollastonite to determine how much remained in the streambed (Figure 6d). Starting from the initial quantity of wollastonite deposited in the stream channel of 631 kg, we calculate that an amount of Ca equivalent to approximately 230 kg of wollastonite remained in the stream channel after 365 days.

An apparent dissolution rate (ADR) for wollastonite for each water sample analyzed was then calculated by dividing this Ca flux ( $J_{\text{Ca}}$ ) by the mineral surface area

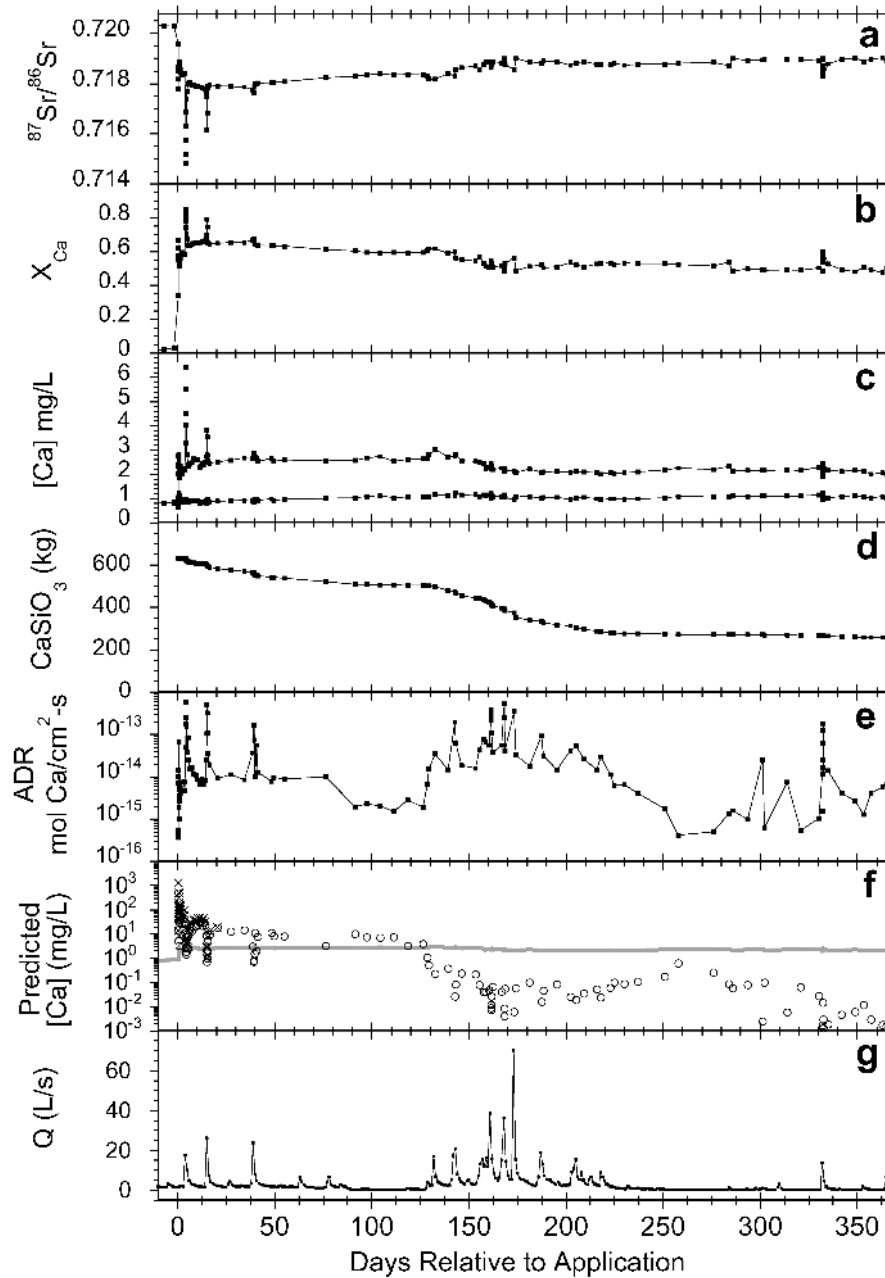


Figure 6. Streamwater response to wollastonite application. (a) Streamwater  $^{87}\text{Sr}/^{86}\text{Sr}$ , (b) the fraction of Ca attributable to wollastonite dissolution, (c) the concentration of Ca in streamwater (upper line), and the calculated background concentration of Ca determined by Sr isotopes (lower line) (Note: the difference between these curves is Ca derived from wollastonite dissolution), (d) the amount of  $\text{CaSiO}_3$  remaining in the watershed (initial conditions – export), (e) the calculated apparent dissolution rate (ADR) of wollastonite, (f) the predicted streamwater Ca concentration at a dissolution rate of  $4.2 \times 10^{-13}$  mol  $\text{Ca}/\text{cm}^2/\text{s}$  (x) and,  $1.6 \times 10^{-13}$  mol  $\text{Ca}/\text{cm}^2/\text{s}$  (o), and (g) stream discharge (Q, in L/s) following the application of wollastonite.

of the material that was actively dissolving in the stream (Figure 6e).

$$ADR = \left( \frac{J_{Ca}}{mass \times A_{sp}} \right)$$

Calculated ADRs varied by nearly four orders of magnitude during the year-long study; which is far beyond the magnitude of variation observed during laboratory experiments. Typical variability ranges from factors of 2–3 within studies, to about factors of 2–20 between different studies (e.g., Swoboda Colberg and Drever (1993) and Weissbart and Rimstidt (2000), Xie and Walther (1994)). To determine the cause of the variability observed in our study, we explored the variability in parameters used to calculate the dissolution rate: mineral surface area, hydrologic flux, and streamwater Ca concentration.

The calculation of a dissolution rate uses an estimate of mineral surface area, which is equal to the total mass of reacting material multiplied by the specific surface area per unit mass of material. In this experiment, nearly 50% of the total mass of wollastonite was exported in solution via the stream. To account for this export, the total reactive mass used in the calculation was reduced during each period of the experiment by an amount equal to the wollastonite export during the prior period. This is a correction that is not necessary in laboratory experiments, since less than 5% of the material is usually dissolved by the end of the experimental run. If this reduction in mass were not considered in this calculation, it would result in a rate approximately two times slower than the present calculations. The specific surface area used in calculations was measured before the application, which is the same convention employed in laboratory experiments. During the course of laboratory experiments, specific surface area of wollastonite has been observed to increase by a factor of 2–100 over the starting material. This increase in mineral surface area is most likely related to the thickening of the leached layer, which also results in a decrease in release rate. The convention of using the initial specific surface area might be expected to influence the rate calculations from this study and laboratory experiments equally, and should not cause significant discrepancies between dissolution rates. Additionally, changes in the specific surface area and mass of dissolving wollastonite would affect the calculated dissolution rates gradually during the experiment, and thus could not explain the complex pattern of short-period variations that is observed.

The two remaining parameters used in the calculation of the dissolution rate are the hydrologic flow rate, and the stream Ca concentration. The interplay between these two variables is critical in laboratory experiments. The behavior of systems far from equilibrium is such that an increase in flow rate results in a coincident decrease in solute concentration, maintaining a constant release rate. During this study, stream discharge fluctuated from 0.03 to 120 L/s, with little or no corresponding change in the stream Ca concentration. This relation might be expected if streamwater Ca and Si concentrations were close to saturation with wollastonite or some other solid mineral phase. However, the most concentrated streamwater sam-

ple measured in this study is highly undersaturated with respect to wollastonite, with a saturation index (SI, defined as  $\log(\text{IAP}/K_{\text{sp}}) = -7.1$ ). The most saturated phases are amorphous silica (SI = 0.250 to -0.287).

One possible explanation for the nearly constant Ca concentrations observed in the stream is that the system was buffered by the cation exchange complex in the hyporheic zone in direct contact with the stream water. To consider the feasibility of this hypothesis, we used laboratory dissolution rates to predict stream Ca concentrations in the absence of ion exchange, and then compared them with measured stream Ca concentration values. For dissolution rates ranging from  $1.5 \times 10^{-12}$  to  $6 \times 10^{-13}$  mol Ca/cm<sup>2</sup>/s (the full range of experimentally determined values), the streamwater Ca concentration is predicted using the equation:

$$[\text{Ca}]_p = \frac{r \times n \times A}{J_{\text{H}_2\text{O}}}$$

where  $r$  is the selected dissolution rate,  $n$  is the quantity of wollastonite that is dissolving in the streambed expressed as moles of Ca, and  $A$  is the total surface area. The predicted Ca concentrations and the measured streamwater Ca concentrations were compared and plotted in Figure 6f. Predicted Ca concentrations varied by more than a factor of 100 while measured concentrations varied by less than a factor of 1.5.

The difference between predicted and calculated Ca concentrations may be due to the retention or loss of Ca from an exchangeable pool. The amount of Ca sequestered in this pool was investigated by multiplying the predicted Ca concentrations discussed above by the hydrologic flux ( $J_{\text{H}_2\text{O}}$ ) to determine the predicted flux of Ca from wollastonite dissolution, and then comparing this calculated value with the measured streamwater Ca flux at the weir. The difference between these two fluxes was either added to or removed from the exchange pool for each time step. This calculation was performed for the two dissolution rates discussed previously that bracket all previous laboratory experiments ( $1.6 \times 10^{-13}$ ,  $4.2 \times 10^{-13}$  mol Ca/cm<sup>2</sup>/s), and the rate that would explain dissolution in this system without any retention of Ca on exchange sites ( $1 \times 10^{-14}$  mol Ca/cm<sup>2</sup>/s). The relationship between mineral dissolution rate and stream cation exchange capacity necessary to explain the stream Ca fluxes was calculated and is plotted in Figure 7a.

Before the addition of wollastonite, the Ca concentration of streamwater (and by inference, the stream bed material Ca cation exchange pool) has been steadily declining to a 36 year low (Likens et al. 1996, 1998). The addition of wollastonite and subsequent changes in stream solute concentrations would be expected to significantly perturb the streambed cation exchange complex equilibrium. Assuming that the dissolution rates obtained in laboratory experiments are reasonable estimates, the streambed exchange pool appears to have accumulated Ca, reaching a plateau of  $\sim 1.4$  eq Ca/m<sup>2</sup> approximately 20 days after the wollastonite application. At this time, the streambed exchange pool had presumably equilibrated with the considerably higher Ca concentrations in the streamwater. The streambed ex-



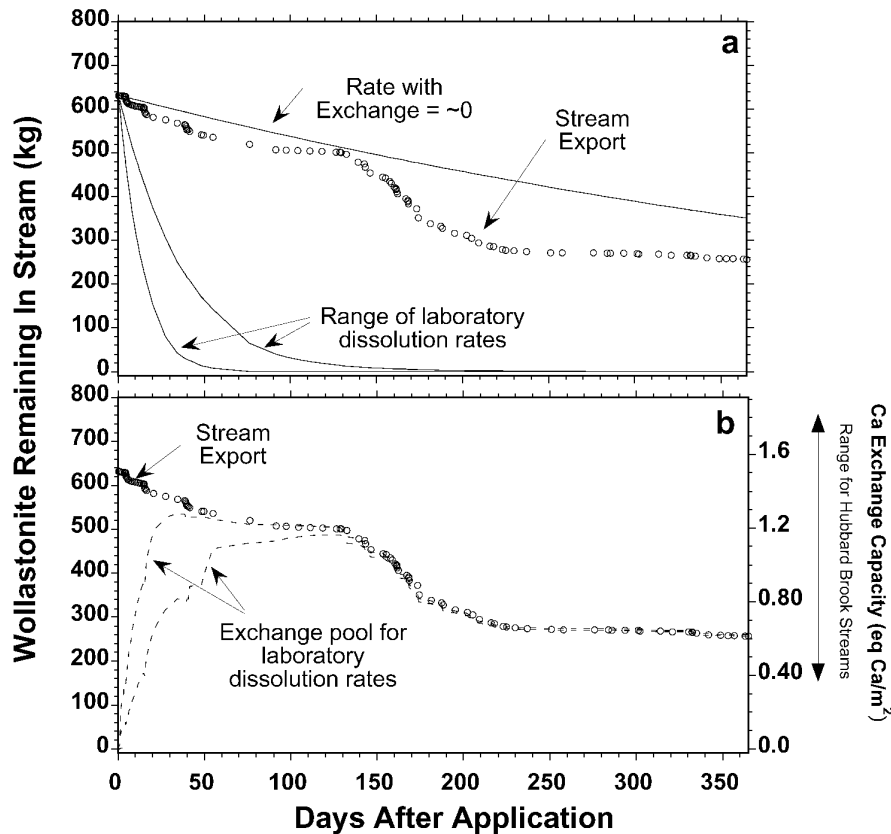


Figure 7. Wollastonite remaining in the stream channel (open circles) with time following the application of wollastonite. (a) For the dissolution rates of  $4.2 \times 10^{-13}$  mol Ca/cm<sup>2</sup>/s  $1.6 \times 10^{-13}$  mol Ca/cm<sup>2</sup>/s and  $1 \times 10^{-14}$  mol Ca/cm<sup>2</sup>/s (Exchange = 0), the wollastonite remaining is calculated and plotted (thin black lines). (b) Calculated Ca on the exchange complex (dashed lines). The wollastonite mass equivalent of the amount of Ca on exchange sites is given on the left Y-axis. The corresponding exchange capacity is given on the right Y-axis.

change capacity of  $1.4 \text{ eq Ca/m}^2$  compares favorably with data obtained by Hall et al. (2001), who measured the streambed exchange capacities 200 m downstream of the W-1 weir to be 0.5 to 2.5 eq Ca/m<sup>2</sup>. Considering this exchangeable component of stream chemistry, the wollastonite dissolution rates previously measured in the laboratory can be reconciled with our observations of the stream response to the wollastonite addition.

This result provides insight into several hypotheses put forth to explain the observed differences between laboratory and field measured dissolution rates on the same silicate minerals. Weathering rates determined using field techniques have typically been between 1 and 3 orders of magnitude slower than those determined experimentally in the laboratory (Velbel 1993). Possible explanations for this discrepancy have been discussed extensively (e.g., Blum and Stillings (1995)) and in-

clude: the dependence on solution saturation state, difficulties measuring field reactive surface area, unsaturated zone hydrology, and the influence of wetting and drying cycles. In this experiment, the system was far from equilibrium and nearly continuously wetted, much like laboratory column experiments. General agreement of the results of this field experiment with laboratory rates is therefore consistent with these rate-limiting environmental parameters providing an explanation for the discrepancy between field and laboratory measured dissolution rates.

#### *Dissolution stoichiometry*

The ratio of Ca to Si released from the wollastonite mineral structure in the W-1 stream can be illustrated in a graph of Si/Ca vs Sr/Ca (Figure 8). During the first few weeks of the experiment, Ca was released at a faster rate than Si. The degree of preferential release of Ca decreased with time during the first 6 months of the experiment by which time the release was nearly stoichiometric. Data collected after  $\sim 6$  months show a more rapid release of Si than Ca. This difference is consistent with experimental results, which show preferential leaching of Ca during the initial stages of wollastonite dissolution resulting in Ca-depleted mineral surfaces (Weissbart and Rimstidt 2000). While most laboratory experiments only view the initial release of Ca, this experiment was conducted for a long enough duration to allow the dissolution of the residual Ca-depleted wollastonite mineral phase.

#### **Conclusions**

The application of wollastonite to a forested watershed within the HBEF presents the opportunity to observe the dissolution of a well-studied silicate mineral in a natural environment. Stream Ca concentrations could be accurately attributed to either wollastonite dissolution or stream water background using the distinct  $^{87}\text{Sr}/^{86}\text{Sr}$  and Ca/Sr ratios of both the background stream water and the applied wollastonite. After accounting for cation exchange within the stream channel bed materials, the dissolution rate determined in laboratory experiments is consistent with observed changes in stream chemistry as a result of the wollastonite application.

The analysis of Ca and Si from wollastonite dissolution suggests preferential release of Ca over Si in the initial stages of weathering, followed by a period of stoichiometric release, and finally a period of preferential Si release. This observation supports previous laboratory experimental results that demonstrated the development of a Ca-depleted surface layer during initial stages of mineral dissolution.

The proportion of Ca from wollastonite dissolution in any ecosystem component can be quantified using the  $^{87}\text{Sr}/^{86}\text{Sr}$  and Ca/Sr ratios. Thus, the movement of Ca released by wollastonite dissolution can be traced through the aquatic and terrestrial ecosystems, allowing us to study the pathways and rates of Ca transfer.

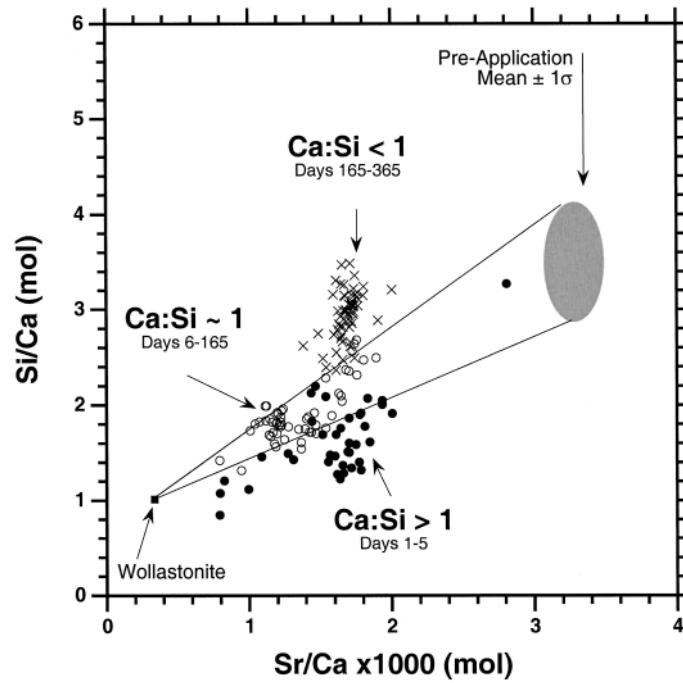


Figure 8. Plot of Sr/Ca vs Si/Ca for wollastonite and streamwater. Pre-application values and their 95% confidence interval are plotted on the right side of the graph. Tie lines connect the edges of the 95% confidence intervals with the wollastonite endmember. Data within this field are indistinguishable from 1:1 Ca:Si dissolution. Post application values are plotted in the middle of the graph. Initial values plot below the lower tie line indicating Ca > Si release. Samples collected a few months after the application show 1:1 Ca:Si dissolution. Samples taken > ~6 months after the application show Ca < Si release.

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