

## **The Chicken Creek landscape observatory – initial landscape development**

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The Huehnerwasser catchment is a 6 ha artificially created watershed in the open cast mine Welzow-South in the southeastern part of the State of Brandenburg. The two-layer system with a clay layer and a sandy layer on top of it was finalized in 2005 and left for research purposes without any further reclamation measures. It allows exemplarily the investigation of the initial landscape genesis. Particularly, the development from a primarily abiotic controlled system to a biotically driven system can be observed. In this context, this paper presents exemplary interactions between abiotic and biotic structural elements. These are on the one hand erosion and sedimentation processes and their interactions with vegetation. On the other hand the influence of vegetation on groundwater development will be highlighted.

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