



WESTAR-WRAP and Regional Haze

Four Corners Air Quality Group
September 22, 2022

Who we work with



- State air agencies
- Tribal air agencies
- Local air agencies
- EPA
- US Fish and Wildlife Service
- Bureau of Land Management
- National Park Service
- US Forest Service

WESTAR-WRAP

Promote the exchange of information between air agencies

Serve as a forum to discuss western regional air quality issues of common concern

Share resources for the common benefit of the member states

Regional Haze

The Landscape of Forever: Visibility Protection in the West



A Sense of Place

A Common Mission

Understanding Visibility

Understanding Natural Conditions

Western Vistas & Human Activity

Emissions & Visibility Progress

Learn More

Sense of Place

Preserving Lands

Preserving the wild lands and majestic vistas of the West for future generations is a vital goal for the entire nation. This goal reflects, in part, the value of the physical landscape. But it also recognizes the importance of Western lands and vistas to the cultural heritage and identity of the region's diverse peoples.

Photo: Cliff Palace, Mesa Verde National Park, Colorado. Credit: National Park Service.



esri A Story Map



Regional Haze

The Landscape of Forever: Visibility Protection in the West



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Hazy Conditions

Understanding Visibility

Understanding Visibility

To understand the Regional Haze Rule, we need to understand how air quality planners think about and measure visibility and the things that impair visibility.

What Is Visibility?

Visibility refers to a clear view of an object when viewing it at a distance. Good visibility means we have better clarity, color, and texture when looking at an object or a landscape.

A variety of conditions can impair visibility. The effect at Class I areas in the West can be dramatic, as the photos here demonstrate.

Scroll through the photos at right to see how haze in the air can reduce visibility. The left side of each photo show clear conditions, with visual range extending over a long distance (about 400 kilometers). The right side of each photo shows reduced visibility due to haze, with visual range

Western Vistas



Canyonlands National Park:
Haze - 31.3 kilometers visual
range (due to haze)

Mandatory Class I Areas



118 of 156 Class I federal areas:
just over 75% of national total

- NPS Unit
- USFS Unit
- FWS Unit

0 125 250 500 Kilometers

1/2007 Produced by NPS Air Resources Division



WESTERN VISIBILITY PROTECTION AND PLANNING INITIATIVE

Four Corners Air Quality Group

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Western Visibility Protection and Planning Initiative

Create a framework that will allow state, federal, tribal, and local air agencies to cooperatively continue improving visibility at Western Class I areas across the region.

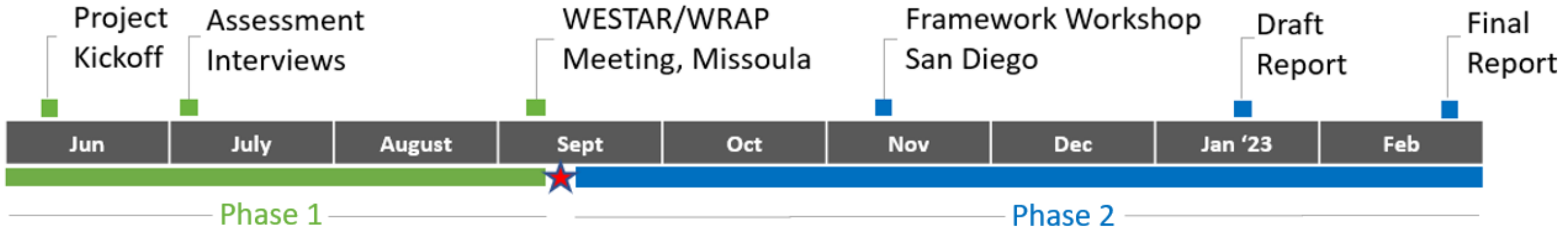
Serve as a guide for future visibility protection

Based on §169a of the Clean Air Act

Include input from all WRAP member agencies

Build consensus
Differences of opinion should be used to further the conversation

Process



Anticipated Products

- Interview findings
- Preliminary WVPPI Principles
- Recommended Phase 2 approach

Anticipated Products

- Preliminary WVPPI Framework
- November Workshop Outcomes
- Final WVPPI Framework Report and Recommendations

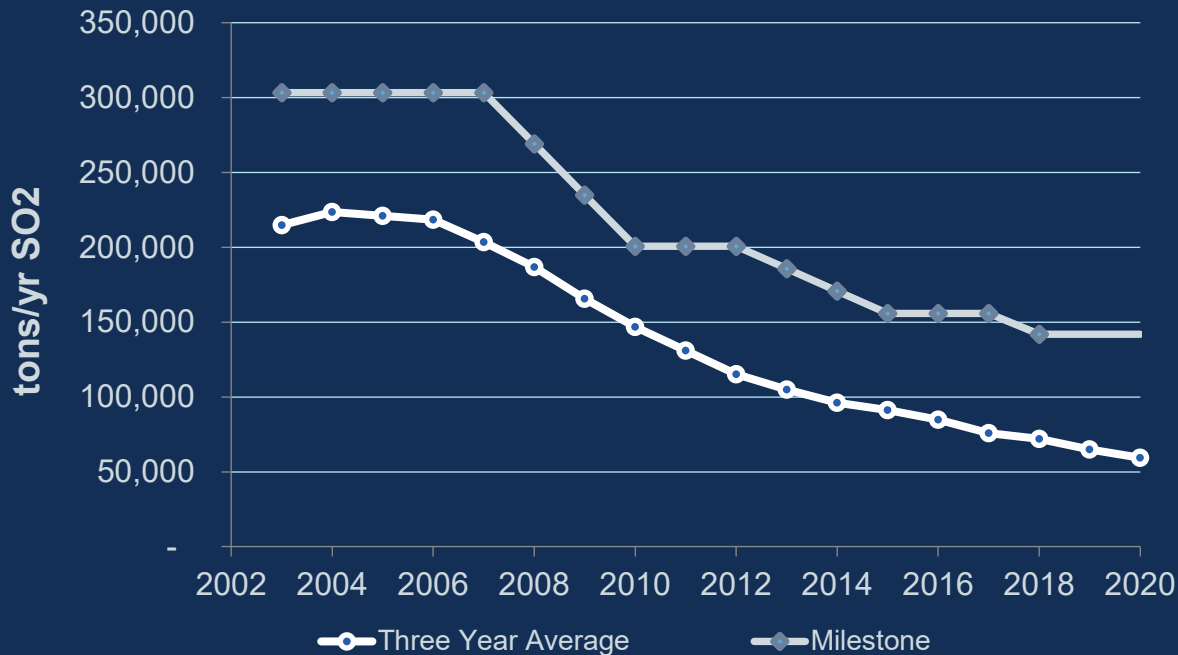
Guiding visibility protection efforts into the future

- Ensure a fundamental and shared understanding of the RHR and its requirements, with clear and timely rule revisions and guidance ahead of the next planning period
- Establish consistency in process and reporting whenever possible

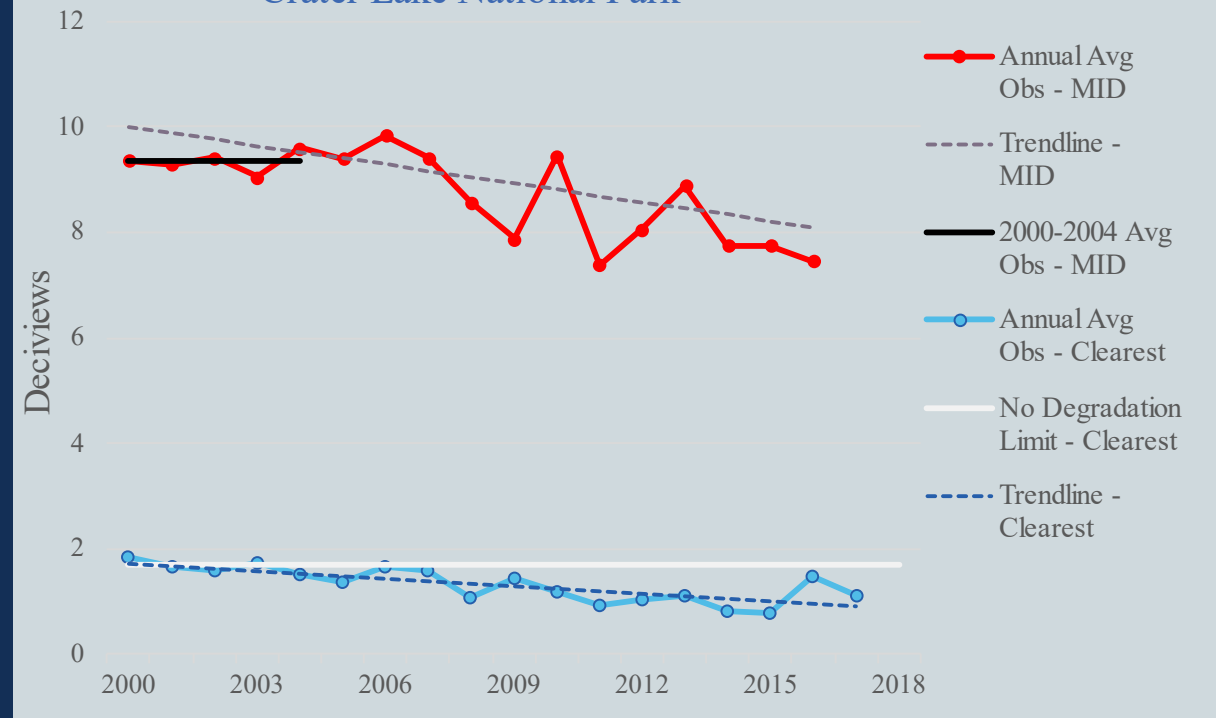
Guiding visibility protection efforts into the future

Affirm visibility as the goal—measure and monitor accordingly

SO₂ Milestones and Emission Trends
New Mexico, Utah, Wyoming, Albuquerque-Bernalillo



Crater Lake National Park

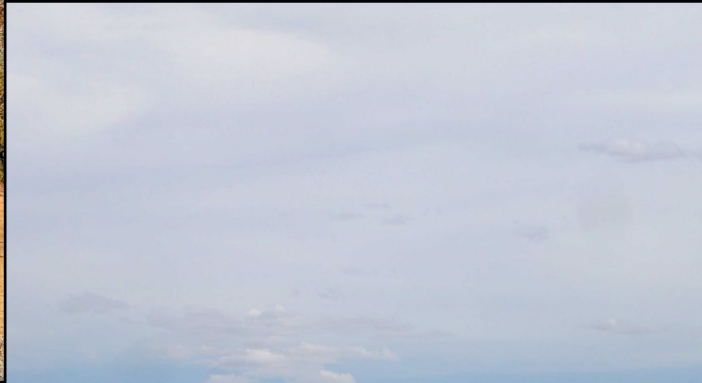


Guiding visibility protection efforts into the future

- Acknowledge a shared interest and responsibility for improved visibility—partners take action to reduce impacts for those sources they can control
- Incentivize early stakeholder engagement
- Coordinate efforts across air programs to maximize and leverage co-benefits

Guiding visibility protection efforts into the future

Recognize the unique challenges, opportunities, and variability confronting Class I areas in
Western states



Questions? Discussion?



Bryce Canyon National Park
Utah