



Tribal Perspective and Engagement: Regional Haze Planning

March 2015 Regional Haze Planning Meeting – TEAM

What is Regional HAZE?



What is Haze?

Haze is caused when sunlight encounters tiny pollution particles in the air. Some light is absorbed by particles. Other light is scattered away before it reaches an observer. More pollutants mean more absorption and scattering of light, which reduce the clarity and color of what we see. Some types of particles such as sulfates, scatter more light, particularly during humid conditions.

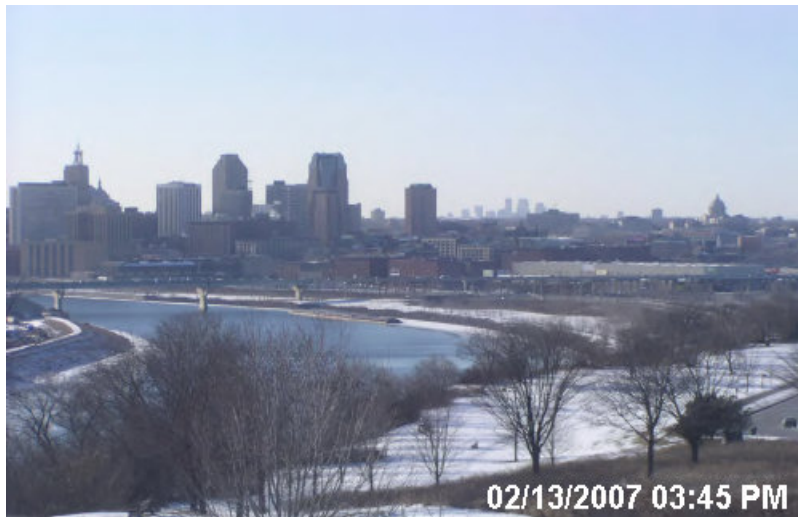
~Refraction, Reflection, and Absorption~

Air pollution has significantly reduced our visual range.

- Eastern parks, average range decreased from 90 to 15-25 miles.
- West, from 140 to 35-90 miles.

Rule Beginnings

- FLM monitoring Haze since 1988
- Regional Haze Rule by EPA in 1999
 - Regional haze can originate from natural and anthropogenic sources located across broad geographic areas and jurisdictions



Regional Haze Rule Demands

Regional Haze Rule requires the States, in coordination with:

- Tribes
 - EPA
 - National Park Service
 - US Fish & Wildlife Service
 - US Forest Service
 - Stakeholders
 - industry, environmental groups, locals
- Tribes are **NOT** stakeholders, Tribes are sovereign nations

to develop and implement air quality protection plans to reduce pollution that causes visibility impairment in mandatory Class I areas

RPO Background Information

- Address visibility impairment from a regional perspective, 5 RPOs
- Evaluate technical information to better understand how States and Tribes impact national park and wilderness areas (Federal Class I areas)
 - 158 national parks and wilderness areas (156 w/visibility AQRV)
 - 5 Tribal Nations have redesignated to Class I (not covered by Regional Haze Rules)
- Develop regional strategies to reduce emissions of particulate matter and other pollutants contributing to regional haze

Mandatory Class I Areas



What Reservations have redesignated lands to Class I areas?

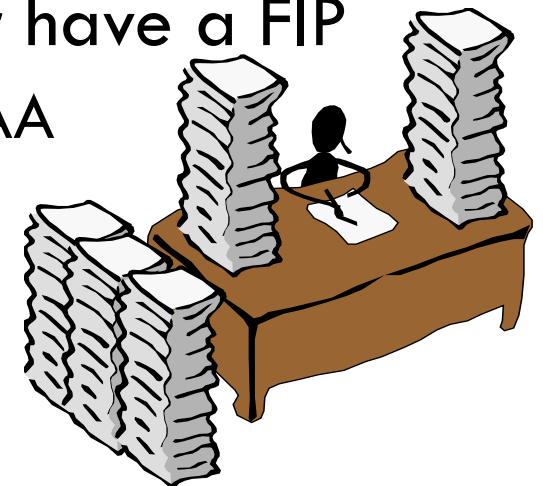
- The following federal Indian Reservations have been redesignated to Class I status:
 - ▣ Northern Cheyenne Indian Reservation, Montana
 - ▣ Flathead Indian Reservation, Montana
 - ▣ Fort Peck Indian Reservation, Montana
 - ▣ Spokane Indian Reservation, Washington
 - ▣ Forest County Potawatomi Reservation, Wisconsin

State Implementation Plans - SIPs

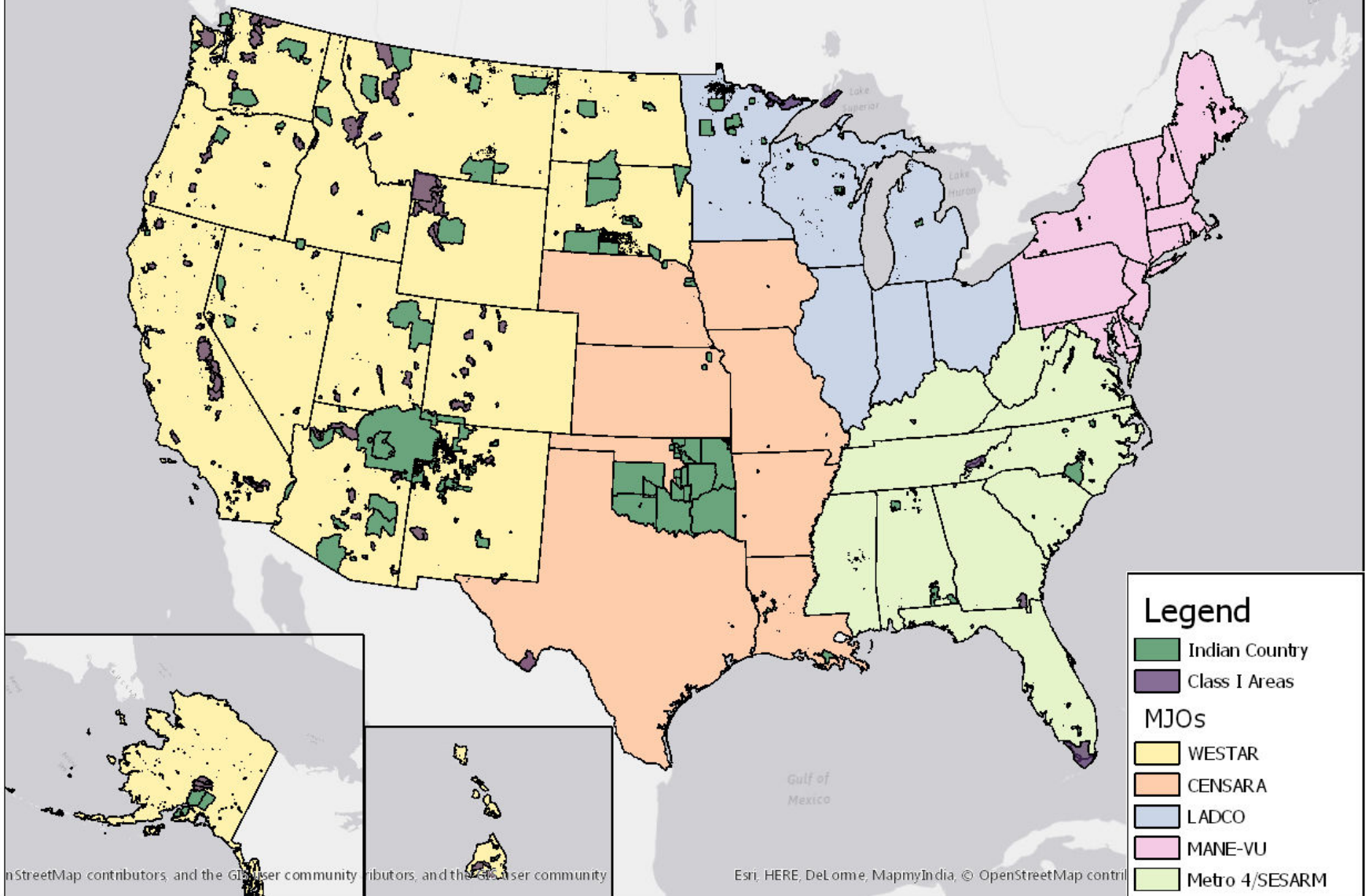
Tribal Implementation Plans - TIPs

- States have to have second round of Haze SIPs completed by 2018-2020
 - ▣ Tribes have had input on State SIPs
 - ▣ Tribes must continue to have input in future SIPs

- Most Tribes have option to do TIP or have a FIP
 - ▣ Under Tribal Authority Rule of the CAA
 - FIP is federal government plan
 - TIP is a Tribal Nation plan
 - No set deadlines



Federally Recognized Tribes, Class I Areas, and MJOs

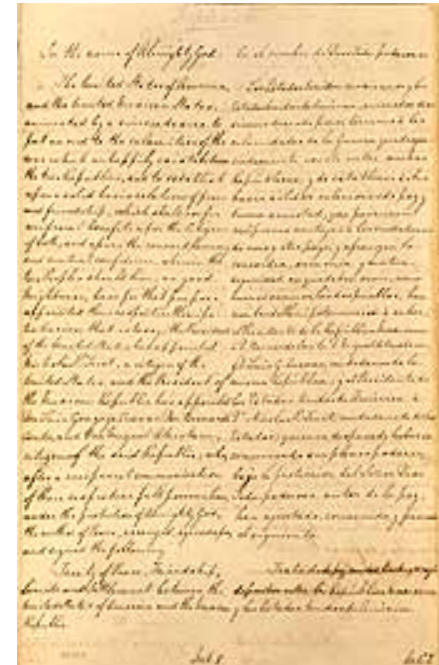


Why Tribes are involved...

- Sacred protection—all land is considered sacred, vistas and views are also considered sacred
- Reduction of visibility-impairing pollutants reduces acid-rain, ozone and total PM, which without reduction can:
 - Injure food and medicinal plants, and their ecosystem
 - Bioaccumulate deposition mercury and other metals into food- and medicinal- sources
 - Result in degradation of Petroglyphs, Petroforms, and other Sacred sites
 - Contribute to overall environmental degradation of Sacred sights
 - Trigger asthma and/or other respiratory conditions
 - Exacerbate cardiovascular conditions

Why are Tribes involved...

- Usual and Accustomed Responsibilities
- Treaty Rights
- Many Federal Class I areas covered by Treaty
 - Usual and Accustomed areas
 - Treaty-ceded Territories
 - Traditional Use areas
 - Reservations
 - Tribal Trust parcels
 - Tribal Fee Simple parcels
 - Other Lands



Why Tribes are involved...

- Networking with States, Tribes and other agencies to accomplish shared goals in visibility and air quality protection

- RPOs/MJOs are vehicles to:
 - ▣ Reduce emissions
 - ▣ Create cooperative strategies
 - ▣ Share information
 - Technical
 - Cultural
 - Policy



History of Tribal Participation with RPOs

- Tribal Participation initially was a struggle but evolved over time to become productive and beneficial for both states and Tribes
- Tribal participation in the past included roles in decision-making boards and technical or oversight groups
- Funding was available for effective Tribal participation:
 - Travel Assistance
 - Technical support (e.g., TEISS)
 - Staff Support



Tribal participation in the MJOs is currently inconsistent

- ❑ WRAP still has member Tribes (18), support for Tribal participation on the board (5 seats), and Tribes are included in the Charter and work plan; WRAP member Tribes are ex-officio (non-voting) members of WESTAR
- ❑ MANE-VU is inclusive of Tribes, supportive
- ❑ LADCO has Tribes on project teams but not in the decision making outcomes; limited engagement of Tribes
- ❑ Others it's less clear how Tribes are involved

Current Concerns for Tribes

- Loss of RPOs for Tribes includes:
 - ▣ Policy, legislative and other information updates
 - ▣ Networking
 - ▣ Sharing of technical information
 - ▣ Input on the SIPs
- Uncertainty on how Tribes will have an ongoing role in the MJOs
- Consultation with the Tribes on SIPs and FIPs is very important and required



Current Concerns for Tribes

- Tribal Emissions Inventories need to be taken into account in the regional haze SIPs
- Investment in technical tools such as TEISS needs to be expanded
- Protection of important environmental and sacred areas
- Tribes have value to add in the regional haze process; that value must be recognized



Representatives from Tribes Here Today

Bill Thompson – Penobscot Indian Nation

(MANE-VU) NESCAUM

Ralph McCullers – Poarch Band of Creek Indians

SESARM (VISTA)

Alex Jackson – Fond du Lac Band of Lake Superior Chippewa

Mid-West RPO (LADCO)

Joseph Painter – Winnebago Tribe of Nebraska

CENRAP (CenSARA)

Julie Simpson – Nez Perce Tribe

WRAP (WESTAR)

Randy Ashley – Confederated Salish & Kootenai Tribes

WRAP (WESTAR)

Quebec Fire Plume at ME04



Questions? Comments?