

NATIONAL TRIBAL ENVIRONMENTAL COUNCIL



FACT SHEET

The Western Regional Air Partnership (WRAP) is an innovative partnership between states, tribes, and federal agencies to address air quality issues in the west. It may set precedent for the ways tribes and states collaborate and negotiate environmental policy. Thus its importance to tribal nations extends beyond western tribes, or those with pressing air quality issues. This fact sheet gives a broad overview of the WRAP.

ORIGIN

The WRAP is the successor organization to the Grand Canyon Visibility Transport Commission (the Commission). The Commission was created by 1990 amendments to the Clean Air Act, with the purpose of recommending to EPA various means of eliminating visibility impairment at the Grand Canyon National Park. The creation of the Commission was part of a package of amendments designed to prod EPA in its efforts to achieve the mandate Congress had laid down in 1977: the elimination of all human-caused visibility impairment in national parks and wilderness areas.

The Commission, which included the Hopi Tribe, Hualapai Nation, Navajo Nation, and Pueblo of Acoma along with 9 western states, issued its final report to EPA in June of 1996. The report contained over 70 specific recommendations, including goals for renewable energy and pollution prevention, emission management strategies for stationary, mobile, and "area" sources; and future administrative and technical needs. The report also recommended that a permanent successor to itself be established, in order to coordinate and facilitate the implementation of recommendations by the numerous governments involved.

In 1997, the WRAP was formed in accordance with the Commission's recommendation.

SCOPE

The WRAP has decided to expand its scope beyond the implementation of the Commission's recommendations to visibility in all "Class I" areas (national parks, wildlife refuges, and wilderness areas) in the region. The WRAP may also address other air quality issues, but for the immediate future the focus will remain on visibility.

NATURE OF THE PARTNERSHIP

The WRAP is a voluntary association between tribal, state, and federal governments. It has no regulatory authority of its own. The WRAP charter provides for equal representation of states and tribes (see membership on reverse), plus the U.S. Departments of Interior and Agriculture. EPA is an ex-officio member. All decisions are made on a consensus basis.

ORGANIZATIONAL STRUCTURE

In order to address the numerous technical and policy issues associated with visibility improvement, the WRAP has created an institutional structure made up of standing committees which have oversight over mission-specific working bodies known as "forums." At these lower organizational levels, representation includes local government and non-sovereign "stakeholders" (environmentalists, industry, small business, academia, & the general public. See list of Forums on reverse).

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MEMBERSHIP

Following are the partners which comprise the WRAP. All policy and technical recommendations of the WRAP must have the consensus of these partners. It is important to note that tribal participation in the WRAP is not limited to the partner tribes; all tribes in the region are welcome and encouraged to participate throughout the WRAP organization. All WRAP- related meetings are open to the public.

States

Alaska
Arizona
California
Colorado
Idaho
Montana
New Mexico
North Dakota
Oregon
South Dakota
Utah
Washington
Wyoming

Tribes

Campo Band of Kumeyaay Indians
Cortina Indian Rancheria
Hopi Tribe
Hualapai Nation of the Grand Canyon
Nez Perce Tribe
Northern Cheyenne Tribe
Pueblo of Acoma
Pueblo of San Felipe
Confederated Tribes of Salish & Kootenai
Shoshone-Bannock Tribes of Fort Hall
(3 Tribal positions pending)

Federal

U.S. Dept. Agriculture
U.S. Dept. Interior
EPA (non-“voting”)

STANDING COMMITTEES

These committees include public stakeholder representatives as well as governmental representatives. Some of their functions include providing oversight and direction to the Forums which develop detailed technical and policy products for the WRAP; identifying new issues for resolution, facilitating internal and public communications, and making recommendations to the WRAP.

- Initiative Oversight Committee
- Communications Committee
- State & Tribal Air Managers Committee
- Technical Oversight Committee
- International Projects Committee

FORUMS

Research & Development	Stationary Sources (Market Trading)
Emissions Inventory	Mobile Sources
Ambient Monitoring & Reporting	Fire Emissions
Tribal Data Development	Emissions In & Near Class I Areas
Air Quality Modeling	Air Pollution Prevention
Dust Emissions	Economic Analysis

MORE INFORMATION

For more information on the WRAP, visit the web site: www.wrapair.org. Or, contact:
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