

## Regional Haze Planning



Crater Lake National Park.



State of Oregon  
Department of  
Environmental  
Quality

### Air Quality Planning

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*DEQ is a leader in restoring, maintaining and enhancing the quality of Oregon's air, land and water.*

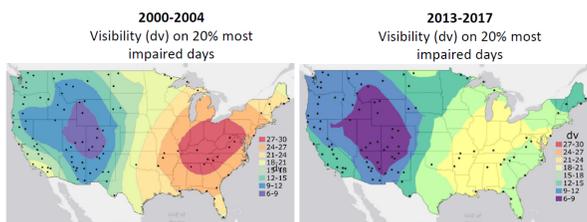
### History of Regional Haze Program

In 1977, pollution and decreased visibility of scenic views at national parks and wilderness areas prompted Congress to require the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency to take action. EPA identified specific facilities whose emissions clearly caused regional haze in these nationally treasured places. This initial work led to the 1999 Regional Haze Rule.

This rule mandates gradual progress toward restoring natural visibility conditions by the year 2064 at designated national parks, wilderness areas, monuments, forests, seashores, and wildlife refuges, collectively referred to as Class I areas. The rule was revised in 2017 to strengthen visibility protection, emphasizing that states reduce man-made emissions of air pollutants that impair visibility at these special places held in the public trust.

The good news is that visibility has improved significantly in nearly all areas of the U.S. from 2000 to 2017, as seen in the two maps below.

#### First Planning Period: Visibility is Improving



Two color coded maps showing visibility improving from the baseline period (2000-2004) to the most current 5-year period (2013-2017) in all areas of the United States. Source: 9/10/19 EPA Webinar Overview of [Guidance on Regional Haze SIPs for the Second Implementation Period](#).

### The Planning Process Required by the Regional Haze Rule

The Regional Haze Rule sets up a multi-step process to improve visibility. The rule divides the process into ten-year planning periods. During each period, states undertake a series of steps to achieve gradual improvement in visibility.

The current planning period is an exception to the ten-year rule. It begins in 2021 and ends in 2028. EPA anticipates that later planning periods will resume the normal ten-year interval. By the time the final planning period ends, in 2064, EPA's goal is for visibility to be restored to what state and federal planners agree is natural for each Class I area.

This requires estimating emissions from natural sources, emissions from anthropogenic (human-related) sources, and amounts of pollution which are beyond the control of states (such as international emissions, and some transportation-related emissions).

Before each ten-year planning period begins, every state must complete a series of steps:

1. States review the data in the IMPROVE monitoring network, which measures the visibility-impairing pollutant concentrations at a given Class I area;
2. States calculate the amount of air pollutants known to contribute to poor visibility that is emitted within their boundaries from different sources;
3. States analyze this data on visibility and pollutants to identify

pollution sources likely contributing to visibility problems at particular areas, both inside their own borders and in other states;

4. Each state identifies reasonable pollution control methods that will reduce emissions to improve visibility;
5. Regional technical experts use computer modeling to project how much the identified pollution control measures are expected to improve visibility at each Class I area over ten years;
6. Throughout the plan development, states consult with the Federal Land Managers of the Class I areas that states' regulatory actions are intended to benefit, and then ask the Federal Land Managers for a formal review of the plan before it is released to the public for final review.
7. States adopt plans to implement the identified pollution control methods, make them legally binding, and work to achieve the projected ten-year visibility improvement at each area; and
8. States report to the public and to EPA regarding what the visibility trends have been and the improvements to visibility that are expected due to the adopted pollution control techniques.

### The Path to July 31, 2021

Activity	2019			2020				2021	
	Q2	Q3	Q4	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	Q1	Q2
Data Analysis & Modeling									
Source contribution analysis									
Consultations									
Rulemaking									
EQC									
Final SIP Submittal to EPA									

### Alternative formats

DEQ can provide documents in an alternate format or in a language other than English upon request. Call DEQ at 800-452-4011 or email [deqinfo@deq.state.or.us](mailto:deqinfo@deq.state.or.us).

### Timeline of Activities

DEQ works with the Western Regional Air Partnership Regional Haze Program Working Group to perform the analyses and coordinate activities among western states. Data analysis and modeling runs are expected to be completed by the end of the second quarter of 2020. Source contribution analysis is happening concurrently during that period.

Consultations are starting in late 2019 and should happen throughout the process through to the end, in July 2021. DEQ expects rulemaking to begin in mid to late 2020, with public comment taking place in late 2020 and/or early 2021. The final State Implementation Plan is due to EPA on or before July 31, 2021.