Regional Haze Program
2nd Planning and Implementation Period
Introduction and Overview

Air Quality
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Regional Haze – Policy Context
Regional Haze in Oregon

- Visibility & visibility impairment
- Sources of Visibility Impairment
- Definition of Class I Area
- Oregon’s Class I Areas and the Columbia River Gorge NSA
Haze and Visibility

• Air pollution that is transported long distances and reduces visibility in cities and scenic areas.

• Haze is caused when sunlight encounters tiny pollution particles in the air that scatters light and decreases visibility.

• **Small amounts of air pollution** (well below health standards) can have significant effect on visibility.
Visibility

• Visibility is “how far” and “how well” you can see a distant object.

• Scientifically: \( \text{light scattering} + \text{light absorption} = \text{light extinction} \).

Looking East from Vista House

**Good visibility = > 100 mi**
(or 9 deciview)

**Poor visibility = < 25 mi**
(or 23 deciview)
Sources of Visibility Impairment

- Motor Vehicles
- Agriculture & Dairies
- Field Burning
- Stationary Sources
- Shipping
- Dust
- Wildfire
- Woodstoves
What is a Class I Area?
Regional Haze in Oregon

- Comprehensive review of visibility conditions in Class I Areas
EPA’s Regional Haze Rule (1999)

• Requires improvement of the 20% WORST days and no degradation of the 20% BEST days to 2064.

• States must adopt comprehensive strategies.

• Must show “reasonable progress” in improving visibility goal (by 2018 first planning period, by 2028 for the second).
Regional Haze in Oregon

- Comprehensive review of visibility conditions in Oregon Class I Areas
- Evaluation of 5 BART-eligible sources;
  - retrofit controls at PGE Boardman; FEPLs at 4 other sources
- Smoke management plan; Willamette Valley field burning rule
Regional Haze in Oregon

- Evaluated 2010-2014 progress towards 2018 visibility goals
- Continued to see emissions reductions from BART
- Visibility improved on best and worst days
- Most Class I Areas meeting 2018 RPGs
Regional Haze in Oregon

Regional Haze Definitions

1st Regional Haze Rule (1999)

1st 10-year Regional Haze Plan (2009)

Regional Haze Progress Report (2017)

2nd 10-year Regional Haze Plan (2021)

End of Second 10-year Plan Period (2028)

“Natural Conditions” Goal (2064)

- Calculations of visibility conditions in each of Oregon’s Class I Areas: focus on anthropogenic impacts
- Long Term Strategy for regional haze
- Reasonable Progress Goals
The National Park Service estimates that as of mid-2014, emission controls established under the first planning period led to approximately 500,000 tons/year of SO₂ and 300,000 tons/year of NOx reductions. EPA estimates that visibility has improved significantly with the average visual range increased by 20 – 30 miles in Class I areas.
The Path to July 31, 2021

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Thank you!