

US EPA ARCHIVE DOCUMENT

# The Proposed Regional Haze Program

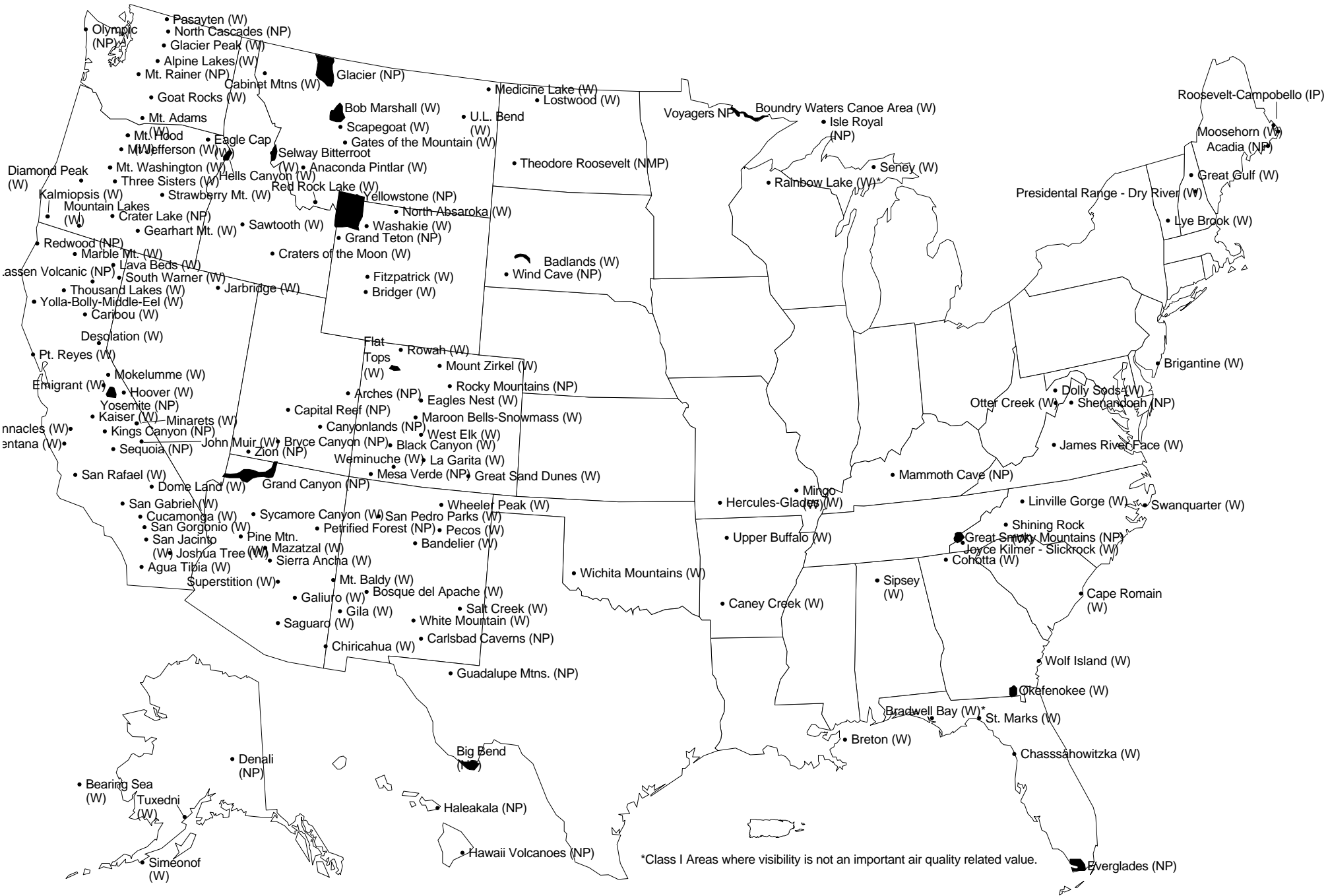
September  
1998



Proposed on July 31, 1997  
62 Federal Register 41138

# Background

- Regional haze is caused by numerous sources of fine particle pollution located over a broad area
  - Sulfate, nitrate, organics, elemental carbon (soot), soil dust
- Regional Haze program protects visibility in 156 Class I national parks and wilderness areas



Map of Mandatory Federal Class I Areas

# Regional Haze Program Elements

- Applicability (State Participation)
- Reasonable Progress Targets
- Implementation Plan Revisions
- Best Available Retrofit Technology
- Visibility Monitoring
- Long-Term Strategy

# Applicability

- Current visibility program applies only to States and territories having Class I areas
- Regional Haze program applies to all States based on evidence of interstate pollutant transport

# Proposed Reasonable Progress Targets

- Proposed targets establish "criteria for measuring reasonable progress"
  - **Targets are NOT a standard**
- Targets are expressed in terms of deciview

# Proposed Reasonable Progress Targets

- Targets seek to improve worst visibility days and maintain best visibility days
  - For 20% worst days: EPA presumed a rate equal to 1 deciview improvement over 10 or 15 years to be reasonable
  - For 20% best days: No degradation
- Alternative Progress Targets for Class I areas can be established in consultation with FLM's and EPA



# Best Available Retrofit Technology (BART)

- Applies to existing major stationary sources from 26 specific categories, placed into operation between 1962-77, which emit pollutants reasonably anticipated to contribute to regional haze in Class I areas

# Long-Term Strategy

- Act requires LTS to cover 10-15 years
- Measures to be coordinated through regional planning process
- States must consider emissions from all sources in developing their strategies
- States must evaluate progress and targets, and update their strategies every 10-15 years

# Transportation Equity Act for the 21st Century

- Signed into law on 6/9/98
- Delays designations of PM-2.5 areas pending complete air quality data
- Adjusts the dates in the proposed Regional Haze rule for implementation plans:
  - **within 1 year of EPA designation for PM-2.5 attainment or unclassifiable areas (2004-2006), or**
  - **at same time for PM-2.5 nonattainment area control strategy SIPs (2006-2008)**

# Western Governors Association Letter to Carol Browner

- Signed by Governor Leavitt on 6/29/98
  - Developed by stakeholder group  
(States, industry, environmental groups)
- Reflects concerns that the proposed rule did not adequately address the Grand Canyon Visibility Transport Commission strategy
- Recommends regulatory and preamble language for the final rule

# **EPA Notice of Availability published on 9/3/98**

- **Comment period opened for the WGA letter and TEA-21 only**
  - **Requests comment on how to address WGA letter and how to support regional planning in light of TEA-21**
- **Comment period closes October 5, 1998**

# Rulemaking Status

- 1200+ comments received by 12/5/97
- New comment period to close 10/5/98
- Review of comments and submission to interagency review in Fall 1998