GOAL 1: Clean Air and Global Climate Change

Protect and improve the air so it is healthy to breathe and risks to human health and the environment are reduced. Reduce greenhouse gas intensity by enhancing partnerships with businesses and other sectors.

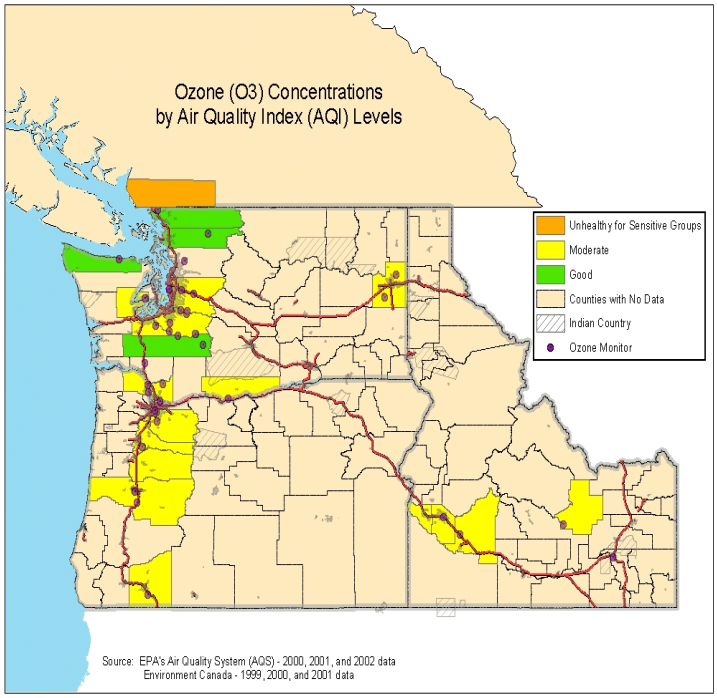
Region 10 Air Quality Strategic Planning. Over the past two years, Region 10 has undertaken an innovative and ground-breaking project to involve all of the stakeholders in the Pacific Northwest and Alaska in joint strategic planning - the Northwest Collaborative Air Priorities Project (NW CAPP). This project is led and managed by a leadership team composed of the leaders of federal, state, and local agencies, tribes, business organizations, companies, academics, non-governmental organizations, and environmental organizations. In June 2003, the NW CAPP held an Air Summit which was attended by nearly 200 delegates from throughout the Pacific Northwest and Alaska. At this Summit, the delegates jointly decided on the top air quality priorities for the next 5 to 10 years[1]. The delegates also chose a variety of projects that will result in progress toward achieving the priorities. While the format of this Regional Strategic Plan follows the structure of the national plan, Region 10 remains committed to making progress on the 8 NW CAPP priorities. Many of the strategies to achieve the objectives and sub-objectives in this Regional Plan will also contribute to making progress on the NW CAPP priorities. And importantly, many of the projects being implemented as a result of the Air Summit will contribute to achieving the objectives and sub-objectives that are important for the Region.

Objective 1.1: Healthier Outdoor Air. Through 2010, working with partners, protect human health and the environment by attaining and maintaining health-based air-quality standards and reducing the risk from toxic air pollutants

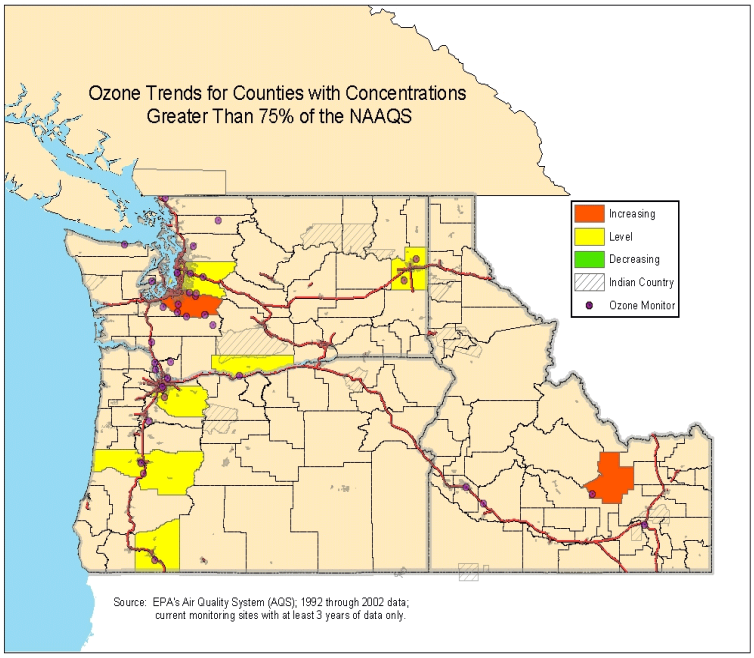
> **Sub-Objective 1.1.1: More People Breathing Cleaner Air.** By 2010, working with partners, improve air quality to healthy levels for 39 percent of the people who live in areas where the air does not meet new national standards for fine particles in 2001 and for 60 percent who live in areas not meeting new national standards for 8-hour ozone in 2001.[1,2] While some areas may not reach attainment of these new standards because of air pollutant concentrations that sometimes exceed the allowable levels, air quality will improve for an additional 27 percent of the people who live in areas not meeting new standards for 8-hour ozone in 2001. Maintain attainment status for the 123.7 million people who had healthy air for the criteria pollutants in 2001.

Current State/Major Problems to be Addressed: State and local air agencies in Region 10 have been very successful in ensuring that air quality levels are in compliance with the NAAQS. Of the 36 areas originally designated as nonattainment in 1991 for carbon monoxide,

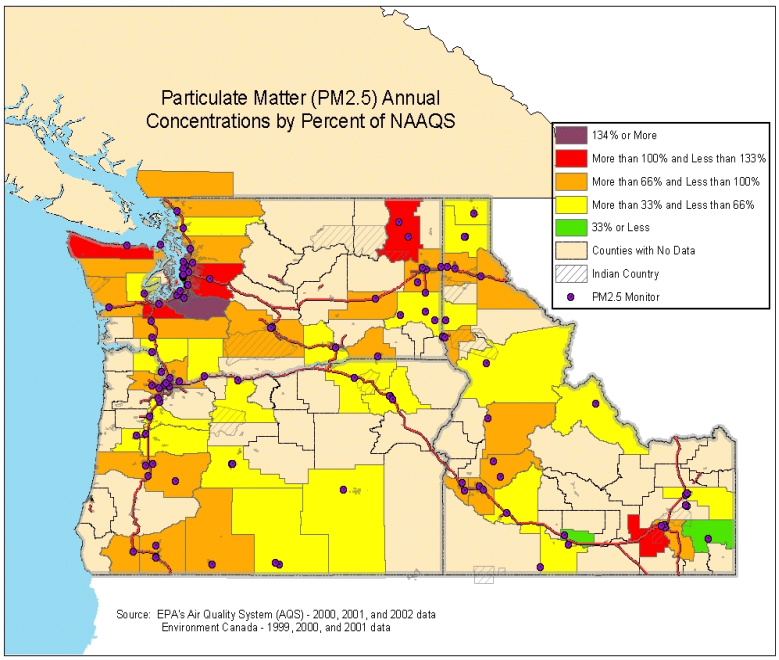
particulate matter, or ozone, only one PM10 area continues to measure levels above the NAAQS. As of 2002, only three areas in the Region violated the NAAQS (two PM10, one SO2), and those violations are associated with two isolated large stationary sources or local street sanding practices. Data from the State, local, and tribal ambient air quality monitoring networks show that, with a few exceptions, air quality continues to improve. Ozone levels in and near the three large metropolitan areas of Seattle-Tacoma, Portland-Vancouver, and Boise are near the NAAQS and may exceed in the future unless proactive actions are taken. PM2.5 levels in several areas are at or near the NAAQS and actions may be needed to ensure that violations do not occur.



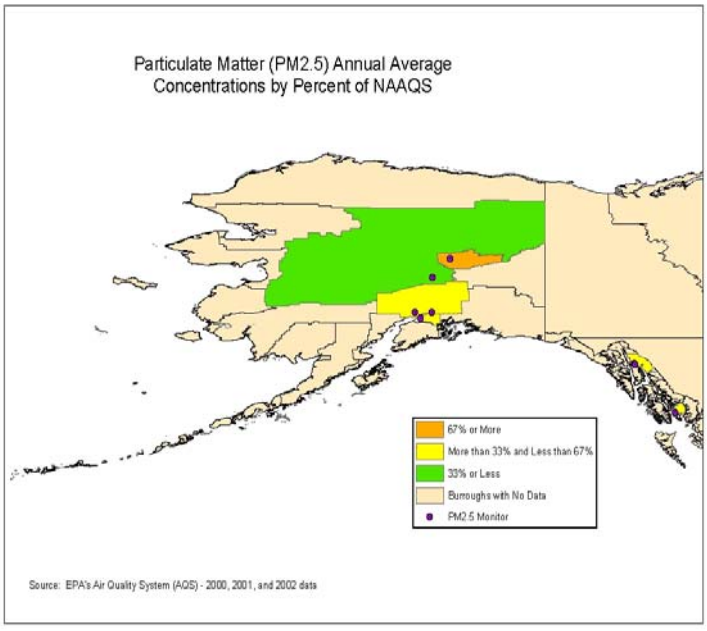
Within EPA Region 10, fewer than 5 Tribes have programs developed under their own inherent authority. Of the 271 tribes, 20 currently have CAA 103 grants which support activities such as conducting emission inventories, ambient air quality monitoring, and development of CAA delegable program/TAS applications. There are currently about 15 monitoring sites operating in Indian Country in Region 10 (several with multiple monitors). In addition, many are receiving training and are in the initial stages of establishing a program. Lastly, one Tribe is implementing an agricultural burn permit program on behalf of EPA with funds provided via a DITCA.



The Boise area is very close to violating the 8-hour ozone NAAQS. Since to date there have been no ozone nonattainment areas in Idaho, we foresee a lot of up-front work in helping the State develop ozone expertise and establish an infrastructure for addressing ozone problems (e.g., RACT for VOC sources). In addition, unlike other ozone areas, the State will not be able to rely on previous assessments to help focus its planning efforts. This may result in the need for more time and resources to solve whatever problems are identified. For PM2.5, we do not anticipate that our States would have any major problems developing attainment strategies in the event that PM2.5 standards are violated in the future.



Strategy Highlights: The source-specific SO2 problem and the local street sanding problem are already being addressed. EPA will continue to work with the State of Idaho and the Nez Perce Tribe of the Fort Hall Reservation to address the remaining PM10 issues in the Pocatello airshed. EPA will provide technical and financial support to the State and local agencies as they develop new strategies to ensure that the 8-hour ozone standard is not violated in the Seattle-Tacoma, Portland-Vancouver, and Boise areas. Finally, should the new PM2.5 standards be violated in any area in the future, EPA will assist the appropriate air authorities to develop new control strategies to attain and maintain the PM2.5 NAAQS.



Smoke and Air Quality

Region 10 has developed a Smoke and Air Quality Strategy to provide a framework to identify and prioritize our work and resources on regional smoke and air quality issues related to prescribed burning for the agricultural and forestry sectors in the Pacific Northwest and Alaska. The strategy also provides a way for EPA to inform the public and our partner agencies at the state, local, tribal, and federal levels about our efforts. The strategy acknowledges the value of using prescribed fire as a land management tool, but has an overall vision that emissions from prescribed burning do not endanger public health or welfare. Implementation efforts under the strategy focus on prescribed burning activities that:

- pose a significant concern for adverse impacts to public health and welfare;
- have a high level of interagency, cross-sector, or cross-jurisdictional interest; or
- involve a responsibility, or valuable and unique role for EPA, such as our government-to-government relationship with tribes.

Using this criteria, the majority of Region 10's work will focus on agricultural field burning, rather than the forestry sector. In the Northwest, agricultural burning programs are generally less mature than forestry burning programs, they are more controversial and the subject of numerous lawsuits in state and federal courts, and they are in greater need of EPA financial and technical assistance and regional leadership. However, the strategy also includes tasks related to cross-sector coordination and the development of smoke modeling and monitoring tools that will integrate aspects of all major sources of smoke from prescribed burning. Goals of the strategy are:

- To provide regional leadership on smoke and air quality issues in the Pacific Northwest and Alaska through coordination, collaboration, and implementation of our federal environmental protection role;
- To increase the effectiveness of Smoke Management Programs (SMPs) in the Pacific Northwest and Alaska through programmatic and technical improvements;
- To reduce prescribed burning emissions in the Pacific Northwest and Alaska through further assessment and adoption of reasonable alternatives, emission reduction techniques, and incentives;
- To improve our knowledge about the health effects of smoke, better characterize prescribed fire emissions, and effectively use this information to prevent adverse impacts; and
- To increase our ability to measure the status, trends, and progress in the Pacific Northwest and Alaska by developing and using objective indicators, methods, and data sources for prescribed fire emissions, smoke impacts, and program effectiveness.

Relation to Regional Priorities: Air quality in rural areas and in urban areas downwind from agricultural and forested land is often impacted by smoke from burning. In recent years, the health impact of smoke on sensitive populations has been identified as a major problem. While the particulate levels may not exceed the new PM2.5 NAAQS, short-term peak exposures are significant, and Region 10 has made reducing the impacts from smoke a priority. See the Priority Plan for Smoke and Air Quality in Region 10's Six Priorities for a fuller description of problems and commitments for upcoming work.