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7300 - Air Resource Management Program (Public)

1. Explanation of Material Transmitted: This new manual release, Manual 7300, transmits the Air Resource Management Program Manual for the Bureau of Land Management. This manual establishes policy, provides guidelines, assigns management structure and responsibilities, and provides direction for air resource management under the Bureau of Land Management administration.
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None

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**.01 Purpose.**

This Manual sets forth the authority, policy, objectives, program structure, roles and responsibilities for the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) Air Resource Management Program (ARMP). This Manual addresses multiple-use management responsibilities under the Federal Land Policy and Management Act (FLPMA), and responsibilities under other authorities, including the Clean Air Act, that impact BLM's management of air resources on the public lands. In addition to the purpose described below, this Manual explains the BLM's roles and responsibilities in complying with the Clean Air Act, and describes the roles of the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) and State agencies in regulating the air resource. Nothing in this Manual supersedes the laws or Executive Orders cited in the authorities section of the Manual.

The purpose of the Manual is to state the BLM's responsibilities, guide implementation of BLM's air resource management policy, and to support related stewardship responsibilities. The air resource consists of air quality and climate and includes all atmospheric components of climate change. Air quality is determined by atmospheric emissions and pollutants, and includes noise, smoke management, and visibility. Certain activities, programs, and projects initiated by the BLM, as well as operator-initiated activities and projects that BLM authorizes, may have the potential to affect air quality conditions. Therefore, where appropriate, BLM must analyze the potential effects of BLM and BLM-authorized activities on air quality as part of the planning, environmental review, and decision making processes.

The climate is both a driving force and a limiting factor for biological, ecological, and hydrological processes. For example, the intensity and duration of sunlight and moisture affects flora and fauna composition, species, size, distribution, and structure. Therefore, the climate may impact resource management activities, such as disturbed site reclamation, wildland fire management, drought management, mineral resource development, management of rangeland and watershed productivity, and wildlife habitat administration. These resource management activities may, in turn, impact the climate. Because the climate has great potential to influence renewable and non-renewable resource management (affecting the productivity and success of many BLM activities), incorporating climatic information into the BLM's programs, projects, activities, and decisions, all of which authorize use of the public lands, is critical for effective management and relevant for environmental review. Therefore, it is important that BLM managers and staff are familiar with, understand, and consider climate and relevant climate change information in resource management planning and applicable site-specific actions.

**.02 Objectives.** The objectives of the Air Resource Management Program are to:

A. Provide policy, guidance, training, and technical assistance on climate and air quality and other air resource considerations to inform BLM planning and management decisions.

B. Inventory, model, analyze, and monitor air resources in order to evaluate conditions and trends and their potential impacts on and from BLM-authorized activities.

C. Evaluate and recommend appropriate emission control and mitigation measures and techniques for the BLM's programs, projects, and activities to ensure compliance with appropriate Federal, State, Tribal, and local air quality standards.

D. Coordinate, cooperate, and consult with Federal, Tribal, State, and local regulatory agencies, and with other appropriate Federal land management agencies, when there are air resource issues associated with BLM's activities or use authorizations.

E. Assist BLM programs in evaluating and protecting air resource values on the public lands, consistent with multiple use management.

F. Develop and maintain records about air resources on the public lands, including: sources of emissions from BLM and BLM-authorized activities, programs, and projects; climate data; U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) and State government air quality classification status; and air quality regulations.

G. Understand the attainment, nonattainment, or maintenance classification status of BLM-administered lands as designated by the EPA, the potential effects of BLM projects, programs, and authorized activities on that status and the potential effects of that status on BLM projects, programs and authorized activities.

**.03 Authority.** The following paragraphs contain a summary of the Federal Land Policy and Management Act (FLPMA), which provides BLM's basic authority, and summaries of other laws and orders that relate to the BLM's Air Resource Management Program.

**A. Basic Authority — Federal Land Policy and Management Act** of 1976, 43 U.S.C. §§1701-1785 (FLPMA). This Act outlines the BLM's role as a multiple use land management agency and provides for management of the public lands under principles of multiple use and sustained yield. The Act specifically calls for the periodic and systematic inventory of public land resources by directing the Secretary to "maintain on a continuing basis an inventory of all public lands and their resource and other values (including, but not limited to, outdoor recreation and scenic values)" (Section 201(a)). The Act also calls on the Secretary to "provide for compliance with applicable pollution control laws, including State and Federal air, water, noise, or other pollution standards or implementation plans" in the development and revision of land use plans (Section 202 (c)(8)). The Act further directs the Secretary of the Interior to take any action necessary to prevent unnecessary or undue degradation of the lands (Section 302 (b)). Congress' policy objective is to manage the public lands "in a manner that will protect the quality of scientific, scenic, historical, ecological, environmental, air and atmospheric, water resource, and archeological values" (Section 102 (8)).

**B. Air Resource Management Program — Related Laws and Orders.**

**1. Clean Air Act** of 1955, 42 U.S.C. §§ 7401-7671q. One of the purposes of the Clean Air Act is to protect and enhance the quality of the Nation's air resources so as to promote the public health and welfare and the productive capacity of its population (Section 101(b)(1)). The Act focuses on reducing both criteria air pollutants and hazardous air pollutants, and designates EPA as the primary regulatory authority responsible for air quality (including visibility) management (Sections 108 and 112). As required by the Clean Air Act, EPA has established National Ambient Air Quality Standards (NAAQS) for criteria pollutants (Section 109 (a)(1)(A)). Compliance and enforcement of these Federal requirements may be delegated to applicable Tribal, State and local regulatory agencies (Sections 107(a), 301(d), 302). The Clean Air Act also allows these agencies to establish regulations which are more, but not less, stringent than the Federal requirement (Section 116). Primary standards are set at the level required to protect human health with an "adequate margin of safety" and must safeguard the public as a whole (Section 109 (b)). Secondary standards are set at the level that protects public welfare, which is defined to include all forms of environmental damage, including but not limited to effects on visibility, water, soil, and climate (Section 302(h)).

Federal agencies are required to comply with all applicable air quality laws, regulations, standards and implementation plans (Section 118). The BLM, as a Federal land manager, has an "affirmative responsibility to protect the air quality and related values (including visibility)" of lands it administers that are within a class I area, and to consider whether a proposed major emitting facility will have an adverse impact on those values (Section 165 (d)(2)). The BLM has a responsibility to consider potential air quality impacts on the public lands through the New Source Review permitting process, especially within mandatory Federal Prevention of Significant Deterioration (PSD) Class I areas (Section 165 (d)(2)). The BLM also has a responsibility to conduct General and Transportation Conformity analyses (and when applicable, issue formal Determinations) prior to conducting or approving activities within designated non-attainment or maintenance areas (Section 176), except for actions exempted by regulations at 40 C.F.R. 93.153. Certain public land uses on BLM-administered lands may require an air quality permit from the State. Compliance with these permits should be a term and condition of the BLM's authorization. Appropriate follow-up by the BLM may be necessary to determine compliance with BLM use authorizations.

The BLM's role in air resource management includes ensuring that BLM activities, programs, and projects comply with applicable air quality standards and that BLM-authorized activities comply with conditions and stipulations in leases and permits. This work is accomplished through interagency coordination, participation in state implementation plan development and processes, collecting and acquiring data, modeling air quality impacts, monitoring changes in air resource conditions, performing environmental impact analyses as required by NEPA, and implementing adaptive management practices as outlined in BLM Handbook H-1601-1. The State agencies typically issue air quality permits or otherwise implement and enforce the regulations in the

Clean Air Act, unless the EPA does so directly.

2. **National Environmental Policy Act** of 1969, 42 U.S.C. §§ 4321-4370f (NEPA). This Act ensures that information on the potential environmental and human impact of Federal actions is available to public officials and citizens before decisions are made and before actions are taken. One of the purposes of the Act is to “promote efforts which will prevent or eliminate damage to the environment and biosphere,” and to promote human health and welfare (Section 2). This Act requires that agencies prepare a detailed statement on the environmental impact of the proposed action for major Federal actions expected to significantly affect the quality of the human environment (Section 102 (C)). In addition, agencies are required, to the fullest extent possible, to use a “systematic, interdisciplinary approach” in planning and decision-making processes that may have an impact on the environment (Section 102(A)).

3. **Environmental Quality Improvement Act** of 1970, 42 U.S.C. 4371-4375. This Act established the Office of Environmental Quality in order to support the work of the Council on Environmental Quality. One of the purposes of the Act is to assure that each Federal department and agency conducting or supporting public works activities which affect the environment shall implement the policies established under existing law (Section 202(c)(1)). Congress declared that there is a national policy for the environment which provides for the enhancement of environmental quality, and is evidenced by previously enacted statutes relating to the prevention, abatement and control of environmental pollution, water and land resources, transportation, and economic and regional development (Section 202(a)).

4. **Executive Order 11738** of September 10, 1973. This Order is entitled, “Providing For Administration of The Clean Air Act and The Federal Water Pollution Control Act With Respect To Federal Contracts, Grants, or Loans,” and announces the policy of the Federal government to improve and enhance environmental quality. The Order also directs each Federal agency to amend its procurement regulations, following consultation with the EPA administrator, to require, as a condition of entering into, renewing, or extending any contract for the procurement of goods, materials, or services or extending any assistance by way of grant, loan, or contract, inclusion of a provision in the contract requiring compliance with the Clean Air Act and the Clean Water Act in the facilities in which the contract is to be performed, or which are involved in the activity or program to receive assistance.

5. **Secretarial Order 3226** of January 19, 2001. This Order is entitled, “Evaluating Climate Change Impacts in Management Planning,” and states that it is the responsibility of each bureau and office of the Department of the Interior agencies to “consider and analyze potential climate change impacts when undertaking long-range planning exercises, when setting priorities for scientific research and investigations, when developing multi-year management plans, and/or when making major decisions regarding the potential utilization of resources under the Department’s purview.” Departmental activities covered by this Order include, but are not limited to, “programmatic and long-term environmental reviews undertaken by the Department, management plans and activities developed for public lands, planning and management activities associated with oil, gas and mineral development on

public lands, and planning and management activities for water projects and water resources.”

6. **Executive Order 13423** of March 29, 2007. This Order is entitled, “Strengthening Federal Environmental, Energy, and Transportation Management” and states that it is the policy of the United States that Federal agencies should conduct their environmental, transportation, and energy-related activities under the law in support of their respective missions in an environmentally, economically, fiscally sound and sustainable manner. A primary goal for each agency is to improve energy efficiency and reduce greenhouse gas emissions of the agency, through reduction of energy intensity. The head of each Federal agency is responsible for implementing within the agency sustainable practices for energy efficiency and for greenhouse gas emissions avoidance or reduction. The head of each agency is also responsible for implementing within the agency environmental management systems (EMS) at all appropriate organizational levels to ensure the use of EMS as the primary management approach for addressing the environmental aspects of internal agency operations and activities, including environmental aspects of energy and transportation functions. The head of each Federal agency is also responsible for establishing within the agency and implementing environmental compliance review and audit programs.

#### **.04 Responsibility.**

A. The Director and Deputy Directors are responsible for approving policy and making final decisions about general BLM Air Resource Management Program policies that affect more than one Assistant Director.

B. The Assistant Director, Renewable Resources and Planning, often operating through the Chief, Division of Environmental Quality and Protection, is responsible for developing the content of directives involving program policies and procedures, including all aspects of program development and policy formulation related to air resource management. Responsibilities include:

1. Establishing Bureau-wide program goals and objectives, formulating and analyzing national level policies, and setting national priorities for managing the ARMP, including budgeting, planning, and program management.
2. Promoting the effective use of climate and weather information, and providing for appropriate air quality protection and emissions control related to BLM activities.
3. Coordinating air resource management at the national level with other Federal, State, and Tribal agencies and organizations.
4. Assuring the air resource is appropriately considered through internal coordination with other BLM national program guidance and activities.



5. Working with the National Operations Center (NOC) and the National Training Center by assisting in the development and delivery of training for all levels of the organization.
6. Evaluating State-wide ARMP effectiveness through routine oversight.
7. Supporting a flow of information among WO, the NOC, States, and field offices as issues arise, or as new information becomes available at any level.

C. State Directors are responsible for the BLM's ARMP objectives within their state by:

1. Implementing Bureau-wide air resource management policies, setting state-wide air resource management priorities, and preparing supplemental program directives for state-wide application.
2. Ensuring BLM activities, programs, and projects comply with all applicable Federal, Tribal, State, and local air quality (including visibility) laws, statutes, regulations, standards, and state implementation plans, including applicable general and transportation conformity regulations within EPA designated nonattainment or maintenance areas, consistent with the Clean Air Act and FLPMA.
3. Working to ensure an appropriate level of climate, air quality, and climate change information and analysis is incorporated into applicable state Resource Management Plans, NEPA documents, use authorizations, and BLM activities, programs, projects, and permits.
4. Assuring appropriate stipulations and conditions of approval are included in BLM use authorizations to ensure air pollution emission control, protection methods, and ambient air quality levels are addressed.
5. Collaborating with other Federal, State and local regulatory agencies, Tribal governments, user groups, and BLM offices to support a coordinated Air Resource Management Program within the state.
6. In cooperation with the applicable regulatory entities, evaluating consumption and existing use of air quality increments, and determining potential influence on existing and future BLM activities, programs, and projects, and BLM-authorized activities.
7. Reviewing state implementation plans and recommending revisions and changes as necessary to meet the BLM management objectives.
8. Ensuring adequate technical support is available to address air resource issues related to the public lands administered by the State Office. This includes ensuring that the State Office capabilities are adequate to identify when an air resource issue exists within the state and, if necessary, how to obtain the needed technical skills to address the issue.

This may include referring the issue to the state Soil, Water, and Air program lead or to Air Resource Specialists within the BLM.

9. Promoting inter-program cooperation and consultation with other State Offices, the National Operations Center, and the Washington Office.

10. Providing opportunities for training to develop and/or maintain the technical proficiency necessary to meet BLM air resource management responsibilities.

D. The Director, Office of Fire and Aviation is responsible for:

1. Developing, collecting, assuring quality, managing data, and providing access to “fire weather” information for near-real time and climatological applications by fire and other BLM programs on a national basis.

2. Working with the NOC to apply air quality, climate, and climate change science to the planning and strategic decision-making processes for wildland fire management and smoke management.

3. Coordinating with the National Weather Service to provide meteorological services in support of wildland fire management.

4. Working to ensure Predictive Services provides products and services to integrate weather, fuel, and smoke management information in support of the prescribed fire program and wildland fire management.

5. Working to ensure BLM fire management activities, programs, and projects comply with all applicable Federal, Tribal, State, and local smoke management requirements, consistent with the Clean Air Act and FLPMA.

6. Providing technical support to enable field offices to conduct smoke monitoring associated with prescribed fire and wildland fire use activities.

7. Cooperating with other Federal, State, and local agencies, Tribal governments, user groups, and other BLM offices, as may be appropriate to ensure coordinated smoke management.

E. The National Operations Center Director is responsible for providing technical support to all BLM Offices by:

1. Responding to requests for technical assistance and support.

2. Making recommendations to all organizational levels within the BLM concerning the applicability of new technologies for the collection, storage and retrieval, analysis and interpretation, and application of climate, air quality (including visibility), and noise data.

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3. Providing assistance and conducting air resource modeling to support resource and fire management and planning analyses, and by evaluating and adapting modeling technologies to support BLM programs.
4. Providing assistance in analyzing and characterizing air resource information, including climate change science, to support BLM programs, land use planning, projects, and NEPA document preparation.
5. Preparing and disseminating air resource handbooks, technical notes and references, and other Field-oriented guidance to the field.
6. Providing liaison with research agencies, educational institutions, and professional organizations to maintain proficiency and knowledge of air resource management issues.
7. Working with the Washington Office and the National Training Center to develop and deliver air resource technical assistance to all levels of the agency.
8. Developing guidance, procedures, protocols, and data standards for air resource management and monitoring.

F. The National Training Center Director is responsible for developing and/or researching training opportunities to provide the necessary technical and management skills needed to achieve ARMP objectives and responsibilities. This includes working closely with the Washington Office and the National Operations Center.

G. Field and District Office Managers are responsible for achieving BLM ARMP objectives by implementing responsibilities of the State Directors within their respective office boundaries. Paragraph numbers 2-5 under the State Directors section of this Manual appropriately apply to BLM district and field office managers as well. Additional BLM district and field office manager responsibilities include:

1. Coordinating with local communities, industries, agencies, Tribes and partners in identifying and addressing air resource issues and concerns such as: identifying smoke sensitive areas such as highways, senior centers, and hospitals; adjusting management for drought conditions; identifying areas for potential visibility or regional haze impacts; or assessing potential noise impacts from BLM-authorized activities.
2. Collecting/acquiring climate, air quality (including visibility and noise) data as necessary to manage local actions and authorizations.
3. Identifying and addressing air resource management and training needs. This includes ensuring that the field office capabilities are adequate to identify when an air resource issue may exist and, if necessary, how to obtain the needed technical skills to address the issue. This may include referring the issue to the state Soil, Water, and Air Program lead or to Air Resource Specialists within the BLM.

4. Producing and incorporating applicable air-related analysis and/or control measures into planning and decision documents and associated environmental analyses.

## **.05 References.**

BLM Manual Section 7000 – Soil, Water, and Air Management

BLM Handbook 1601-1 – Land Use Planning Handbook

BLM Handbook H-1790-1 – National Environmental Policy Act Handbook

2006 Interagency Prescribed Fire Planning and Implementation Reference Guide

2005 Wildland Fire Use Implementation Procedures Reference Guide

## **.06 Policy.**

### **A. General:**

1. The BLM recognizes air as a valuable natural and public resource that needs to be protected through prudent management and appropriate mitigation. Where BLM activities, programs, and projects or BLM-authorized activities have the potential to affect the air resource, which includes climate and air quality and any associated air-quality-related-values, these activities, programs, and projects will be managed at an appropriate scale, consistent with BLM planning objectives, and in compliance with Federal laws.
2. All BLM activities, programs, and projects will comply with applicable provisions of the Clean Air Act, FLPMA, NEPA, and other applicable air regulations, implementation plans, laws, standards, and directives.
3. The BLM will consult and coordinate with applicable regulatory agencies on the management of existing and future Prevention of Significant Deterioration (PSD) increment consumption to provide for the protection of air quality while accomplishing the BLM core mission.
4. The BLM will coordinate, as appropriate, with Federal, Tribal, State and local agencies responsible for or affected by air resource management. Coordination will occur on all appropriate resource management plans, NEPA documents, proposed rule changes affecting air quality, and revisions to state implementation plans.
5. The BLM will develop, maintain and/or acquire the knowledge and technical skills necessary to accomplish the objectives and adhere to the policies of the ARMP.

**B. Air Quality:**

1. BLM will review its use authorizations requiring air quality permits on a periodic basis to confirm that the authorized parties possess the necessary permits and will take appropriate actions to enforce BLM permit conditions if air quality regulatory agencies have found the permittee in violation of its laws, regulations or permits. If BLM has information pertaining to violation of Federal or state air quality laws, it will provide that information to the appropriate enforcement agency.
2. BLM activities, projects, and programs within EPA-designated nonattainment or maintenance areas must comply with applicable general and transportation conformity regulations, except for actions exempted by EPA's regulations (see 40 CFR parts 51 and 93, 93.153(c)(2)(xi) and (xii) and (4)).
3. Consistent with the BLM's multiple-use mandate, BLM actions and use authorizations will comply with appropriate direction in the Clean Air Act "to preserve, protect, and enhance the air quality in national parks, national wilderness areas, national monuments, national seashores, and other areas of special national or regional natural, recreational, scenic, or historic value" (Section 160 (2)).
4. BLM will consider the potential effects of BLM projects, programs, activities, and BLM-authorized activities on air quality at both the planning and the project level. This includes NEPA documents associated with RMPs, and evaluating the potential impacts, if appropriate, of proposed actions and activities such as: grazing management, hazardous materials management, land use authorizations, smoke management, drought management, wilderness management, energy and mineral resource development, recreational uses, and transportation management. Where appropriate and geographically applicable, managers should use other Federal and State agency air quality data to aid in the analysis of BLM-authorized activities.
5. Visibility is an air resource value that may be affected by air quality. Where BLM activities, programs, and projects or BLM-authorized activities have the potential to impact visibility, BLM will evaluate the extent of the potential impact and consider mitigation. Areas where BLM may analyze potential visibility impacts include mandatory Federal PSD Class I and adjacent areas, wildland/urban interface areas, National Landscape Conservation System units, and in or near areas that contain special natural resources.

**C. Climate and Climate Change:**

1. Managers will incorporate climate and weather information into BLM long-range planning documents and, when applicable, at the project level. This includes NEPA documents and Resource Management Plans (RMPs), and evaluating the role of climate and weather information in proposed actions and activities such as: land use authorizations, smoke management, drought management, wilderness management, weeds management, mineral resource development, recreational uses, transportation

management, and other resource management activities and decisions. Where appropriate and geographically applicable, managers should use other Federal and State-agency climate and weather data.

2. Activities, programs, and projects initiated by BLM, as well as operator-initiated activities and projects the BLM authorizes, have the potential to affect and/or be affected by the climate and climate change. Therefore, BLM should consider climate and potential or documented climate change as part of its planning and decision making process with respect to renewable and non-renewable resource management. When conducting long-range planning and when making major decisions pursuant to Secretarial Order 3226, the BLM should evaluate:

- 1) how resources may be affected by climate change;
- 2) how to adapt land management practices due to the influence of climate change on biological and physical resources, and;
- 3) how BLM land management practices may or may not contribute to the potential effects of climate change, including but not limited to emissions, sequestration, or mitigation of greenhouse gases.

**D. Noise:**

When BLM programs, projects, and/or use authorizations have the potential to affect existing resources that may be sensitive to noise such as public health and safety, wildlife, heritage resources, wilderness, wildland/urban interface areas, and other special value areas (such as Areas of Critical Environmental Concern and National Landscape Conservation Areas), BLM will consider noise and its potential impacts on the public and the environment, as well as any appropriate mitigation measures, during the planning and authorization review process. This is especially important when land use proposals include high volumes of motorized vehicles or mechanized equipment.<sup>1</sup>

**E. Smoke Management:**

1. BLM's smoke management and planning activities will comply with applicable Federal, State, and local smoke management programs, regulations and standards.
2. BLM will conduct smoke management and planning activities in cooperation with regulatory agencies, other Federal agencies, and Tribal governments to collectively reduce public health and welfare impacts of smoke.
3. BLM will plan the application of prescribed fire in advance, including preparing prescribed fire burn plans consistent with applicable prescribed fire planning and implementation procedures guidance (e.g., the Interagency Prescribed Fire Planning and Implementation Procedures Reference Guide).

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<sup>1</sup> BLM's Safety and Occupational Health Program is responsible for assessing employees' exposure to potentially high noise-producing work operations and activities. This is accomplished through surveys for the purpose of anticipating, recognizing, evaluating, and recommending feasible control measures. For further explanation, see BLM Handbook H-1112-2.

4. The application of wildland fire use will be consistent with applicable wildland fire use implementation procedures guidance (e.g., the Wildland Fire Use Implementation Procedures Reference Guide). The BLM will assist air quality regulatory agencies in the siting and operation of emergency episode air quality monitoring stations when necessary to assess smoke impacts from prescribed fire, wildland fire use, or wildfire.

**.07 File and Records Maintenance.**

All BLM records and data related to the Air Resource Management Program will be managed according to established records policies to support agency missions. All records and data will be disposed of according to the BLM/GRS Combined Records Schedule; see Schedule 4 Item 11.

**.08 Program Structure and Function.** The Air Resource Management Program is composed of five major parts:

A. Policy and Guidance: Air resource program staff recommends and implements ARMP policy, guidance, and procedures for BLM activities, programs, and projects and BLM-authorized activities on the public lands.

B. Technical Assistance: Air resource program staff provides technical assistance in applying air resource information, consultation, and training to BLM staff and managers when activities have the potential to impact air resources. Technical assistance is often associated with how to adequately address potential air resource impacts associated with the development of land use plans, NEPA and other planning documents, air resource modeling, smoke management, and air resource data collection and management.

C. Data Collection, Management and Utilization: Air resource program staff collect, model, and apply data and information as necessary to determine, evaluate, and analyze air resource conditions and trends on the public lands.

D. External Coordination: Air resource program staff seek outside review of environmental analyses as appropriate, aim to understand other agency program challenges, talents, and responsibilities, participate in air resource management decision making and implementation, monitoring, modeling, permit review, planning, redesignation, and rule making, and review other Federal, Tribal, State, and local agencies' processes to ensure BLM authorities, responsibilities, concerns, views, and needs are considered.

E. Technical Skills: Technical skills and subject-matter expertise required to carry out the major elements of the ARMP will vary periodically and between offices, and include some combination of training and experience in:

- 1.) meteorology and climatology;
- 2.) air quality management (including smoke management);

- 3.) air pollutant emission control methods and mitigation techniques;
- 4.) monitoring;
- 5.) modeling;
- 6.) analysis methods and considerations;
- 7.) regulation and policy; and
- 8.) developing written analyses for NEPA and other planning and use authorization documents.



**Glossary of Air Resource and Related Terms.**

In the BLM Air Resource Management Program, the following terms and definitions are used for guidance. However, these same terms may be defined differently in other manuals or used in other contexts.

Air Quality: the quality of the atmosphere as determined by the concentration of air pollutants, visibility, odors, sound, and other energy forms (such as solar radiation) transmitted through the atmosphere.

Air Quality Related Values (AQRV): those attributes of a PSD (Prevention of Significant Deterioration) Class I or Class II area important to the purpose for which the area was established, which may be adversely affected by a change in air quality. Air Quality Related Values include, but are not limited to, visibility, flora, fauna, ecologic, geologic, historic, and cultural characteristics.

Air Resource: the air or atmospheric component of the ecosystem. As a management activity, the air resource includes climate, weather, air quality and all atmospheric components of climate change. Smoke management, noise, and visibility are considered components of air quality.

Air Resource Management Program: the program within the BLM that includes applications, activities, and management of the air resource.

Assessment: A judgment about or application of criteria to measure the condition of the resources that the agency manages and to inform an evaluation, which can be used to make or support a management decision. Assessments do not account for causality. Rather, they are judgments on the condition of a resource. Assessments are conducted at a point in time using qualitative or quantitative measurements from new or available information, including inventory and monitoring.

Attainment Area: a geographic area in which the concentration of one or more criteria pollutants is routinely better than the National Ambient Air Quality Standards (NAAQS). PSD requirements apply in attainment areas.

Best Available Control Technology (BACT): technology which provides the maximum degree of reduction of a regulated pollutant achievable by any major emitting facility, taking into account, on a case-by-case basis, energy, environmental, and economic impacts and other costs, through application of production processes, available control methods, systems and technologies.

Best Available Retrofit Technology (BART): additional control technology as required under Section 169A of the Clean Air Act to remedy existing visibility impairment in mandatory PSD Class I areas.

Class I Area: an area designated under the Prevention of Significant Deterioration program with the most stringent degree of protection from future degradation of air quality. The Clean Air Act designates as mandatory Class I areas each national park over 6,000 acres and each wilderness

area over 5,000 acres established as of August 7, 1977 (Section 162(a)). In addition, State and Tribal Governments may redesignate Class II areas as Class I, based on a prescribed regulatory process.

Class II Area: an area designated under the Prevention of Significant Deterioration program with a moderate degree of protection from future degradation of air quality (Section 162(b)).

Class III Area: an area designated under the Prevention of Significant Deterioration program with the least degree of protection from future degradation of air quality. However, no Class III areas have been established.

Climate: composite or generalized weather conditions of a specific region, such as temperature, pressure, humidity, precipitation, sunshine, cloudiness, and winds, averaged over a specific time interval (usually several decades).

Climate Change: a change of climate, which may be attributed to a variety of factors, including, directly or indirectly, human activity that may alter the composition of the global atmosphere and natural climate variability observed over comparable time periods.

Climatology: the study of the statistical collection of weather conditions during a specified time interval (usually several decades) at a specified area.

Concentration: a measure of the quantity of air pollutants specified in terms of pollutant mass per unit volume of air (typically in micrograms per cubic meter), or in terms of relative volume of pollutants per unit volume of air (typically in parts per million).

Conformity Rule: When there is a proposal for a Federal action in a nonattainment or maintenance area, Federal agencies are required to analyze if the action is subject to the General Conformity Rule, and if so, to demonstrate that the action will not cause or contribute to a new violation, or will not delay the timely achievement of applicable air quality standards. This process includes an applicability analysis, and, if necessary, a conformity determination with public participation. This process is to assure that a Federal action conforms to a State, Tribal, or Federal Implementation Plan. Some common activities where conformity analysis may apply include: special use authorizations, prescribed fire activities, recreation activities, and land use authorizations. See 40 CFR parts 6, 51, and 93. Some exceptions where the conformity rule does not apply include: continuing and recurring activities such as permit renewals where activities conducted will be similar in scope and operation to activities currently being conducted; and planning, studies, and provision of technical assistance. See 40 CFR 93.153.

Criteria Pollutants: those air pollutants for which National Ambient Air Quality Standards have been set (See section 108). Criteria pollutants include carbon monoxide (CO), lead (Pb), nitrogen dioxide (NO<sub>2</sub>), ozone (O<sub>3</sub>), particulate matter of less than 2.5 microns (PM<sub>2.5</sub>) in diameter, particulate matter of less than 10 microns (PM<sub>10</sub>) in diameter, and sulfur dioxide (SO<sub>2</sub>), subject to change per the Environmental Protection Agency's rule revisions.

Dispersion: the physical process of diluting the concentration of a substance by molecular and

turbulent motion; e.g., smoke in air.

Emissions: the act of discharging into the atmosphere an air contaminant, an effluent which contains an air contaminant, or the effluent discharged indirectly into the atmosphere (such as through evaporation.).

Emissions Inventory: a quantitative statement of the types and quantities of air pollutants emitted for specified source categories within a specified place or region over a specified period of time. For any pollutant, emissions usually are expressed in terms of tons per day, pounds per hour, or grams per second.

Emission Standards: legally defined and enforced prescriptions which limit the emission of a pollutant from a specifically designated source or sources, limit the operation of a source, limit the use of a type of fuel or product, or require the use of a type of equipment, fuel, or air pollution control system.

Hazardous Air Pollutants: those pollutants that are known or suspected to cause cancer or other serious health effects, such as reproductive effects or birth defects, or adverse environmental effects.

Increments: the amount of additional pollution, above a specified baseline level, which may be allowed in a particular PSD area. The amount of allowable increment varies with whether the area is Class I, Class II, or Class III, although the baseline level is fixed.

Inventory: Inventories are the systematic acquisition of resource information needed for planning and management purposes. An inventory can be an initial collection of baseline data, but it may be repeated over time to establish a new baseline. Inventories are conducted at a point in time utilizing qualitative or quantitative measurements.

Land Use Authorizations: BLM documents and processes, which authorize private uses of public lands and resources, such as leases, permits, easements and rights-of-way.

Maintenance Area: a geographic area in which the concentration of one or more criteria pollutants once exceeded National Ambient Air Quality Standards, but currently achieve those standards, subject to a formal plan to prevent future violations.

Monitoring: Monitoring is the periodic collection of information to be used to evaluate progress in meeting management objectives and/or evaluate resource conditions. Monitoring captures qualitative and/or quantitative information, with reproducible results, over a period of time to detect resource change.

Meteorology: the study of short-term atmospheric phenomena and variations such as stability, wind speed, wind direction, temperature, etc.

National Ambient Air Quality Standards (NAAQS): the allowable concentrations of air pollutants in the ambient (public outdoor) air specified in 40 CFR 50. The NAAQS are based on

the air quality criteria and divided into primary standards (allowing an adequate margin of safety to protect the public health) and secondary standards (allowing an adequate margin of safety to protect the public welfare). Welfare is defined as including (but not limited to) effects on soils, water, crops, vegetation, man-made materials, animals, wildlife, weather, visibility, climate, and hazards to transportation, as well as effects on economic values and on personal comfort and well-being.

Natural Background Level: the concentration of a pollutant that would exist in the absence of anthropogenic (human-caused) pollution.

Nonattainment Area: an area, such as a county, where measurements of one or more of the criteria air pollutants have demonstrated violation of the National Ambient Air Quality Standards (NAAQS) and EPA has designated such status.

Predictive Services: A program to enhance proactive wildland fire management by integrating climate, weather, fuels, fire danger, situational and resource status, and expecting fire activity.

Prescribed Fire: any fire ignited by management actions to meet specific objectives. A written, approved prescribed fire plan must exist, and NEPA requirements (where applicable) must be met prior to ignition.

Prevention of Significant Deterioration (PSD): the air quality management and permit process (specified in Part C of the Clean Air Act) designed to limit the amount of additional (incremental) air quality degradation above specified baseline levels, and/or adverse impacts of Air Quality Related Values in attainment areas, while maintaining a margin for future air pollutant emission growth.

Primary Standards (primary ambient air quality standards): the concentration level of criteria pollutants, with respect to averaging time, at which the U.S. EPA has set limits on to protect public health, including the health of sensitive populations such as children and the elderly.

Secondary Standards (secondary ambient air quality standards): the concentration level of criteria pollutants, with respect to averaging time, at which the U.S. EPA has set limits on to protect public welfare, including protection against visibility impairment, damage to animals, crops, vegetation, and buildings.

State Implementation Plan (SIP): a document developed by each State government, and approved by EPA, which provides for the implementation, maintenance, and enforcement of air quality laws, standards, regulations, programs, and air pollutant emission control strategies. Similar documents are called Federal Implementation Plans (FIPs, implemented by EPA) or Tribal Implementation Plans (TIPS, implemented by Tribal governments).

Visibility: the optical quality of the atmosphere, sometimes quantified as the Standard Visual Range, or the maximum distance at which it is just possible to differentiate (with the unaided eye) a prominent dark object against a uniform horizon sky. Other measurement units include

extinction (how light attenuates as it passes through the atmosphere) and deciduous.

Wildfire: an unplanned, unwanted wildland fire including unauthorized human-caused fires, escaped wildland fire use events, escaped prescribed fire projects, and all other wildland fires where the objective is to put the fire out.

Wildland Fire: Any non-structure fire that occurs in the wildland. The three distinct types of wildland fire are wildfire, wildland fire use, and prescribed fire.

Wildland Fire Use: the application of the appropriate management response to naturally-ignited wildland fires to accomplish specific resource management objectives in pre-defined designated areas outlined in Fire Management Plans. A written, approved wildland fire use plan must exist, and NEPA requirements (where applicable) must be met prior to natural ignition.

Wildland/Urban Interface: The area or zone where humans and their structures or other development meet or intermingle with undeveloped wildland or vegetative fuels.