

## GREATER YELLOWSTONE CLEAN AIR PARTNERSHIP

### **Introduction**

Air quality in the Greater Yellowstone Area (GYA) remains generally excellent as the GYA is largely undeveloped, with limited emissions sources and predominantly robust dispersion. The greatest air quality threat is from human caused sources upwind and adjacent to the National Parks and Forests. The largest air quality concern is from gas field development in SW Wyoming and emissions from energy related industries.

### **Challenge**

Long term funding to continue air quality monitoring.

### **Greater Yellowstone Area Clean Air Partnership**

The Greater Yellowstone Area Clean Air Partnership (GYACAP) was chartered in 1997 between the National Forest Service and the National Park Service to coordinate air quality in the GYA and to serve as an advisor group to the Greater Yellowstone Coordinating Committee (GYCC).

Within two years the Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ) in Montana, Idaho and Wyoming became actively involved and the GYACAP has expanded to focus on state and federal air quality issues. The Wyoming BLM became an active partner in 2005.

The GYACAP meets at least once a year in the winter, with an occasional spring/summer field trip. The objectives of the group are to:

- Serve as technical advisors to the GYCC on air quality issues.
- Exchange air quality information and issues pertinent to the region.
- Coordinate air quality monitoring, inventory and information databases.
- Provide periodic air quality assessments of the GYA.
- Develop consistent air quality management strategies.
- Provide a forum for discussion of air quality topics, such as regulatory issues, as they arise.

### **Committee Representation**

- Yellowstone National Park
- Grand Teton National Park
- Regional NPS Air Quality Staff
- Bridger-Teton NF
- Caribou-Targhee NF
- Gallatin NF
- Shoshone NF
- Sawtooth NF
- Wyoming BLM
- Idaho National Engineering and Environmental Laboratory (INEEL)
- US Geological Service
- Idaho DEQ
- Montana DEQ
- Wyoming DEQ

## **Past Accomplishments**

1. Developed Greater Yellowstone Area Air Quality Monitoring maps.
2. Produced 1999 *GYA Air Quality Assessment*. This assessment identified air quality issues, air quality conditions, pollution sources, and monitoring sites and provided a synthesis of known air quality data for the region. It is useful for agency planning, Land Management Planning, project environmental assessments and as a source of information that can be shared with the public and other agencies.
3. Produced a 2005 update to the *GYA Air Quality Assessment*.
4. Conduct coordinated snow chemistry monitoring throughout the GYA.
5. Conduct coordinated lake chemistry monitoring throughout the GYA.
6. Assess monitoring data and keep GYCC members abreast of emerging issues.

## **2007 Accomplishments**

The 2007 GYACAP meeting focused on urban and industrial emissions and was held in southeast Idaho.

## **Current Committee Focus**

The committee's current emphases:

- Continue existing coordination.
- Maintain or increase monitoring, particularly visibility, lake and deposition monitoring.

- Focus efforts on the four air quality issues identified in the 2005 *GYA Air Quality Assessment*:

1. Urban and industrial emissions.
2. Oil and gas emissions in Southwest Wyoming.
3. Prescribed and wildlife smoke.
4. Snowmobile emissions.

## **For additional information contact**

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