



Reporting Our Progress in Caring for the Land and Serving People



Monitoring Air Quality Impacts in Forest Service Wilderness Areas Air Resource Management Program FY2012 Accomplishments Regional Office, Northern Region

State: Montana and Idaho

Congressional District: MT At-Large; ID 1st and 2nd

Accomplishments:

- The Northern Region has performed long-term air resource monitoring since the early 1990s.
- Monitoring results characterize forest health and visibility impacts due to air pollution.
- Monitoring includes sampling lichens, precipitation, sensitive lakes, snow, and visibility (regional haze).

Forest Service Contribution: \$100,000

Partner Contribution: \$30,000

Project Costs: \$130,000 annually

External Partners:

U.S. Geological Survey; Brigham Young University, Illinois State Water Survey, Montana State University.

Internal Partners:

Northern Region National Forests and Grasslands.

- Precipitation monitoring has shown general decreasing trends in nitrate and sulfate concentrations and increasing trends in ammonium concentrations.
- Snow chemistry monitoring has identified elevated levels of mercury in the northern portions of the Selway-Bitterroot Wilderness.
- Visibility monitoring has measured wildfire emissions as the major source of visibility impairment in the region.
- Lake monitoring has shown that some regional lakes continue to be sensitive to the effects of acid deposition.



Snow Chemistry – Dr. George Ingersoll, U.S. Geological Survey.



Acid Deposition Monitoring Station, Lost Trail Pass MT.

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