

## WHAT IS HAZE?

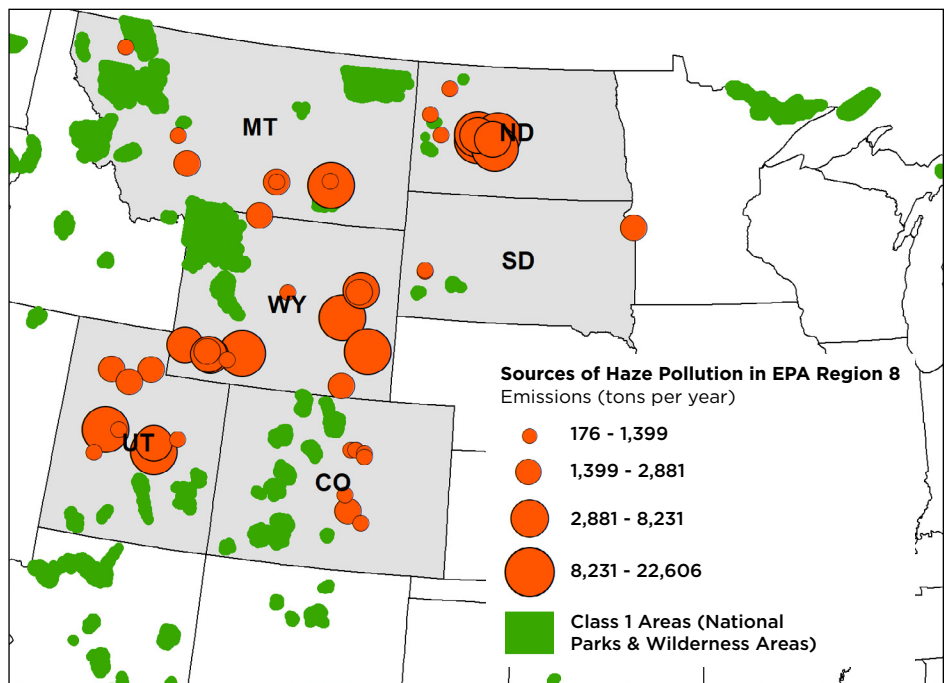
Haze is made of tiny airborne particles and gases that block and scatter light, reducing visibility across distances.

The pollutants causing haze are mainly particulate matter, nitrogen oxides, and sulfur dioxide – they muddy scenic views in national parks and wilderness areas around the country, from Arches National Park in Utah to Glacier National Park in Montana and many public lands in between.

Haze pollution also damages sensitive ecosystems and can degrade water quality. It can travel hundreds of miles from its original source, through neighborhoods and communities, causing a myriad of health complications for those who breathe it in.

## Haze Pollution in EPA’s Region 8

*This Intermountain Region includes Colorado, Montana, North Dakota, South Dakota, Utah, and Wyoming.*



156 national parks and wilderness areas are designated under the Clean Air Act as “Class 1 areas,” meaning they have some of the highest levels of air quality protection in the country. However, most national park sites are still experiencing poor air quality and diminished visibility.

Out of the top ten most haze polluted park sites in the country, five are located in EPA’s Region 8, according to an analysis done by NPCA. This list includes Rocky Mountain, Wind Cave, Theodore Roosevelt, Mesa Verde, and Capitol Reef National Parks. The Regional Haze Rule is intended to cut pollution harming skies in these special places. Every ten years, each state must develop a plan to reduce haze-causing emissions from pollution sources within their state. The state agencies then send these plans to the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) for approval or disapproval.

In the first round of regional haze planning over ten years ago, significant emissions reductions were achieved thanks in large part to advocacy efforts for strong state plans. 1.4 million tons of haze pollution (nitrogen oxides, sulfur dioxide, and particulate matter) each year were eliminated, along with 79 million tons of climate pollution (carbon dioxide, methane, and nitrous oxide). 146 coal plants were required to either close or clean up. The second round of haze planning is currently in progress.

Reduced Climate Pollution

Healthier Park Air

Clearer Park Views

Stronger Ecosystems

**CLEAN AIR FOR PARKS MEANS ...**



[npca.org](http://npca.org)

# SOURCES OF HAZE POLLUTION IN EPA'S REGION 8

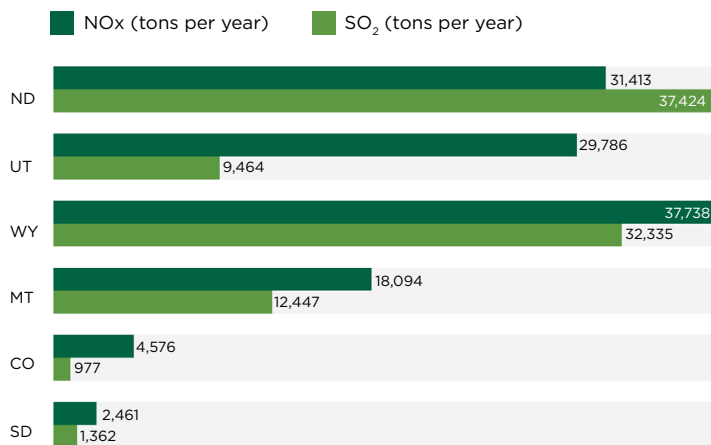
## States in EPA's Region 8 are Ignoring Emissions and Industrial Polluters in Haze Plans

Unfortunately, during this current round of Regional Haze planning, states in this region are failing to meet the haze program requirements under the Clean Air Act. NPCA has identified 49 sources of haze pollution in the region. Collectively, these polluters emit around 218,000 tons of haze pollution each year, which equates to 872 football stadiums full of pollution. The state agencies that have submitted haze plans failed to select a broad number of polluters to review in their plans. They also failed to require meaningful emission reductions from the few sources that they did select.

## State Haze Planning Failures

North Dakota, Wyoming, and Utah failed to adequately address emissions from the oil and gas sector. None of the states in the region required adequate emission reductions from their coal-fired power plants, despite the thousands of tons of controllable pollution being emitted from within their borders. Utah has some of the nation's biggest park polluting facilities and most cherished national parks, yet the state has again proposed a haze plan that fails to make real pollution cuts that are decades overdue. Haze pollution knows no boundaries, and emissions originating in one state can affect parks and wilderness areas throughout the region.

## Haze-Causing Emissions by State



*Electricity generation, cement manufacturing, mineral processing, and other industrial polluters are contributing to hazy skies from Grand Teton to Zion and Arches to Rocky Mountain National Parks.*

## TOP 10 POLLUTERS

- Colstrip Steam Electric Station**  
Fossil fuel power plant in Rosebud, MT
- Jim Bridger Plant - PacifiCorp**  
Fossil fuel power plant in Sweetwater, WY
- Coyote Station - Otter Tail Power Company**  
Fossil fuel power plant in Mercer, ND
- Antelope Valley Station - Basin Electric Power Co-Op**  
Fossil fuel power plant in Mercer, ND
- Hunter Power Plant - PacifiCorp**  
Fossil fuel power plant in Emery, UT
- Dave Johnston Plant - PacifiCorp**  
Fossil fuel power plant in Converse, WY
- Laramie River Station - Basin Electric Power Co-Op**  
Fossil fuel power plant in Platte, WY
- Coal Creek Station - Great River Energy**  
Fossil fuel power plant in McLean, ND
- Young Station - Minnkota Power**  
Fossil fuel power plant in Oliver, ND
- Intermountain Power Plant**  
Fossil fuel power plant in Millard, UT



Emissions from oil and gas operations impact Class 1 areas throughout the region as well.

## TAKE ACTION

As of May 2023, all six states in this region have submitted haze plans to EPA. EPA must now decide whether to approve, partially approve, or disapprove the state plans. We urge EPA to act swiftly to hold all states in Region 8 collectively accountable for reducing their haze-causing emissions. Join us in acting now!

Visit [npca.org/reports/regional-haze](https://npca.org/reports/regional-haze) to learn more about what you can do.