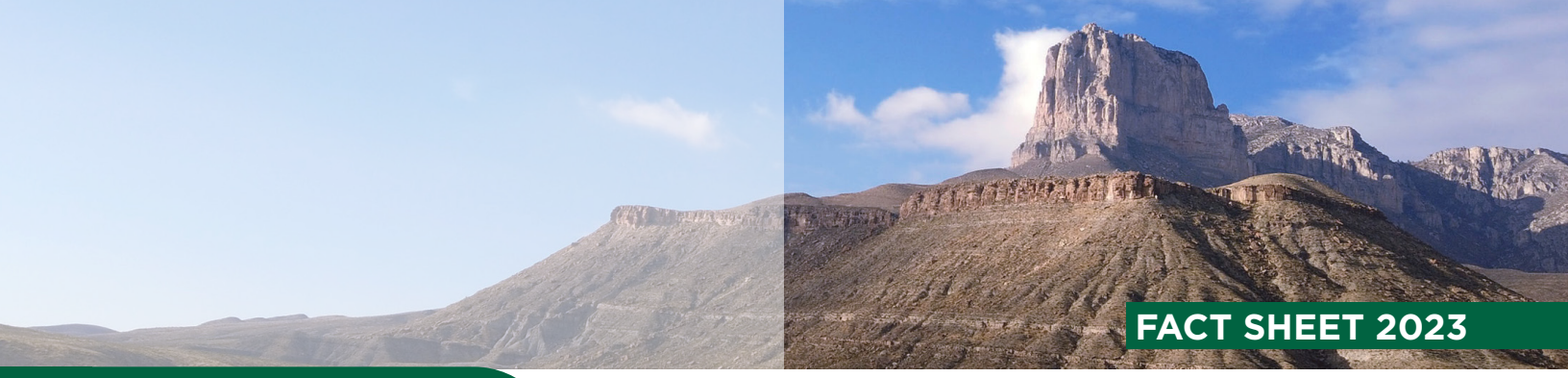


WHAT IS HAZE?

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 Big Bend National Park in Texas to Breton Wilderness Area in Louisiana and many public lands in between.

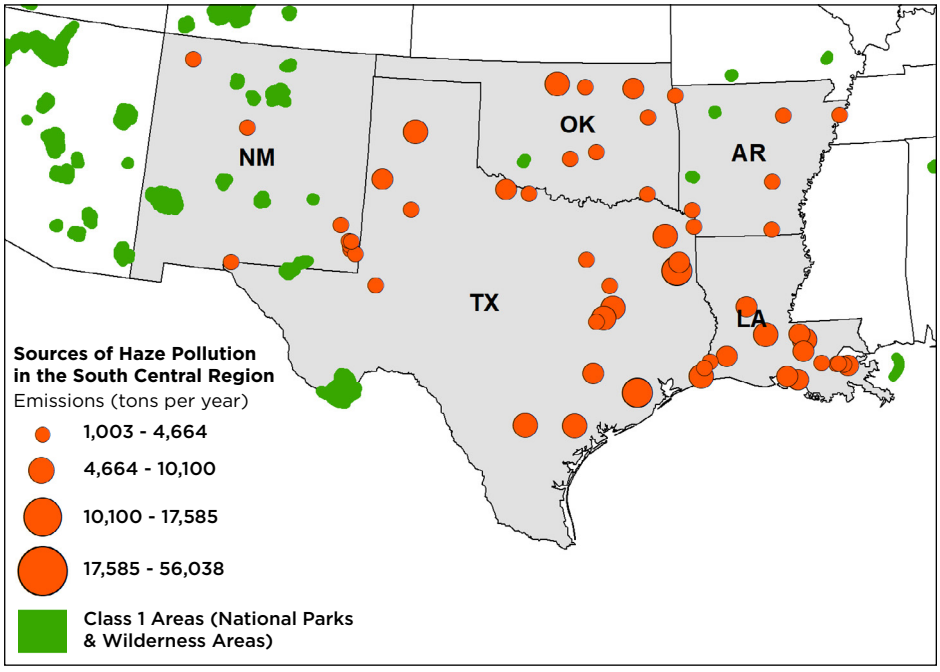
Haze pollution also damages sensitive ecosystems and can degrade water quality. It can travel hundreds of miles from its original source, through neighborhoods and communities, causing a myriad of health complications for those who breathe it in.

NATIONAL PARKS CONSERVATION ASSOCIATION

npca.org

Haze Pollution in South Central Parks

EPA's Region 6, also known as the South Central region, includes Arkansas, Louisiana, New Mexico, Oklahoma, and Texas.



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.

In the South Central region, Carlsbad Caverns, Guadalupe Mountains and Big Bend National Parks were all found to be in the top 50 most haze polluted park sites in the country in an analysis done by NPCA. 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.

SOURCES OF HAZE POLLUTION
IN THE SOUTH CENTRAL REGION

Electricity generation, oil and gas extraction, and other industrial polluters are contributing to hazy skies from Caney Creek Wilderness Area in Arkansas to Big Bend National Park in Texas.

States in the South Central Region 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 58 sources of haze pollution across the states in this region. Collectively, these polluters emit around 411,000 tons of haze pollution each year, which equates to 1,645 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

Oklahoma inflated their calculations of pollution control costs. Texas outright ignored oil and gas sources, as well as three of the largest polluting electric generating units in the state. Texas used an evaluation system in their haze plan which is essentially identical to the illegal approach they took in round one of haze planning a decade ago.

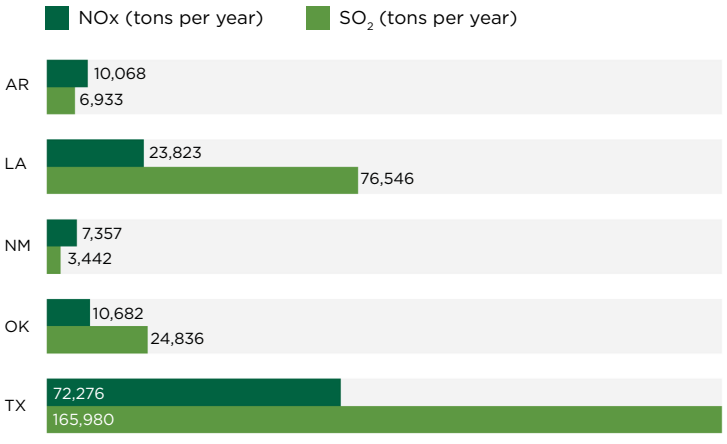
Emissions from oil and gas operations impact Class 1 areas throughout the region.

TOP 10 POLLUTERS

1. **Martin Lake Power Plant - Luminant***
   Fossil fuel power plant in Rusk, TX
2. **WA Parish Generation Station - NRG Energy***
   Fossil fuel power plant in Fort Bend, TX
3. **Kremlin Calcining Plant**
   Petroleum and coal products facility in Garfield, OK
4. **Oxbow Calcining LLC**
   Petroleum and coal products facility in East Baton Rouge, LA
5. **Welsh Power Plant - American Electric Power***
   Fossil fuel power plant in Titus, TX
6. **Coleto Creek Power - Luminant***
   Fossil fuel power plant in Goliad, TX
7. **Harington Station - Southwestern Public Service***
   Fossil fuel power plant in Potter, TX
8. **Limestone Electric Generation Station - NRG Energy**
   Fossil fuel power plant in Limestone, TX
9. **Oxbow Calcining LLC**
   Petroleum and coal products facility in Jefferson, TX
10. **Ville Platte Plant - Cabot Corporation**
    Carbon black plant in Evangeline, LA

**Sources currently being reviewed by EPA as part of the Texas Regional Haze Round 1 Federal Implementation Plan where potential emissions reduction could be achieved.*

Haze-Causing Emissions by State



TAKE ACTION

As of May 2023, three states in the South Central region have submitted haze plans to EPA, New Mexico and Louisiana remain outstanding. 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 the South Central region accountable to reducing their haze-causing emissions. Join us in acting now!

Visit **npca.org/reports/regional-haze** to learn more about what you can do.