

Gorge Project Working Conclusions and Observations

Conclusions and Observations

1. Gorge Project met its objectives to
 - Monitor and assess haze conditions
 - Develop, evaluate, and demonstrate forecast tools
2. Winter haze episodes offer the best opportunity for future improvement
 - Worst haze conditions
 - Greatest contributions from manmade emission sources
 - Same man-made emissions contribute to haze throughout the year
3. Principal pollutants responsible for haze are sulfate and nitrate PM
 - Secondary pollutants from precursor gases (i.e. sulfur dioxide, nitrogen oxide and ammonia)
 - Emitted by a wide range of sources and activities in the region and beyond
4. Visibility improvement can only be accomplished by emission reductions
 - Controllable emissions are from manmade activities within regional jurisdiction (i.e. all except natural or beyond the U.S.)
 - Focus should be on improving those situations with the worst haze caused by controllable emissions

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5. No simple or single action will provide meaningful reduction in haze
 - No single dominant source or source region is responsible for most of the haze
 - Haze reduction will result from the cumulative effect of numerous emission reduction activities, though each individually may make imperceptible increments
6. Additional technical work would provide more information
 - Continued ambient pollution and haze monitoring in the Gorge would allow us to track trends in haze levels, assess effectiveness of emission controls, and to evaluate and refine modeling
 - Updated emissions inventories and emissions projections would be useful to set priorities and for future model input
 - Air quality modeling could be expanded and repeated, as needed, when assessing priorities and effectiveness of emissions control options
 - Whether, when, and how to accomplish this additional work are beyond the scope of this scientific report
 - Current technical understanding is adequate to initiate policy development