

# IMPROVE's Evolution

**IMPROVE** Interagency Monitoring of Protected Visual Environments

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## Interagency Monitoring of Protected Visual Environments

Our national Parks and Wilderness Areas possess many stunning vistas and scenery. Unfortunately, these scenes are diminished by uniform haze causing discoloration and loss of texture and visual range. Layered hazes and plume blight also detract from the scene. Recognizing the importance of visual air quality, congress included legislation in the 1977 Clean Air Act to prevent future and remedy existing visibility impairment in Class I areas. To aid the implementation of this legislation, the IMPROVE program was initiated in 1985. This program implemented an extensive long term monitoring program to establish the current visibility conditions, track changes in visibility and determine causal mechanism for the visibility impairment in the National Parks and Wilderness Areas.

The purpose of this website is to provide access to the IMPROVE monitoring data resources and educational material on the science of visibility and regulations. First time visitors should visit the Overview section which summarizes the IMPROVE network and visibility science and regulations.

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- Visibility & Regulation Education
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### IMPROVE Resources

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- Web Cams
- IMPROVE Reports
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### Bulletins

**Diminishing View**  
Diminishing View  
Diminishing View

West Elk Mountains, Colorado

$B_{opt}$ ( $Mm^{-1}$ )	20	30	40	60	100	200	300	500		
Deciviews	4	7	11	14	18	23	30	34	37	39
V.R. (km)	200	130	100	65	40	20	13	10	8	

< Stop Loop >

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# VIEWS



# VIEWS

Visibility Information Exchange Web System

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## Air Quality Data, Tools, & Resources

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VIEWS is an online system of tools and resources designed to provide easy access to a wide variety of air quality data. An advanced data acquisition and import system is used to integrate data from dozens of sources into a single, highly-optimized data warehouse in order to enable users to analyze datasets of widely-varying origin in a consistent, unified manner with a common set of tools and web services. [More information...](#)

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## News and Notes

### 08.31.2007 - [New page: Dataset Index](#)

A comprehensive list of the datasets available on VIEWS is being developed. When complete, these Dataset Descriptions will contain complete information on each individual dataset, including the parameters measured, the geographical extent, the frequency and duration of observations, the sampling and analysis methods used, and how to find and access the data on the VIEWS website. An incomplete, draft version of the index can be found here.

### 04.13.2007 - [New data: IMPROVE RHR2 Data](#)

New Regional Haze Rule data is available in raw form here. (See the note below for FTP login information.) NOTE: This data has not been imported into the integrated database yet, but is available in raw \*.csv format in the meantime. If you have any questions about this data, please contact us. Thank you!

### 04.12.2007 - [Important Note: FTP Site Restrictions](#)

Due to problems with unauthorized access we can no longer allow anonymous access to our public FTP site. From now on, you will be prompted to login when accessing FTP resources, so please use the following information to do so: Username: cira\guest, Password: orion. Thank you!

### 10.24.2006 - [IMPROVE Steering Committee Meeting 2006](#)

Final summary of the Sept 26-28 IMPROVE Steering Committee meeting Meeting Summary.

## Air Quality and Environmental Science News

### [Melting Of The Greenland Ice Sheet Mapped](#) (Thu, 17 Sep 2009 02:00:00 EDT)

Will all of the ice on Greenland melt and flow out into the sea, bringing about a colossal rise in ocean levels on Earth, as the global temperature rises? The new research, published in the journal *Geophysical Research Letters*, shows that the melting of the

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- 08/31/07 IMPROVE Aerosol, Raw  
*June through August, 2006*
- 08/31/07 IMPROVE Aerosol, Prelim.  
*June through August, 2006*
- 08/31/07 IMPROVE Nephelometer  
*January through March, 2007*
- 08/31/07 IMPROVE Aerosol, Raw  
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*June through August, 2006*

## Features

### [Natural Haze Levels II Data:](#)

The 2nd version of the natural haze level II estimates based on the work of the Natural Haze Levels II Committee.

### [IMPROVE Data Update and Archival Protocol:](#)

A summary of the procedures used by NPS/CIRA to update and archive IMPROVE data.

### [IMPROVE Substituted Data:](#)

Data that has been substituted for missing sample days at various IMPROVE Sites that experienced data completeness issues with regard to the RHR guidance for determining baseline conditions.

### [VIEWS Air Quality Glossary:](#)

An improved and expanded version of our glossary of air quality terms.

### [Data Flagging Protocols:](#)

A description of the conventions

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08.28.2007 - [New data: IMPROVE RHR2 Data](#)

The Regional Haze Rule data is available in raw form [here](#). Note the note below for login information. NOTE: This data has been imported into the integrated database, yet, but is available in raw \*.csv format in the meantime. If you have any questions, please contact us. Thank you!

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TO BE ARCHIVED



## News

### Alpha version of the FED now available

The first draft version of the FED website and database is now available for limited exploration and testing.

### IEWS database cloned for use by the FED

The FED was initially created by making a "clone" of the IEWS Integrated Database without satellite and modeled datasets.

### New and updated datasets will be imported

During the first phase of FED development, selected datasets will be updated and new datasets will be added.

## Data

### Use the Data Wizard for selecting raw data

The FED Data Wizard is currently identical in functionality to the previous VIEWS Data Wizard.

### The Oct - Dec 2009 IMPROVE data is coming

As soon as the IMPROVE data for October - December 2009 is delivered, it will be added to the FED database.

### Data Item #3

Some description goes here...

## Geolocation



Latitude:	40.592
Longitude:	-105.129
City:	Fort Collins
Region:	CO
Country:	USA
ZipCode:	80523
AreaCode:	970
Domain:	COLOSTATE.EDU
ISP:	COLORADO STATE UNIVERSITY
TimeZone:	-07:00
Weather Station:	FORT COLLINS (USCO0140)
Forecast:	<a href="#">Weather Underground</a>

## Featured Substance

### Titanium dioxide

Name:	Titanium dioxide
FormulaHTML:	O <sub>2</sub> Ti
CASNum:	13463-67-7
ACXNumber:	X1002582-6
Density:	4.26
DOTNumber:	2546 37
Comments:	White powder, odorless
MolecularWeight:	79.8658
MeltingPoint:	1855
BoilingPoint:	2900
WaterSolubility:	insoluble. <0.1 g/100 mL at 20 C

## Featured Term

### Visibility indexes

Have been formalized for aerosol, optical, and scenic attributes. Aerosol indexes include mass concentrations,

### Local Air Quality

Select a Dataset:  Select a Start Year:  Select an End Year:

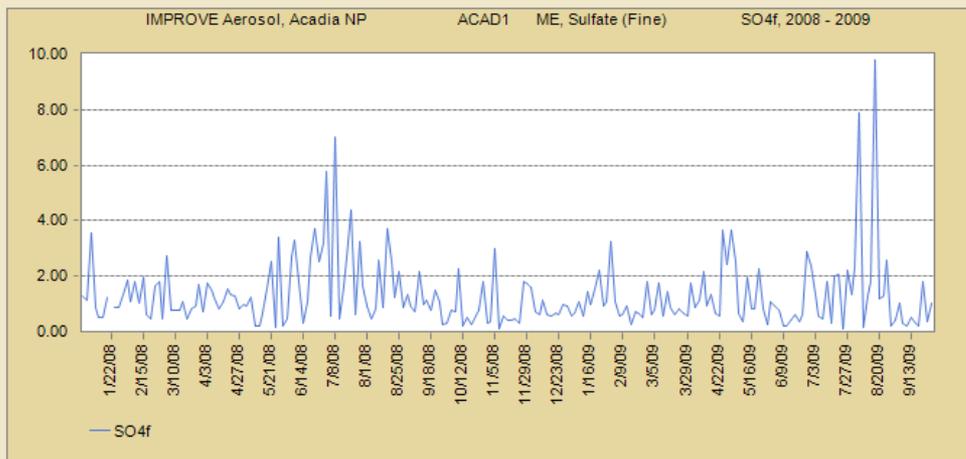
Select a Site:

Site	Code	ST
Acadia NP	ACAD1	ME
Addison Pinnacle	ADP11	NY
Agua Tibia	AGT11	CA
Ambler	AMBL1	AK
Arches NP	ARCH1	UT
Arendtsville	AREN1	PA
Atlanta	ATLA1	GA

Select Parameters:

Parameter	Code
Selenium (Fine)	SEf
Silicon (Fine)	SI f
Sodium (Fine)	NAf
Soil (Fine)	SOILf
Soil Extinction (Fine)	SOILf_bext
Strontium (Fine)	Srf
Sulfate (Fine)	SO4f

For more advanced options in selecting and filtering data, visit the [Query Wizard...](#)



# Datasets to be included

- IMPROVE aerosol data
- Forest Service NRIS-Water quality data
- hourly ozone concentrations (ppb) from continuous ozone monitors, including all EPA/AQS monitors, CASTNET monitors, NPS portable ozone monitors, 1988 to present
- weekly passive ozone concentrations (ppb) from NPS passive ozone samplers
- hourly meteorological parameters, including temperature, relative humidity, scalar wind speed, scalar wind direction, vector wind speed, vector wind direction, dew point, solar radiation, rainfall, and barometric pressure
- hourly PM<sub>2.5</sub> concentrations
- hourly PM<sub>10</sub> concentrations
- hourly NO<sub>2</sub> concentrations
- hourly SO<sub>2</sub> concentrations
- hourly CO concentrations
- CASTNET model estimates for hourly concentrations, dry deposition velocity, and dry deposition flux
- weekly wet deposition concentrations, including Ca, Cl, K, Mg, Na, NH<sub>4</sub>, NO<sub>3</sub>, SO<sub>4</sub>, and Hg (mg/l and meq/l)
- weekly wet deposition, including Ca, Cl, K, Mg, Na, NH<sub>4</sub>, NO<sub>3</sub>, SO<sub>4</sub>, and Hg (kg/ha)
- nephelometer visibility measurements
- Night sky brightness imagery

# Derived Values

- **IMPROVE Derived Values and Statics:**

- missing data estimated using algorithms specified in the Regional Haze Rule guidance documents
- daily IMPROVE ambient particulate concentrations for ammonium nitrate, ammonium sulfate, coarse material, soil, organic mass, soot, sea salt, gravimetric PM<sub>2.5</sub>, and gravimetric PM<sub>10</sub>
- daily IMPROVE extinction estimates for ammonium nitrate, ammonium sulfate, coarse material, soil, organic mass, soot, sea salt, Rayleigh, total extinction, and deciview
- daily IMPROVE visibility estimates in kilometers
- annual mean, best days, median days, and worst days IMPROVE ambient particulate concentrations for ammonium nitrate, ammonium sulfate, coarse material, soil, organic mass, soot, sea salt, gravimetric PM<sub>2.5</sub>, and gravimetric PM<sub>10</sub>
- 3- and 5-year averages of annual mean, best days, median days, and worst days IMPROVE ambient particulate concentrations for gravimetric PM<sub>2.5</sub>
- annual mean, best days, median days, and worst days IMPROVE extinction estimates for ammonium nitrate, ammonium sulfate, coarse material, soil, organic mass, soot, sea salt, Rayleigh, total extinction, and deciview
- annual mean, best days, median days, and worst days IMPROVE visibility estimates in kilometers

- **Ozone Statistics**

- daily maximum 1-hour ozone concentrations
- annual maximum 1-hour ozone concentrations
- annual 2<sup>nd</sup> highest 1-hour ozone concentrations
- 3- and 5-year means of the annual 2<sup>nd</sup> highest 1-hour ozone concentration
- daily maximum 8-hour ozone concentrations (calculated in accordance with EPA protocols)
- annual maximum, 2<sup>nd</sup> highest, 3<sup>rd</sup> highest, and 4<sup>th</sup> highest 8-hour ozone concentrations, occurring during the local ozone monitoring season (determined in accordance with EPA protocols)
- 3- and 5-year averages of the annual maximum, 2<sup>nd</sup> highest, 3<sup>rd</sup> highest, and 4<sup>th</sup> highest 8-hour ozone concentrations
- 3-year average of the annual 4<sup>th</sup> highest 8-hour ozone concentrations (determined in accordance with EPA protocols)
- 5-year average of the annual 4<sup>th</sup> highest 8-hour ozone concentrations
- annual 90th percentile of 1-hour ozone concentrations
- 3- and 5-year averages of the annual 90th percentile of 1-hour ozone concentrations
- annual highest 3-month maximum ozone SUM60 (calculated in accordance with EPA protocols)
- 3- and 5-year averages of the annual highest 3-month maximum ozone SUM60
- annual highest 3-month maximum ozone W126 sum (calculated in accordance with EPA protocols)
- 5-year averages of the annual highest 3-month maximum ozone W126 sum
- 3-year average of the annual highest 3-month maximum ozone W126 sum (calculated in accordance with EPA protocols)
- annual mean 1-hour ozone concentration
- annual mean 1-hour ozone concentration, calculated over the ozone season
- 5-year average 1-hour ozone concentration
- number of hours with 1-hour ozone concentration over 100 ppb during ozone season

- **Dry and Wet Deposition Statistics**

- annual mean deposition concentrations, including Ca, Cl, K, Mg, Na, NH<sub>4</sub>, NO<sub>3</sub>, SO<sub>4</sub>, and Hg (mg/l and meq/l)
- 3- and 5-year averages of annual mean deposition concentrations (mg/l), including Ca, Cl, K, Mg, Na, NH<sub>4</sub>, NO<sub>3</sub>, SO<sub>4</sub>, and Hg
- annual total wet deposition, including Ca, Cl, K, Mg, Na, NH<sub>4</sub>, NO<sub>3</sub>, SO<sub>4</sub>, and Hg
- 3- and 5-year averages of annual total wet deposition, including Ca, Cl, K, Mg, Na, NH<sub>4</sub>, NO<sub>3</sub>, SO<sub>4</sub>, and Hg

- **Trend Statistics**

- trend slope and p-value for monitors in and near parks, including 10-year trends for 3-year averages of the annual 4th highest 8-hour ozone, and annual wet deposition concentrations of NH<sub>4</sub>, NO<sub>3</sub>, and SO<sub>4</sub>, and visibility conditions on the best and worst days
- annual values used to compute 10-year trend slopes

- **Other Derived Datasets**