

A photograph of an air resource monitoring station. The station consists of a tall metal pole with various sensors, including a windmill, a pressure sensor, and a large rectangular panel. The station is situated on a hillside. In the background, a large, white plume of smoke or steam rises into the sky, partially obscuring the blue sky. The foreground shows a brown, rocky landscape.

# **Air Resource Management & the National System of Public Lands**

**Angela Zahniser, Air Resource Specialist  
U.S. Department of the Interior  
Bureau of Land Management  
March 4, 2009**



# What is Air Resource Management?

- The Air Resource Consists of Both Air Quality and Climate
  - Includes all atmospheric components of climate change



# Activities Typically Triggering Detailed Analysis

- Fluid Minerals (Oil and Gas Development)
- Solid Minerals (Coal Mining)
- Prescribed Fire



# Activities Typically Triggering Detailed Analysis

- OHV Activities, e.g. Organized Recreational Events
- Lands actions, e.g. selling parcels of land for development
- Activities in Non-attainment and Maintenance Areas



Dust from Recreational OHV Use

# Key Issues: Ozone

- More Stringent Ozone Standard → more Nonattainment Areas
- How it affects BLM



Counties w. monitors violating .075  
standard 2004-2006 data

# Background

- Air Specialists in the BLM
- What type of air impact analysis is appropriate at the RMP level? at the implementation level?
- No cookbook answer!
  - The type and availability of information should be the drivers in determining the appropriate type of air resource impact analysis, i.e. qualitative vs. quantitative



# Background

- Disagreements on when to conduct AQ modeling
- Regional AQ Impact Analysis
  - → EU-3 Ratings (or threat of EU-3)  
Ex: Colorado, Utah, Wyoming
- Air Resource Management Manual M-7300
- NEPA Handbook H-1601-1
- Need guidance for making decisions on the appropriate type of air impact assessment in environmental analyses

# Air Guidance for RMPs/NEPA

- Introduction
  - RMPs and Implementation NEPA (EISs, EAs)
- Federal, State, and Local Management Responsibilities
- BLM Management Responsibilities
- Collaborative Relationship between BLM and the Regulatory Agencies

# Continued...

- Prep Plan → have someone on the ID Team
- Scoping
- AMS
- Formulate Alternative
- Analyze Alternatives
  - Decision Tree

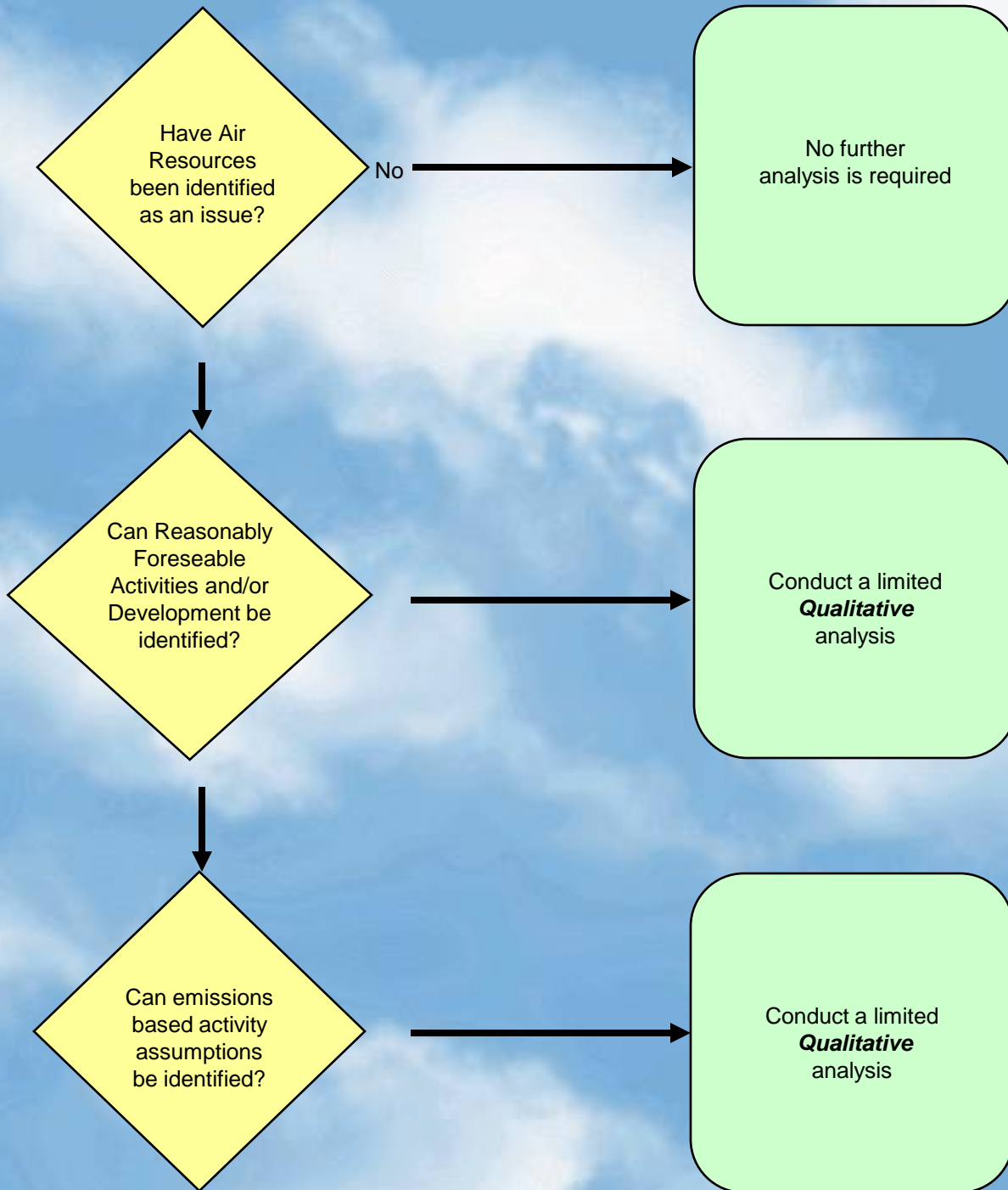
# Decision Tree

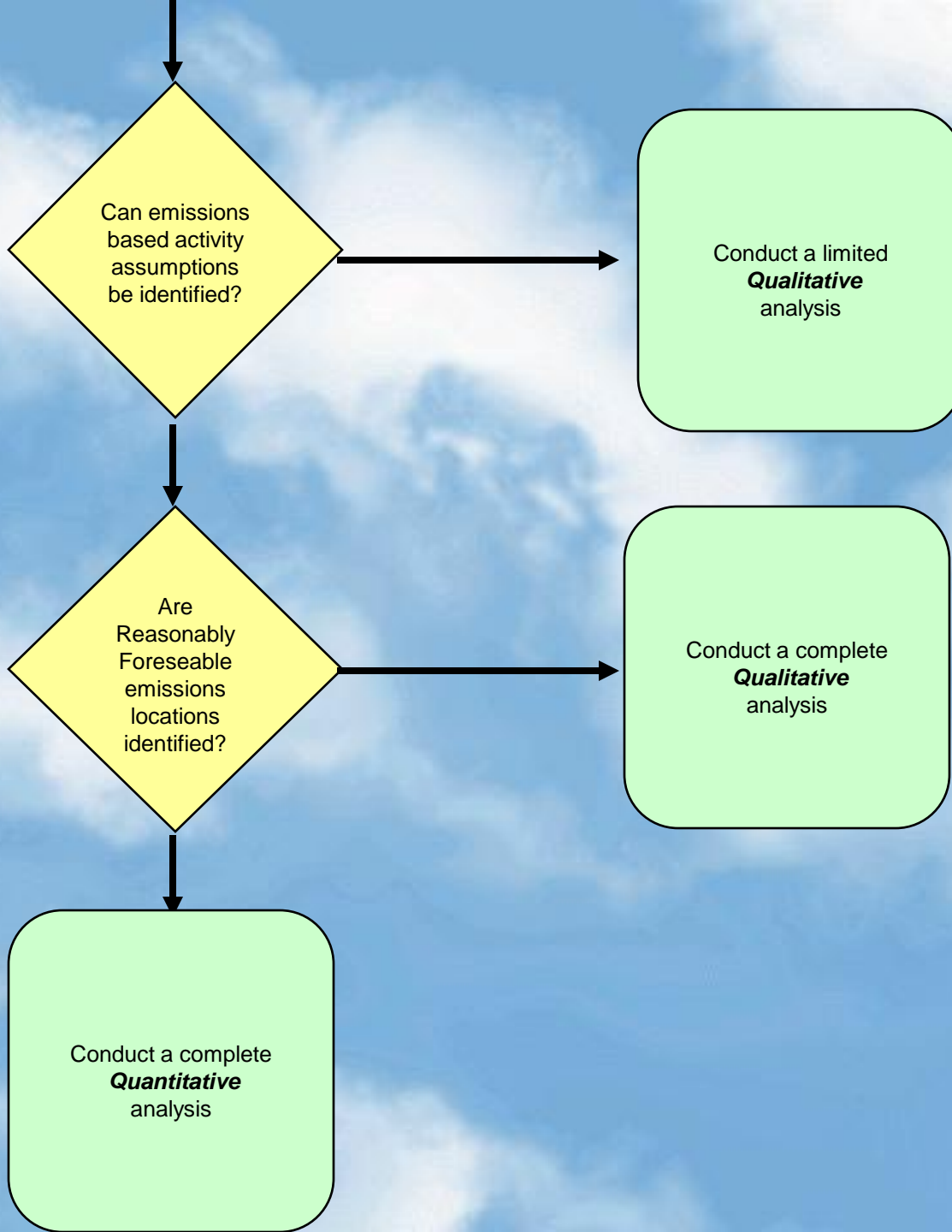
↓ **Have air resources been identified as an issue to be analyzed for the RMP or NEPA document?**

↓ **Can Reasonably Foreseeable Activities be Identified?**

↓ **Are emissions data associated with identified activities, allocations and/or uses available? Can this data be obtained?**

↓ **Can reasonably foreseeable locations of the activities be identified at this time? Can the locations of these activities be logically plotted on a map?**





# Who and Where We Are

- NOC
  - Senior Air Specialist, Scott Archer
  - AQ Modeler, Craig Nicholls
  - Air Specialist (NEPA), Susan Caplan
- COSO
  - ARS, Aaron Worstell
- LVFO
  - ARS, Lisa Christianson
- WYSO
  - ARS, Dennis Korycinski,
  - ARS, John Zacharriason
- WO
  - Policy, Budget, Program Guidance, Angela Zahniser
- UTSO –PD is open



# The Role of BLM in Air Resource Management

- CAA
  - NAAQS, State AAQS
  - Conformity
- FLPMA
- NEPA

# How Air Fits Into:

- Planning
  - Could Include Leasing
- Activity-based NEPA
  - EISs
  - EAs
  - APDs
  - Stipulations and Conditions Of Approval
  - Best Management Practices
  - Inspection and Enforcement