

BLM Colorado Comprehensive Air Resources Protection Protocol

Fact Sheet

The Bureau of Land Management (BLM) analyzes and protects air resources within its multiple use and sustained yield mission under the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA). This involves carrying out the Federal Land Policy and Management Act of 1976 and ensuring that all activities the BLM conducts or authorizes comply with the Clean Air Act and other air pollution laws and regulations.

The Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment (CDPHE) and the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) have the authority under the Clean Air Act to regulate and maintain air quality standards within Colorado.

BLM Colorado is implementing the Comprehensive Air Resources Protection Protocol (CARPP), an adaptive strategy to address regional air quality issues that may arise from development on BLM lands. The CARPP is designed to focus the BLM's management posture toward proactively addressing air resource concerns throughout the various NEPA analyses that authorize BLM-managed activities.

In the CARPP, BLM Colorado commits to:

- Analyzing and mitigating significant impacts to air resources tied to BLM actions in Colorado.
- Preparing an annual comprehensive report to assess if the BLM's air quality strategies meet the goals and objectives in existing planning actions and ensure consistency with modeled or approved projections.
- Performing additional analysis or modeling to evaluate mitigation options and emissions offsets if these goals and objectives aren't met.
- Working with other air resource management agencies such as the CDPHE and EPA to identify corrective actions as necessary.
- Continuing to participate in regional air quality modeling efforts.

BLM Colorado is also funding the Colorado Air Resources Management Modeling Study (CARMMS) to assess predicted impacts from projected federal and non-federal energy development in the state. The BLM is using the study results to quantify impacts to air quality and help better inform our land use planning and implementation decisions. The BLM will track implementation data such as emissions inventories, development rates and production data as well as available monitoring data to ensure the CARMMS remains relevant as a NEPA tool. This data will be summarized and made available to the public via the annual report required under the CARPP.