 

draft of Regional Haze Planning Work Group workplan scope

### November 19, 2021

### Overview

The purpose of the WRAP Regional Haze Planning Work Group (RHPWG) is to prepare and implement the framework to support regional planning for the 15-state WESTAR-WRAP region, to protect and improve visibility in Class I federal areas and to assure needed elements will be available for Implementation Plans for the third planning period of the federal Regional Haze Rule (RHR). Regional Haze Implementation Plan preparation is a multi-year effort and must incorporate time for the required consultation and public review process. These plans are to continue protection and improvement efforts of visual air quality for visitors to the 118 Class I federal areas of the WESTAR-WRAP region since the inception of the RHR in 1999.

Changes to the RHR will be considered for the third planning period that has a 2038 nominal milestone date. Review of the existing RHR requirements to address the basic State Implementation Plan planning needs is a starting point. The RHPWG will advocate for changes to the RHR that address strategies for implementation across all WRAP member agencies to address and improve visual air quality. Timely changes to the RHR and release of planning guidance would provide the basis for a successful visibility program in the future. A key element of western visibility planning will be to continue substantive consultation between WRAP members - States, Tribes, Local Air Agencies, Federal Land Managers (FLMs), and U.S. EPA about planning strategies.

Each WESTAR-WRAP region air quality program encompasses unique needs and requires specific emphasis to meet their goals. However, there are certain common themes that weave them together including:

* Staff (capacity) – there is wide variation in the staff sizes among WRAP members.
* Sources – there is wide variation across the WESTAR-WRAP region by jurisdiction for types of air pollution sources, emission magnitudes, approaches to emissions control and reduction strategies, contributions of uncontrollable international and natural sources, and other factors.
* Funding – no significant amount of funding has been available from U.S. EPA for the federally-required regional planning efforts of the past 10+ years. Resources have been largely provided by States and FLMs, with lesser support from U.S. EPA. All WRAP members also contribute in-kind to the regional planning effort.
* Training (capability) – new personnel across WESTAR-WRAP jurisdictions will need training and other support to participate fully and manage planning efforts for the regional visibility program.

### Responsibilities and Deliverables

Workplan Scope Topical Areas

* Identify work needed and plan uses of WRAP and WESTAR products and services
* Facilitate support of Implementation Plan development to protect and improve visibility and reduce regional haze in Class I federal areas
* Discuss needs to link other air quality protection and climate change mitigation and adaptation programs to visibility protection and improvement
* Provide educational opportunities for the WRAP membership, i.e., States, Tribes, Local Air Agencies, Federal Land Managers, and U.S. EPA, as well as industry and environmental organizations
* Identify needs and services from the Technical Support System
* Identify SIP, TIP, and FIP planning target dates
* Assure collaboration, coordination, and consultation related to visibility protection and improvement between WRAP member agencies

Annual Action Items

* RHPWG periodic calls and meetings, reports on any deliverables completed
* Maintain distribution and contact list
* Prepare RHPWG deliverables and adapt products from other Work Groups and other sources in support of Topical Areas listed above

This work must take into consideration differing levels of expertise, programmatic resources and approaches, cultural necessities, and needs by WESTAR-WRAP member agency. Several of these activities will involve close coordination within WESTAR-WRAP facilitated by the Technical Steering Committee (TSC), as is done with other WRAP Work Groups.

**Operations and Reporting**

The Co-Chairs will provide a summary report to the TSC at each TSC/WG Co-Chairs meeting, about the status of activities, findings, and work products related to the topics and for the action items described above. Participation in the RHPWG will be dynamic and evolving depending on topics and action items being addressed and the interests of the Work Group’s members. The Co-Chairs, with support from WESTAR-WRAP staff, will maintain a distribution list to be updated when needed. Participation will be tracked on the [Regional Haze Planning Work Group webpage](http://www.wrapair2.org/RHPWG.aspx). No formal detailed workplan is required but welcome.

The RHPWG will have regular virtual or in-person meetings arranged by Co-Chairs, at least quarterly. The principal purpose of RHPWG meetings is to provide a regular opportunity for discussion of progress to protect and improve visibility at WESTAR-WRAP region Class I federal areas, air quality planning for the Regional Haze program, and other topics. If necessary, Subcommittees or Teams may be defined by the RHPWG to execute, track, and provide oversight for both in-kind and/or any contractor-supported RHPWG projects, and will meet as needed at self-defined separate intervals. Any active Teams and Subcommittees will report regularly to the RHPWG. The RHPWG Co-Chairs will communicate on relevant matters with the TSC and Board.

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On the [Regional Haze Planning Work Group webpage](http://www.wrapair2.org/RHPWG.aspx), continue display of the existing posted materials and add relevant and current resources as they are available as well as those listed at: [Completed Work Products](http://www.wrapair2.org/WGcompleted.aspx).