



WESTAR QUARTERLY REPORT

Reporting Period: 3rd quarter 2020

Report Date: October 28, 2020

EPA Grants No.

XA-99T67301-0

NPS Agreement No.

Task 5: P18AC01186, P19AC01205

Regardless of funding source, all of the projects and activities conducted by WESTAR are consistent with and intended to achieve the purposes of the organization spelled out in Article 2 of WESTAR's Articles of Association, including promoting the exchange of information related to air quality management, developing procedures to meet air quality objectives and to protect environmental resources, to establish workgroups to investigate specific topics, and to develop recommendations for the consideration of the membership. This report summarizes activities and outcomes for this reporting period.

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1. EPA CORE GRANT 2017-2019

Note: Work on activities and spending against this grant began December 2017.

a. Budget Summary and Status

The following tables summarize the status of WESTAR's Core Grant budget, comparing cumulative grant awards since the inception of the current grant (October 1, 2017) through the end of the most recent quarter.

**EPA Core Grant 2017-19
Expenses by Object Class through 9/30/2020**

Object Class	Budget	This Quarter	Cumulative Expenses	Percentage
1. Personnel	1,079,699	106,739	1,039,710	96%
2. Fringe Benefits	293,323	21,880	260,436	89%
3. Travel	762,460	0	355,010	47%
4. Equipment	0	0	0	
5. Supplies	0	0	0	
6. Contractual	512,260	70,704	722,591	134%
7. Construction	0	0	0	
8. Other	587,488	12,637	465,079	79%
9. Indirect Expenses	1,080,651	36,677	851,470	79%
Totals	4,315,881	248,637	3,694,296	85%

a. Activity Summary: Operations Project

The purpose of the Operations project is to develop, implement, and support the policy and technical activities at WESTAR that benefit member states. Funding for this project comes entirely from member state contributions. In addition, personnel from member states and federal land management agencies contribute their time and expertise to many of the tasks performed under this project.

1) Status of work plan activities – Operations Project

<i>Expected Result for Project Period</i>	<u>Results/Outcomes</u>	
	<i>2020 Q3</i>	<i>Project Period Total</i>
27 Air director conference calls, documented with minutes posted on WESTAR’s website	3	29
6 Business meetings, documented with minutes and presentations posted on WESTAR’s website	1	6
105 Committee and ad hoc workgroup conference calls	6	96
12 Trips by committee chairs to brief air directors on committee activities	3 (remote participation)	16

3 Specialty conference on a high priority topic	0	1
3 Meetings held to address emerging topics	0	3
9 Trips by committee representatives to attend national meetings and report back to WESTAR membership	1 (remote participation)	3

2) Other Activities this Quarter – Operations Project

*WESTAR provided written comments on the Residential Wood Heating NSPS NPRM to grant an additional sales period beyond the regulatory deadline as a result of lost sales during the Covid-19 pandemic.

*WESTAR national ambient monitoring representative participated remotely in a conference and reported back to the WESTAR Technical Committee.

*WESTAR hosted a discussion with its' Prescribed Fire/Smoke Management Work Group

b. Activity Summary: Training Project

The purpose of the Training Project is to: (1) deliver high quality training courses/workshops that meet the needs and expectations of state and local air agency staff within the fifteen-state WESTAR region; (2) develop needed, cost-effective, responsive, and western-states-focused training opportunities; and (3) act as the main point of contact for information and educational training opportunities related to air quality training.

1) Status of work plan activities – Training Project

<i>Expected Result for Project Period</i>	<u>Results/Outcomes</u>	
	<i>2020 Q3</i>	<i>Project Period Total</i>
60 Educational opportunities developed and delivered:	0	41
* Online Effective Permit Writing (APTI 454)		
1800 Students trained	0	980
3450 Student training days	0	2560
1 Training course developed/updated	0	0

Other Activities this Quarter – Training Project

- * WESTAR staff continues to work with state, local and tribal air quality government agencies in the fifteen Western United States to identify each agency’s most important training needs for calendar years 2020/21. WESTAR’s upcoming year’s training schedule is developed based on these needs.
- * WESTAR staff is working with the National Air Quality training group to move classroom training courses to online training to better serve the current needs of state, local and tribal air quality professionals.
- * WESTAR staff serves as a member on the Joint Training Committee (JTC) Steering Committee. The Steering Committee oversees the operations of four work groups by providing guidance, evaluating resource needs, identifies priorities, assigns projects, provides assessments, and fosters communication. The four work groups are: 1) Communications; 2) Curriculum; 3) Training Delivery; and 4) Learning Management Systems (LMS)
- * WESTAR staff is a co-lead for the Training Delivery work group.
- * WESTAR staff is a committee member on the Communications workgroup, Learning Management System (LMS) workgroup, and the Curriculum workgroup.
- * WESTAR is involved with the training committees at AAPCA, NACAA, and EPA’s Joint Training Committee (JTC).
- * WESTAR staff is an active member of EPA’s Continuous Monitoring Systems (CMS) workgroup with the responsibility of updating APTI 474 Continuous Emission Monitoring (CEM) training course.

c. Activity Summary: Regional Technical Support Project

The purpose of the Regional Technical Support project is to provide technical support to member agencies related to analysis of monitoring data, analysis and preparation of emissions inventories, regional modeling analyses, and operation and maintenance of web databases – all for member agencies to use in their air quality management and planning activities.

1) Status of work plan activities – Regional Technical Support Project

<i>Expected Result for Project Period</i>	<u>Results/Outcomes</u>	
	<i>2020 Q3</i>	<i>Project Period Total</i>
75 Work Group and Subcommittee Conference calls	24	245
30 Technical Steering Committee conference calls	3	34
6 Face-to-face WRAP Board meetings	0	4
30 Travel support provided to local agency and tribal WRAP Board members	0	25
3 Technical Steering Committee Face-to-face meetings	0	3
30 WRAP Board calls	3	24

2) Other Activities this Quarter – Regional Technical Support Project

- The WRAP Regional Technical Center is being implemented through the [Intermountain West Data Warehouse](#) (IWDW), linked with the [Technical Support System v2](#) and delivering the modeling results from the Western Air Quality Study, providing access to air quality data of all types and results from regional modeling studies, as described in the now nearly complete [WRAP 2018-19 Workplan update](#). Regional modeling tasks and deliverables from WESTAR contracts supporting both the Regional Haze analysis and Western Air Quality Study.
- Staff continued to work with state and federal agencies, including regional EPA offices, to discuss and collect input on regional technical analysis needs in the western U.S. The IWDW is also hosting and distributing the [2016 National Emissions Modeling Platform Collaborative “beta” and “v1” versions](#) with future year projections, and associated data files for distribution.
- Dissemination of reports from projects, meetings, and calls, as well as data and summary results were also conducted via the [WRAP website](#) for Work Groups, Subcommittees, and the Technical Steering Committee.
- The WRAP Technical Steering Committee and 3 of the 5 Work Groups (Oil & Gas, Regional Technical Operations, and Regional Haze Planning) under their direction met regularly.
- Significant progress continues on implementation of the now nearly complete 2018-19 WRAP Workplan Update, approved by the WRAP Board on April 3, 2019. The Technical Steering Committee and Co-Chairs of WRAP Work Groups and Subcommittees meet monthly on a Coordination call.

2. NPS COOPERATIVE AGREEMENT

Under these agreements, WESTAR/WRAP has agreed to cooperate with the National Park Service in furthering the understanding of air quality formation, transport and effects in the western U.S., which includes but is not limited to ambient monitoring and data reporting, creation and operation of databases, development of emission inventories, performance of air quality modeling to understand the effects of pollution and to facilitate discussion of possible mitigation, and the development of outreach and education products toward bettering the understanding of Western air quality by the public and stakeholders.

Projects and activities under this Agreement will be individually authorized by separate task agreements, with each project or activity having a separate work plan and budget developed cooperatively between the NPS and WESTAR/WRAP.

TASK 1: 3-State Study Coordination and Data Warehouse (P14AC00133)

This Task was completed on 9/30/2014.

TASK 2: Three State Air Quality Study (P14AC01122)

This Task was completed on 6/30/2016.

TASK 3: Intermountain West Data Warehouse – Western Air Quality Study (IWDW-WAQS) (P14AC01122)

This Task was completed on 12/31/2019.

TASK 4: Intermountain West Data Warehouse – Western Air Quality Study (IWDW-WAQS)

This task was completed on 12/31/2018.

TASK 5: Intermountain West Data Warehouse-Western Air Quality Study (IWDW-WAQS) P18AC01186

Under this Task Agreement, WESTAR/WRAP serves as the project coordinator for the Western Air Quality Study and performs technical tasks through contractors to include:

- Emission inventory development for oil and gas sources;
- Air quality modeling for base year 2014 and/or 2016 including preliminary assessment of an approach for establishing boundary conditions;
- Support and coordination of IWDW operations and maintenance;
- Assistance in education and outreach to stakeholders and the public;
- Organization and participation in meetings, webinars and conference calls.

WESTAR/WRAP staff serve as project coordinator for the IWDW-WAQS, at 0.20 FTE time.

a. Activity Summary

Contractual resources from this task have been used to implement the 2014-based western regional modeling with 2028 projections for Regional Haze planning.

**NPS Cooperative Agreement
Task 5 – Three State Air Quality Study # P18AC01186
Expenses by Object Class through 9/30/2020**

Object Class	Budget	This Quarter	Cumulative Expenses	Percentage
1. Personnel	67,381	0	61,075	91%
2. Fringe Benefits	12,835	0	12,905	101%
3. Travel	0	0	0	
4. Equipment	0	0	0	
5. Supplies	0	0	0	
6. Contractual	346,566	11,013	353,845	102%
7. Construction	0	0	0	
8. Other	0	0	0	
9. Indirect Expenses	33,968	166	32,926	97%
Totals	460,750	11,178	460,750	100%

**Intermountain West Data Warehouse-Western Air Quality Study (IWDW-WAQS)
Agreement P19AC01205**

Under this Agreement, WESTAR/WRAP serves as the project coordinator for the Western Air Quality Study and performs technical tasks through contractors to include:

- Air quality modeling;
- Support and coordination of IWDW operations and maintenance;
- Assistance in education and outreach to stakeholders and the public;
- Organization and participation in meetings, webinars and conference calls.

WESTAR/WRAP staff serve as project coordinator for the IWDW-WAQS, at 0.20 FTE time.

**NPS Cooperative Agreement
P19AC01205
Expenses by Object Class through 9/30/2020**

Object Class	Budget	This Quarter	Cumulative Expenses	Percentage
1. Personnel	23,343	0	0	0%
2. Fringe Benefits	4,446	0	0	0%
3. Travel	0	0	0	
4. Equipment	0	0	0	
5. Supplies	0	0	0	
6. Contractual	0	3,762	3,762	1%
7. Construction	0	0	0	
8. Other	0	0	0	
9. Indirect Expenses	7,211	0	0	0%
Totals	35,000	3,762	3,762	1%

3. OTHER SIGNIFICANT ACTIVITIES

WESTAR co-chairs the Federal/State Technical Work Collaboration Group and organizes monthly and quarterly conference calls to share information about EPA and MJO technical work.

WESTAR-WRAP staff participated in the Air & Waste Management Association’s 2020 Critical Review Session as an invited discussant to review “*Wildfire and prescribed burning impacts on air quality in the United States*”; Jaffe, D.A.; et. al. on July 2, 2020, followed by an AWMA Journal article section accepted for publication in October 2020: “*Fire and Smoke: Regional Haze, visibility, and smoke management programs*”.

WESTAR-WRAP staff presentations and papers

- NASA MAIA (Multi-Angle Imager for Aerosols) and TEMPO (Tropospheric Emissions: Monitoring of Pollution) user workshop (May 17-18)
- AWMA Pacific Northwest Regional Haze Webinar (May 21)
- 7th Annual NASA TOLNet and Pandora Science Team Workshop (June 2-4)
- Theodoritsi, G. N., et. al.; *Biomass burning organic aerosol from prescribed burning and other activities in the United States*; Atmospheric Environment.
- NASA TEMPO Science Team Meeting (August 13-14)
- Edison Electric Institute webinar on western U.S. Regional Haze effort (Sept. 16)

WESTAR-WRAP staff have provided support to the WRAP Board and Technical Steering Committee to develop a process to assess and decide priorities for future technical project work by WRAP Work Groups as the Regional Haze workplan is completed in 2020. Initial documentation of possible projects, example air pollution assessments at various time/space/source impact scales are in discussion at: [Potential Future Projects Review](#), [Applying Advanced Earth Science Data for Aiding Air Quality Forecasting and Decisions](#), and [Applying Earth Science Data to Air Quality Management and Public Health Decisions](#).

4. CONSOLIDATED EXPENSE SUMMARY

Cumulative Expenses by Object Class and Funding Source through 9/30/2020 All Active Accounts

Object Class	EPA	NPS	NPS	Totals
	Core Grant 2017-19	Task 5 ¹ 3-State	P19AC01205 ¹	
1. Personnel	1,039,710	61,075	0	1,100,784
2. Fringe	260,436	12,905	0	273,341
3. Travel	355,010	0	0	355,010
4. Equipment	0	0	0	0
5. Supplies	0	0	0	0
6. Contractual	722,591	353,845	3,762	1,080,198
7. Construction	0	0	0	0
8. Other	465,079	0	0	465,079
9. Indirect	851,470	32,926	0	884,396
Cumulative Expenses	3,694,296	460,750	3,762	4,158,808
Budget	4,340,881	460,750	401,063	5,202,694
Balance Avail	646,585	0	397,301	1,043,886

¹Total of \$861,813 drawn from advance for contractor expenses; advance balance = \$397,301

Current Quarter Expenses by Object Class and Funding Source – All Active Accounts

	EPA	NPS	NPS	
Object Class	Core Grant 2017-2019	Task 5 3-State	P19AC01205	Totals
1. Personnel	106,739	0	0	106,739
2. Fringe Benefits	21,880	0	0	21,880
3. Travel	0	0	0	0
4. Equipment	0	0	0	0
5. Supplies	0	0	0	0
6. Contractual	70,704	11,013	3,762	85,479
7. Construction	0	0	0	0
8. Other	12,637	0	0	12,637
9. Indirect	36,677	166	0	36,842
Total Expenses	248,637	11,178	3,762	263,578