



## **WESTAR QUARTERLY REPORT**

Reporting Period: 1st quarter 2021

Report Date: April 30, 2021

EPA Grants No. XA-99T67301-0

NPS Agreement No.

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.

### Reporting Organization:

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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 2017-21  
Expenses by Object Class through 3/31/2020**

<b>Object Class</b>	<b>Budget</b>	<b>This Quarter</b>	<b>Cumulative Expenses</b>	<b>Percentage</b>
1. Personnel	1,439,599	90,825	1,244,808	86%
2. Fringe Benefits	391,097	21,001	307,013	79%
3. Travel	805,310	0	355,094	44%
4. Equipment	0	0	0	
5. Supplies	0	0	0	
6. Contractual	545,200	74,591	1,007,009	185%
7. Construction	0	0	0	
8. Other	783,317	42,170	549,334	70%
9. Indirect Expenses	1,263,415	36,154	934,837	74%
<b>Totals</b>	<b>5,227,938</b>	<b>264,742</b>	<b>4,398,095</b>	<b>84%</b>

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>2021 Q1</i>	<i>Project Period Total</i>
<b>47</b> Air director conference calls, documented with minutes posted on WESTAR’s website	<b>3</b>	<b>34</b>
<b>10</b> Business meetings, documented with minutes and presentations posted on WESTAR’s website	<b>0</b>	<b>6</b>
<b>175</b> Committee and ad hoc workgroup conference calls	<b>8</b>	<b>108</b>
<b>20</b> Trips by committee chairs to brief air directors on committee activities	<b>0</b>	<b>16</b>

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

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2) Other Activities this Quarter – Operations Project

\*WESTAR participated in the EPA Residential Woodsmoke Conference Calls

\*WESTAR staff participated in the Four Corners Air Quality Oversight Group calls

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>2021 Q1</i>	<i>Project Period Total</i>
100 Educational opportunities developed and delivered:	<b>3</b>	<b>48</b>
* Effective Permit Writing (online)		
· Principles & Practices of AP Control		
* (online)		
· Effective Permit Writing (online)		
<b>3000</b> Students trained	<b>119</b>	<b>1229</b>
<b>5750</b> Student training days	<b>413</b>	<b>3439</b>
<b>1</b> Training course developed/updated	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>

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 FY2021, and is working with the Joint Training Committee (JTC) on the needs assessment instrument for FFY2022. WESTAR’s upcoming year’s training schedule is developed based on these needs.
- WESTAR staff works with the JTC 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. Assisted with the development of Effective Permit Writing.
- WESTAR staff serves as a member of the 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 JTC.

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>2021 Q1</i>	<i>Project Period Total</i>
<b>125</b> Work Group and Subcommittee Conference calls	<b>38</b>	<b>305</b>
<b>50</b> Technical Steering Committee conference calls	<b>3</b>	<b>39</b>
<b>10</b> Face-to-face WRAP Board meetings	<b>0</b>	<b>4</b>
<b>50</b> Travel support provided to local agency and tribal WRAP Board members	<b>0</b>	<b>25</b>

5	Technical Steering Committee Face-to-face meetings	0	3
50	WRAP Board calls	3	29

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. Regional modeling tasks and deliverables from WESTAR contracts support 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 Inventory Collaborative emissions modeling platform “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 and the Technical Steering Committee.
- The WRAP Technical Steering Committee and 4 of the 5 Work Groups (Fire & Smoke, Oil & Gas, Regional Technical Operations, and Regional Haze Planning) under their direction met regularly.
- The Technical Steering Committee and Co-Chairs of WRAP Work Groups and Subcommittees meet monthly on a Coordination call.

The Technical Steering Committee and Work Groups began work to implement the WRAP Board approved “Future project prioritization topics” from the Board’s December 2, 2020 meeting.

**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 and air pollution 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**

This task was completed on 9/30/2020.

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, as well as to initiate planning for technical work to develop a 2017-based regional modeling platform.

**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.

Beginning in the 4<sup>th</sup> quarter 2020, WESTAR is the sole funding source for IWDW staffing and incremental task work by contractors for WAQS modeling, using resources from this agreement and supplemented by other funding streams within WESTAR. The historic approach of direct funding of IWDW staffing by NPS was completed in the 3<sup>rd</sup> quarter 2020. WESTAR/WRAP staff serve as project coordinator for the IWDW-WAQS, at 0.20 FTE time. In the 1<sup>st</sup> quarter 2021, WESTAR held technical meetings and issued a contract to develop inputs for the 2017-based regional modeling platform, and provided support for a IWDW-WAQS Oversight Committee meeting on March 3<sup>rd</sup>.

**NPS Cooperative Agreement  
P19AC01205  
Expenses by Object Class through 3/31/2021**

<b>Object Class</b>	<b>Budget</b>	<b>This Quarter</b>	<b>Cumulative Expenses</b>	<b>Percentage</b>
1. Personnel	23,343	5,090	5,090	22%
2. Fringe Benefits	4,446	1,054	1,054	24%
3. Travel	0	0	0	
4. Equipment	0	0	0	
5. Supplies	0	0	0	
6. Contractual	358,525	114,444	132,231	37%
7. Construction	0	0	0	
8. Other	0	0	0	
9. Indirect Expenses	14,749	8,310	8,310	56%
<b>Totals</b>	<b>401,063</b>	<b>128,898</b>	<b>146,685</b>	<b>37%</b>

**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 activities, presentations, and meeting participation

- Alaska DEC Regional Haze meeting with Federal Land Managers (January 19)
- The WESTAR Smoke Management working group and the WRAP Fire & Smoke Work Group were merged under a new Workplan Scope developed for the Fire & Smoke WG, with approval by the WESTAR Council and WRAP Board. (January-February)
- Washington Dept. of Ecology - Regional Haze controls meetings (January 25 and 2 meetings on January 27)
- Provided support and follow-up for EPA ORD “Wildland Fire Research Listening Sessions” for WESTAR-WRAP region state and local air agencies, and separately for tribes (February)
- NASA ACCP Air Quality Virtual Workshop participation (March 16-18)

#### 4. CONSOLIDATED EXPENSE SUMMARY

##### Cumulative Expenses by Object Class and Funding Source through 3/31/2021 All Active Accounts

	EPA	NPS	
Object Class	Core Grant 2017-21	P19AC01205	Totals
1. Personnel	1,244,808	5,090	1,249,898
2. Fringe	307,013	1,054	308,067
3. Travel	355,094	0	355,094
4. Equipment	0	0	0
5. Supplies	0	0	0
6. Contractual	1,007,009	132,231	1,139,240
7. Construction	0	0	0
8. Other	549,334	0	549,334
9. Indirect	934,837	8,310	943,147
<b>Cumulative Expenses</b>	<b>4,398,095</b>	<b>146,685</b>	<b>4,544,780</b>
<b>Budget</b>	<b>5,227,938</b>	<b>401,063</b>	<b>5,629,001</b>
<b>Balance Avail</b>	<b>829,844</b>	<b>254,378</b>	<b>1,084,221</b>

<sup>1</sup>Total of \$401,063 drawn from advance for contractor expenses; advance balance = \$254,378

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

	EPA	NPS	
Object Class	Core Grant 2017-2021	P19AC01205	Totals
1. Personnel	90,825	5,090	95,915
2. Fringe Benefits	21,001	1,054	22,056
3. Travel	0	0	0
4. Equipment	0	0	0
5. Supplies	0	0	0
6. Contractual	74,591	114,444	189,035
7. Construction	0	0	0
8. Other	42,170	0	42,170
9. Indirect	36,154	8,310	44,465
<b>Total Expenses</b>	<b>264,742</b>	<b>128,898</b>	<b>393,640</b>