

Smoke Management Program Revisions – Why a SMP?

New Mexico
Environment Department

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April 15, 2010



Federal Requirements

- Clean Air Act (U.S. Congress)
 - Specifies Air Quality Standards for Pollutants to protect human health
 - Specifies that visibility needs to be improved in certain pristine areas (includes Pecos Wilderness)
- Exceptional Events Rule
- General Conformity
- Regional Haze Rule

State Requirements

- New Mexico Air Quality Requirements
 - Air Quality Control Act (statute)
 - New Mexico Administrative Code (regulation)

SMP Benefits

- Comply with Current Requirements (US & NM)
- Protect Air Quality (Pollutants & Visibility)
- Recognize the role of fire
 - Part of Ecosystem Health
 - Tool to promote Land Management Objectives
 - Public Lands
 - Private Lands
 - Agricultural Purposes

What are the Objectives?

- ❑ Equitable among all the different burners, while flexible so as to recognize differences & the nature of fire
- ❑ Ease & Clarity of Implementation and Administration (esp. between Open Burn & SMP)
- ❑ Represent Best Available Technology & Science
- ❑ Equity between Smoke & Other Sources of air pollution

How the SMP Was Developed

- Over a six-month period, involving stakeholders with fire and/or air quality expertise, representing:
 - Federal & State land managers
 - Private land owners (ranching & agriculture)
 - Tribes
 - Environmental and public health interests
- Using SMPs from other states and Policy guidance from EPA and WRAP

What is and is not allowed to be burned?

❑ Not allowed:

- Treated wood such as railroad ties, plywood, particle board, etc.
- Garbage including household waste

❑ Allowed:

- Vegetative material: Untreated wood and untreated wood products, including tree stumps (whole or chipped), trees, tree limbs (whole or chipped), bark, sawdust, chips, scraps, slabs, millings, shavings, grass, grass clippings, leaves, conifer needles, bushes, shrubs, clippings from bushes and shrubs, and agricultural plant residue

Why does the State regulate burning of vegetation?

□ Public Health

- Components of smoke are harmful, especially to sensitive groups
- Notification requirements allow people to take care of their own health

□ Visibility

- Smoke contributes to hazy skies
- Regulations encourage use of emission reduction techniques and alternatives to burning

What the program is NOT

- Concerned with Fire Safety
 - That is addressed elsewhere: local fire departments, county, State Forestry, federal land managers, etc.
- Regulating the Use of Fire
 - Rather, the SMP regulates SMOKE and its control and management to the maximum extent feasible
- Perfect
 - SMP represents best current compromise on many conflicting issues for the greatest overall good

Contact Info



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