

Olympic Park Advocates

Comments on Washington Regional Haze State Implementation Plan
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To Whom It May Concern:

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on Washington's Regional Haze State Implementation Plan.

I am on the Board of Trustees for Olympic Park Advocates (OPA) and am submitting these comments on behalf of OPA.

OPA would like to express our concerns that the State of Washington's Department of Ecology has proposed a regional haze plan that does not require enough pollution reductions to make reasonable progress toward clean air goals for our parks and to support healthy air for directly affected communities close to haze-polluting facilities such as paper mills, refineries, cement production and other source emitters. In addition to protecting people, haze reductions are necessary under our nation's clean air laws to benefit Washington's three national parks and adjoining Wilderness areas. The federal Clean Air Act established the goal of naturally clean air – free of human-caused visibility impairment -- by 2064 in all large national parks and wilderness areas existing in 1977 – this means Olympic, Mount Rainier, North Cascades national parks; and other wilderness areas in Washington state. The National Park Service has calculated that on average about 50 miles of visibility is lost due to visibility impairing haze. It is more than just aesthetics. If we clear the air at parks and wilderness from polluting sources, then we are cleaning up harmful human health pollutants, too.

Ecology should be requiring all related industries to implement the best pollution controls available without waiting another ten years.

Thank you for your time and attention on this important topic.

Sincerely,

Olympic Park Advocates