

Case Study of Grand Canyon Visibility Transport Commission

Issues

The Grand Canyon Visibility Transport Commission (GCVTC) was established by the U.S. Congress in the Clean Air Act in 1990. Its purpose was to develop proposals to EPA to remedy existing visibility impairment (haze) and to prevent future impairment at 16 designated national parks and wilderness areas in the Southwest.

Process

In order to develop widespread support for recommendations for remedying and preventing regional haze, the Commission established a variety of committees, some of them devoted to conducting or overseeing scientific studies, and a Public Advisory Committee composed of approximately eighty representatives of stakeholder groups appointed by the Commissioners. The PAC had responsibility for actually negotiating recommendations for consideration and approval by the Commission.

Players

The Commission was composed of the Governors of eight Western States (Arizona, California, Colorado, Nevada, New Mexico, Oregon, Utah, Wyoming), four tribal leaders representing the Navajo, Hopi, Hualapai, and Acoma Pueblo, and *ex officio* representatives of five federal agencies (U.S. EPA, National Park Service, U.S. Forest Service, Bureau of Land Management, and the U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service), plus the Columbia River Inter-Tribal Fish Commission.

Results

After six months of intense and complex internal and external negotiations (including a public comment process), the PAC achieved consensus agreement on all of the recommendations to the EPA.