



RV News Service



[Smog obscures parks, clean air group threatens suit](#)

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WASHINGTON DC, Jan. 19, 2011 - A coalition of clean air advocacy groups says it will sue the federal government in an effort to force them to comply with its own mandate to keep the air around national parks and other natural areas cleaned up. Calling on the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), the Department of the Interior (DOI), and the Department of Agriculture (USDA) to do their job, the group filed a notice of intent to sue in an effort to ensure EPA complies with the Clean Air Act's Regional Haze program and move clean air plans forward after decades of delay.

The groups warning of the action are a combine of National Parks Conservation Association, Powder River Basin Resource Council, Montana Environmental Information Center, Grand Canyon Trust, Sierra Club, Environmental Defense Fund, WildEarth Guardians, San Juan Citizens Alliance, Our Children's Earth, and Plains Justice.



In a statement released by the group, spokesman Stephanie Kodish says, "Every year, millions of visitors to our national parks and wilderness areas are unable to see the postcard views because they have been obscured by haze pollution. Citing reluctance on the part of officials to move forward, she adds, "More than 30 years ago Congress committed to restore clean, clear air to America's most prized national parks and wilderness areas. But EPA has repeatedly escaped its duty to regulate polluters by missing deadlines to develop and implement meaningful plans to reduce air pollution that makes people sick and skies look more like muddy

water than the crystal-clear views they once were."

[An EPA operated website](#) shows visible evidence of the effects of smog on the view for visitors to US National Parks. A click-on map allows the public to see photos of many of the parks and other wilderness areas, comparing "clear" days to "hazy" days. The representative photos here are from the Great Smokies National Park in the Southeast.



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