

IMPROVE Steering Committee Meeting Summary July 18-19, 1985

The first IMPROVE Steering Group meeting was held July 18 and 19, 1985, at the NPS offices in Ft. Collins, CO. The objectives of this meeting were to:

1. determine the viability and basis for an interagency visibility monitoring program for visibility-protected federal areas,
2. develop an administrative approach for this interagency program, and
3. review and expand upon the technical approach as presented in the "Visibility Monitoring Plan for Class I Areas" (hereafter referred to as the monitoring plan) especially as it pertains to selection of monitoring sites.

The following summary of the discussions and decisions of the group have been organized by the objectives stated above.

Viability and Basis for an Interagency Program

EPA and the Federal Land Managers (FLMs) have common interests which are served by cooperation. Each has a legislative mandate driving their interest in visibility at Federal Class I Areas (FCIAs). Visibility monitoring in FCIAs serves these legislative mandates. From a practical point of view, cooperation promotes economy by the sharing of resources (funds, personnel, and expertise). Furthermore, similar equipment and methods for visibility monitoring at the FCIA sites add the value of site-to-site data comparability.

Concerns expressed by the participants included the long-term (5-10 years) future of the program, the relationship between this program and existing monitoring, the uses and utility of the collected data, the availability of funds to participate, the restrictions on EPA's participation, and the advisability of the site selection criteria as stated in the monitoring plan. In spite of these concerns, each of the participants supported the concept of an interagency visibility monitoring program as generally described in the monitoring plan.

The agreed-upon basis for the program is that the FLMs operate a visibility monitoring program which is supplemented where possible by EPA funds. To the maximum degree possible the monitoring program should employ similar procedures, equipment, data formats, quality assurance methodology, and contractual services. Overall guidance for the design, deployment, and operation of the program would be the responsibility of the technical steering group as would the task of coordinating and communicating with other interested parties.

Restrictions on the EPA funds are that they can only be used in states containing visibility protected FCIAs and not having an approved state implementation plan (SIP). When all (or perhaps most) of the states have approved SIPs, these EPA funds will no longer be available. Further, these EPA funds are to be used to promote the collection of data needed to evaluate existing visibility impacts, perform new source review, and evaluate visibility trends.

Administrative Approach

Interagency Monitoring of Protected Visual Environments (IMPROVE) was accepted as the program title and acronym. The technical steering group is to be composed of one representative from each of the participating agencies. When issues are brought to a vote, each agency is allowed one vote (even though more than one representative of an agency is present at the meeting). The following individuals were selected to represent their agencies on voting issues:

Stan Coloff	BLM
Ty Berry	USFWS
James Blankenship	USFS
William Malm	NPS
Marc Pitchford	EPA

In their absence a proxy may be appointed. Marc Pitchford was appointed chairman. Technical steering group meetings will be on an as-needed basis. In the first year this could be as often as every one or two months. The next meeting is tentatively scheduled for September 12 and 13, 1985, at Grand Canyon, Arizona.

Participating agencies will sign a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) which will set out the goals and approach of the IMPROVE Program in general terms. Transfer of funds and other specific interagency activities will be covered under new or existing interagency agreements. NPS agreed to establish and administer contracts as necessary to conduct the program. Thus the EPA fiscal year 1986 contribution to IMPROVE (\$480K) will be transferred to NPS at the earliest possible time. NPS will contribute funds from their visibility monitoring program. At this time, the USFS, USFWS, and BLM have no funds available for this program. However, they offered to request funds in subsequent budget cycles within their agencies based upon needs as identified in an agreed-upon monitoring plan.

Technical Approach

With the following exceptions, the technical approach in the monitoring plan was accepted and will be expanded upon to meet the goals of the IMPROVE Program. The group felt that cost should not be listed explicitly as a site selection criteria and that some of the other criteria may need to be reordered. No final ordering of the site selection criteria were agreed upon. It was agreed that the sentences on Page 11 beginning, "As a result of the first requirement..." should be modified to end "... frequency, duration, and intensity of a visibility impairment."

The majority of the technical discussions concerned the site selection process. The concept agreed upon is that FCIA's will be ordered from the first to receive a monitoring site to the last. Since it is unlikely that more than 50 sites can be supported under even the most optimistic funding scenario, the ordering of sites needn't proceed beyond 50. Information about each FCIA will be evaluated on the basis of site selection criteria in order to select sites. To make this effort manageable, it was agreed to subdivide the FCIA's geographically (see the attached tables) and use the site selection criteria to choose the most likely FCIA for monitoring within each geographic region. All of the FCIA's which survive this screening process compete in the final ranking which is again made on the basis of the site selection criteria. The information for each FCIA uses in this process will be made available in a uniform format by the responsible FLM at the next steering group meeting. A file containing this information will be maintained to document the basis for the site selection.

A more specific technical approach for IMPROVE will be developed by a subcommittee composed of William Malm and Marc Pitchford. Review of this effort and selection of monitoring sites will be the primary objectives at the next steering group meeting.

Action Items

Bruce Polkowsky

Prepare a draft MOU for review by the steering group (by August 15).

Prepare a draft IAG between EPA and NPS (by September 12).

Marc Pitchford

Prepare a draft meeting summary for review by the steering group (by August 2).

James Blankenship

Prepare a draft standardized site selection information form for use at all FCIAAs for steering group review (by August 2).

William Malm and
Marc Pitchford

Prepare a more detailed technical monitoring plan for steering group review (by September 12).

All FLM representatives

Complete site selection information forms for each of their FCIAAs (by September 12).

Review and comment on draft meeting summary (by September 12).

All IMPROVE representatives

Attend the next IMPROVE steering group meeting September 12 and 13 at Grand Canyon, AZ

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IMPROVE Steering Committee Meeting Participants
July 18 &19, 1985

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GEOGRAPHIC SUBDIVISIONS OF FCIA

SUBDIVISION	AREA NAME	FEDERAL LAND MANAGER
1	Roosevelt Campobello International Park	Not Applicable
	Acadia NP	USDI-NPS
	Moosehorn Wilderness	USDI-FWS
	Great Gulf Wilderness	USDA-FS
	Presidential Range-Dry River Wilderness	USDA-FS
	Lye Brook Wilderness	USDA-FS
2	Brigantine Wilderness	USDI-FWS
	Swanquarter Wilderness	USDI-FWS
	Cape Romain Wilderness	USDI-FWS
3	Virgin Islands NP	USDI-NPS
4	Chassahowitzka Wilderness	USDI-FWS
	Everglades NP	USDI-NPS
	St. Marks Wilderness	USDI-FWS
	Breton Wilderness	USDI-FWS
	Okefenokee Wilderness	USDI-FWS
	Wolf Island Wilderness	USDI-FWS
5	Cohutta Wilderness	USDA-FS
	Great Smoky Mountains NP	USDI-NPS
	Joyce Kilmer – Slickrock Wilderness	USDA-FS
	Linville Gorge Wilderness	USDA-FS
	Shining Rock Wilderness	USDA-FS
	James River Face Wilderness	USDA-FS
	Shenandoah NP	USDI-NPS
	Dolly Sods Wilderness	USDA-FS
Otter Creek Wilderness	USDA-FS	
6	Sipsey Wilderness	USDA-FS
	Mammoth Cave NP	USDI-NPS
7	Isle Royale NP	USDI-NPS
	Seney Wilderness	USDI-FWS
	Boundary Waters Canoe Area Wilderness	USDA-FS
	Voyageurs NP	USDI-NPS
8	Hercules – Glades Wilderness	USDA-FS
	Mingo Wilderness	USDI-FWS
	Caney Creek Wilderness	USDA-FS
	Upper Buffalo Wilderness	USDA-FS
	Wichita Mountains Wilderness	USDI-FWS

<u>SUBDIVISION</u>	<u>AREA NAME</u>	<u>FEDERAL LAND MANAGER</u>
9	Lostwood Wilderness	USDI-FWS
	Theodore Roosevelt, NMP	USDI-NPS
	Badlands Wilderness	USDI-NPS
	Wind Cave NP	USDI-NPS
	Medicine Lake Wilderness	USDI-FWS
	U.L. Bend Wilderness	USDI-FWS
10	Anaconda-Pintler Wilderness	USDA-FS
	Bob Marshall Wilderness	USDA-FS
	Cabinet Mountains Wilderness	USDA-FS
	Gates of the Mountains Wilderness	USDA-FS
	Glacier NP	USDI-NPS
	Mission Mountain Wilderness	USDA-FS
	Red Rock Lakes Wilderness	USDI-FWS
	Scapegoat Wilderness	USDI-FWS
	Selway-Bitterroot Wilderness	USDA-FS
	Yellowstone NP	USDI-NPS
	Bridger Wilderness	USDA-FS
	Fitzpatrick Wilderness	USDA-FS
	Grand Teton NP	USDI-NPS
	North Absaroka Wilderness	USDA-FS
	Washakie Wilderness	USDA-FS
Teton Wilderness	USDA-FS	
11	Black Canyon of the Gunnison Wilderness	USDI-NPS
	Eagles Nest Wilderness	USDA-FS
	Flat Tops Wilderness	USDA-FS
	Great Sand Dunes Wilderness	USDI-NPS
	La Garita Wilderness	USDA-FS
	Maroon Bells – Snowmass Wilderness	USDA-FS
	Wheeler Peak Wilderness	USDA-FS
	Mount Zirkel Wilderness	USDA-FS
	Rawah Wilderness	USDA-FS
	Rocky Mountain NP	USDI-NPS
	Weminuche Wilderness	USDA-FS
	West Elk Wilderness	USDA-FS
	Bandelier Wilderness	USDA-FS
Pecos Wilderness	USDA-FS	
San Pedro Parks Wilderness	USDA-FS	
12	Big Bend NP	USDI-NPS
	Guadalupe Mountains NP	USDI-NPS
	Bosque del Apache Wilderness	USDI-FWS
	Carlsbad Caverns NP	USDI-NPS
	Gila Wilderness	USDA-FS
	Salt Creek Wilderness	USDI-FWS
	White Mountain Wilderness	USDA-FS

<u>SUBDIVISION</u>	<u>AREA NAME</u>	<u>FEDERAL LAND MANAGER</u>
13	Chiricahua National Monument	USDI-NPS
	Chiricahua Wilderness	USDA-FS
	Galiuro Wilderness	USDA-FS
	Mazatzal Wilderness	USDA-FS
	Mount Baldy Wilderness	USDA-FS
	Pine Mountain Wilderness	USDA-FS
	Saguero Wilderness	USDI-NPS
	Sierra Ancha Wilderness	USDA-FS
	Superstition Wilderness	USDA-FS
Sycamore Canyon Wilderness	USDA-FS	
14	Petrified Forest NP	USDI-NPS
	Mesa Verde NP	USDI-NPS
15	Grand Canyon NP	USDI-NPS
	Arches NP	USDI-NPS
	Bryce Canyon NP	USDI-NPS
	Canyonlands NP	USDI-NPS
	Capitol Reef NP	USDI-NPS
	Zion NP	USDI-NPS
16	Jarbidge Wilderness	USDA-FS
	Craters of the Moon Wilderness	USDI-NPS
	Sawtooth Wilderness	USDA-FS
	Hells Canyon Wilderness	USDA-FS
	Lava Beds Wilderness	USDI-NPS
	Eagle Cap Wilderness	USDA-FS
	Gearhart Wilderness	USDA-FS
	Strawberry Mountain Wilderness	USDA-FS
South Warner Wilderness	USDA-FS	
17	Alpine Lakes Wilderness	USDA-FS
	Glacier Peak Wilderness	USDA-FS
	Goat Rocks Wilderness	USDA-FS
	Mount Adams Wilderness	USDA-FS
	Mount Rainier NP	USDI-NPS
	North Cascades NP	USDI-NPS
	Olympic NP	USDI-NPS
	Pasayten Wilderness	USDA-FS
	Crater Lake NP	USDI-NPS
18	Caribou Wilderness	USDA-FS
	Desolation Wilderness	USDA-FS
	Dome Lane Wilderness	USDA-FS
	Emigrant Wilderness	USDA-FS
	Hoover Wilderness	USDA-FS
	John Muir Wilderness	USDA-FS
	Kaiser Wilderness	USDA-FS

<u>SUBDIVISION</u>	<u>AREA NAME</u>	<u>FEDERAL LAND MANAGER</u>
18 (cont.)	Kings Canyon NP	USDI-NPS
	Lassen Volcanic NP	USDI-NPS
	Minarets Wilderness	USDA-FS
	Mokelumne Wilderness	USDA-FS
	Sequoia NP	USDI-NPS
	Thousand Lakes Wilderness	USDA-FS
	Yosemite NP	USDI-NPS
19	Pinnacles Wilderness	USDI-NPS
	Point Reyes Wilderness	USDI-NPS
	Ventana Wilderness	USDI-NPS
20	Agua Tibia Wilderness	USDA-FS
	Cucamonga Wilderness	USDA-FS
	Joshua Tree Wilderness	USDI-NPS
	San Gabriel Wilderness	USDA-FS
	San Geronio Wilderness	USDA-FS
	San Jacinto Wilderness	USDA-FS
	San Rafael Wilderness	USDA-FS
21a	Bering Sea Wilderness	USDI-FWS
	Simeonof Wilderness	USDI-FWS
	Tuxdeni Wilderness	USDI-FWS
21b	Mount McKinley NP	USDI-NPS
22	Haleakala NP	USDI-NPS
	Hawaii Volcanoes NP	USDI-NPS