

# Air and Visual Resources Training

Lakewood, CO 80226

May 10-12, 2016

This three day course will enhance capability of all participants to understand and communicate the importance of clean air and visual resources for national parks.

Day one is designed as an "Air Quality and Visual Resources 101" course ideal for novice air professionals, such as park air monitoring technicians; staff of water, night sky, fisheries and other program areas related to air pollution effects on natural resources; interpretive staff interested in air quality or visual resources, and other park or regional staff or managers with interest or responsibilities in air quality and visual resource protection. Day one will cover four key questions: (1) What is our current understanding about the impacts of air pollution and visual resource degradation in parks? (2) How can we effectively communicate with the public about the importance of clean air and scenic views in parks? (3) How can NPS employees get involved in protecting and improving air and visual resource quality in parks? (4) What can we learn from each other through case studies about challenges, opportunities and solutions? Day one will be in a lecture format with opportunities for small group discussion.

Day two will consist of a menu of hands-on learning activities which will allow participants to practice skills, and develop expertise in applying air quality and visual resource knowledge to national park issues. Day two will include a variety of half- day or full-day activities from which participants may select one or two options according to their areas of interest. Options may include: (a) conduct dragonfly larvae mercury sampling, (b) practice visual resource inventories, (c) develop air quality interpretive products for a park, (d) tour an industrial plant facility, (e) explore park data products, or (f) tour national renewable energy lab. See "Form A" to identify preferred activities.

Day three is designed as an in-depth exploration of air quality "hot topics." Target participants are experienced air professionals at NRSS, parks and regions, although any NPS staff with interest in digging in to the details of air quality or visual resource management is welcome to attend, following completion of day 1 and/or 2 of the course. Day three topics will include discussion of air quality in ecosystem services contexts, the implications of renewable energy development for visual resources, understanding the impacts of oil and gas pollutant emissions on parks, discussing the relationship between air pollution and climate change, developing ideas for improving collaboration between the Air Resources Division and park units, and developing air quality and visual resource management strategies for the future. Day three will be in the format of presentations with ample opportunities for discussion.

Participants may attend any two consecutive, or all three days of the course.

**All participants are asked to complete pre-course work (the 2-hr DOI Learn: Air Resources in National Parks; NPS-NRS1503) to receive full credit for the course. In addition, a review of the "Air Monitoring Strategies" document is suggested as an optional pre-requisite.**

## Course Objectives:

### Participants will:

- Become familiar with the laws and regulations protecting park air quality and scenic views
- Identify park resources and values affected by air pollutants
- Learn about the visual resource program and the components of a visual resource inventory
- Recognize types of pollutants, sources of air pollution, and development affecting national park units
- Understand how park air quality monitoring contributes to protecting clean air and improving poor air quality nationwide
- Engage in active exploration of air quality and visual resource projects
- Develop in depth knowledge of strategies for improving park air quality and visual resources

**Dates: May 10-12, 2016.** Travel dates are Monday, May 9 & Friday May 13.. Class starts at 8:00 AM on Tuesday and concludes at 4:00 PM on Thursday.

**Location:** Hyatt House Denver/Lakewood at Belmar; 7310 West Alaska Drive; Lakewood, CO 80226

**Cost:** No Tuition. Benefitting account responsible for travel. **Travel scholarships may be available to defray travel costs.** Please go to: <http://www.nps.gov/training/nrs/events/events.html> to download application. **Follow instructions on application and send no later than 4/5/2016.** Lodging is \$172 M&IE is \$69. Total daily cost = \$241.

**Application: Applications close 4/5/2016.** Apply through DOI Learn at: <http://www.doi.gov/doilearn/index.cfm>. On the "Welcome" page, click on "Search the Catalog" near the center of the page. Search on "Air and Visual Resources Training."

**Supplemental Application:** Please submit Supplemental Application Form A by 4/5/2016. It can be found at <http://www.nps.gov/training/nrs/events/events.html>

**Supervisory approval is required for all courses.** Registrations are not considered complete without supervisory approval. Please ensure that your current supervisor's name appears in the approval block in DOI Learn before completing the registration process. You will not be considered for the class if your supervisor has not approved you by the closing date, **no exceptions.**

Once approved by your supervisor, **you will receive an email confirming that you are "Wait Listed"**. You will be notified of your selection to participate in the class and receive logistics details in an email by April 11, 2016.

**Course Coordinators:** Tamara Blett, [tamara\\_blett@nps.gov](mailto:tamara_blett@nps.gov) and Melanie Peters, [melanie\\_peters@nps.gov](mailto:melanie_peters@nps.gov))

**Other questions:** Jeri Hall, Natural Resources Training Manager, [jeri\\_hall@nps.gov](mailto:jeri_hall@nps.gov)