

**Project Summary**  
**Rocky Mountains Cooperative Ecosystem Studies Unit**

**Project Title:** Assistance for Visibility Data Analysis and Image Display Techniques

**Discipline:** Natural Resources  
**Type of Project:** Research/Technical Assistance  
**Funding Agency:** National Park Service  
**Other Partners/Cooperators:** Colorado State University  
**Student Involvement:** Yes  
**Effective Dates:** 08/01/2016 - 1/31/2018  
**Funding Amount:** \$947,551

**Investigators and Agency Representative:**

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**Project Abstract:** Air pollutants can adversely affect visitor experience by degrading the vistas, affecting the natural ecosystems of these areas, and in some extreme cases, adversely affecting visitor health. In working with NPS scientists, the Cooperative Institute for Research in the Atmosphere (CIRA) at CSU will enhance the scientific understanding of causes of visibility impairment and atmospheric loading to ecosystems to better understand the scientific basis of these issues. This project serves the public by developing sound scientific data that informs air quality management at the local, state, and federal level. The visibility data and analyses produced by this project are directly used by the US Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) and state and local air quality management agencies in informing their implementation of regulations under the Clean Air Act. Similarly, data and analyses produced under this task agreement on atmospheric deposition are informing these agencies about the role of regulated and non-regulated pollutants in atmospheric deposition and their effect on ecosystems. Non-government organizations, representing a wide variety of public interests, as well as industry groups, utilize the information developed under this project.

**Key Words:** air pollutants, visibility, visitor experience, Air Resource Management, Colorado State University, Cooperative Institute for Research in the Atmosphere (CIRA), National Park Service