

# Invitations for New Partners

Three State Study Governing Board, January 21, 2015

# Background

- Currently 10 organizations are signatory partners
- Have discussed adding new partners a number of times, have postponed until the completion of the pilot study
- Potential new partners in New Mexico have expressed an interest in partnering with us as the project goes forward

# Benefits to Broader Participation

- More robust and complete representation of relation between oil and gas and air quality
- More comprehensive emission inventories and modeling will be a more broadly useful and desirable product
- Two heads are better than one
- Economies of scale

# Template

- Dear :
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- Your staff has informed the agencies that are partners in the Three State Air Quality Study that you are likely interested in participating in our project. We welcome your interest in working with us in making data for air quality analyses in the region more available, of better quality, and commonly agreed to as a basis for air quality planning.
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- Current partners include:
  - Bureau of Land Management (BLM) State Offices in Colorado, Wyoming and Utah;
  - Regions 2 and 4 of the U.S. Forest Service;
  - Region 8 of the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA);
  - Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment;
  - Utah Department of Environmental Quality;
  - Wyoming Department of Environmental Quality; and
  - Intermountain Region of the National Park Service (currently Lead Agency)
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- In becoming a full partner in the project, we would expect that:
  - Your agency and others who become partners in New Mexico could support the operations of the data warehouse commensurate with the additional level of effort necessary to manage a third more data and potentially comply with more requests for data.
  - You would work with our agencies to ensure resources are available to develop emission inventories and exercise air quality models every three years to ensure the information in the data warehouse stays up-to-date and of high quality. This funding might be from sources inside our agencies or may be from outside sources.
  - An important element of our project has been adding ambient monitoring in underrepresented areas and we would hope that New Mexico's partner agencies would participate in the next network review in 2016. Our agencies have been able to continue operations of project monitoring in a cost effective way with considerable in-kind support and would encourage you all to join us in this approach if the review showed more monitoring would be beneficial in New Mexico for regional analyses.
  - Your agency would become a signatory to the Memorandum of Agreement (MOU) for the project. Your staff has been provided a draft of a new MOU that will be currently being signed to better understand our organization and your agency will be provided the final version to review prior to signing it if you respond affirmatively to this invitation.
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- Our partner agencies also enlist your assistance in ensuring appropriate federal government regional offices for New Mexico have the opportunity to participate if there is interest. Again, we appreciate your interest, and look forward to hearing from you soon. If you have questions, please contact Michael George of the National Park Service at (303) 969-6926 or Michael\_george@nps.gov.
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# Recommendation

- The Steering Committee recommends extending an invitation to New Mexico Environment Department and to Bureau of Land Management – New Mexico to sign on to the new Memorandum of Understanding to become partners in our project.

# New MOU

Three State Study Governing Board, January 21, 2015

# Background

- The project was initiated out of the Federal Leadership Forum in 2010
- An MOU was developed and signed in the Spring of 2011 toward the development of a data warehouse
- The MOU expired after three years in 2014
- The Steering Committee has drafted and gone through several revisions for a new MOU for moving ahead with data warehouse operations

# Summary of MOU

- Renaming to Intermountain West Data Warehouse
- Focus on coordination, communication & shared resources
- Definition of agency roles & responsibilities
- Definition of Governing Board, Oversight Committee & Project Lead Agency roles & responsibilities
- Process of identifying project lead
- Dispute resolution

# Recommendation

- Steering Committee recommends that the Governing Board approve the new MOU for signature