

## **National Air Monitoring Programs**

### **IMPROVE - Interagency Monitoring of Protected Visual Environments**

This monitoring program was implemented in 1985 to establish current visibility conditions, track changes in visibility and determine what pollutants in the atmosphere are causing visibility impairment in Class I National Parks and Wilderness Areas. Currently there are 110 IMPROVE monitors that collect data on the amount and chemistry of particulates in the air. Data from IMPROVE can be found at <http://vista.cira.colostate.edu/improve/>. This is an excellent source to determine that amount and causes of visibility impairment in or near a specific Class I wilderness.

### **NADP – National Atmospheric Deposition Program**

The purpose of this monitoring program is to collect data on the chemistry of precipitation for monitoring of geographical and temporal long-term trends. The precipitation at each of the more than 250 stations is collected weekly and sent to the Central Analytical Laboratory where it is analyzed for hydrogen (acidity as pH), sulfate, nitrate, ammonium, chloride, and base cations (such as calcium, magnesium, potassium and sodium). Data from NADP and a map showing the locations of each monitor can be found at <http://nadp.sws.uiuc.edu/nadpoverview.asp>. Information from this program along with information on the sensitivity of lakes within a specific wilderness can help determine the threat, if any, from atmospheric deposition.

### **MDN – Mercury Deposition Network**

The objective of this monitoring program is to develop a national database of weekly concentrations of total mercury in precipitation and the seasonal and annual change of total mercury in wet deposition. The data from these more than 90 sites is used to develop information on spatial and seasonal trends in mercury deposited to surface waters, forested watersheds, and other sensitive receptors. Information from this program along with a map of all monitor locations can be found at <http://nadp.sws.uiuc.edu/mdn/>.

### **CASTNET – Clean Air Status and Trends Network**

The objective of this monitoring program is to determine dry deposition of particulates and gaseous pollutants at 86 sites throughout the country. Information from this program (dry deposition data) along with information from NADP (wet deposition data) can be used to determine total atmospheric deposition at monitor locations. Information from this program along with a map of monitor locations can be found at <http://epa.gov/castnet/>.