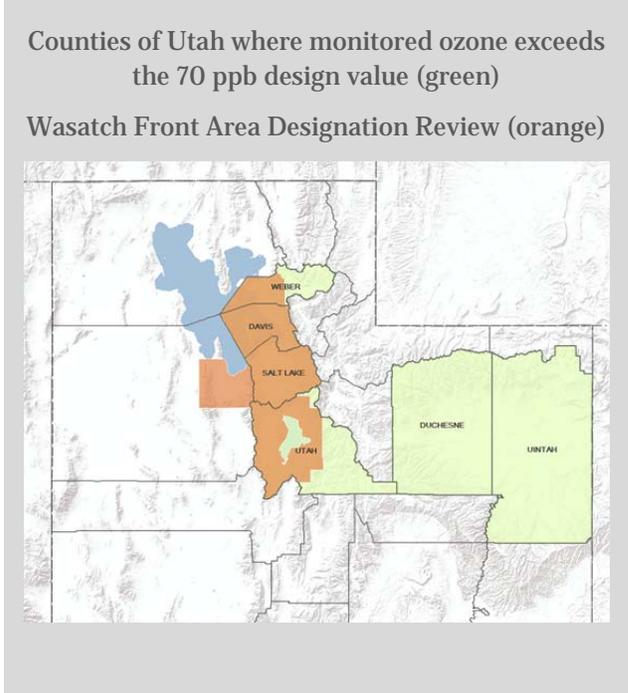


STAFF REVIEW FOR UTAH'S OZONE DESIGNATION

Overview

- On October 1, 2015, EPA strengthened the ozone standard from 75 parts per billion (ppb) to 70 ppb. The 70 ppb standard is calculated as the fourth-highest daily maximum, averaged across three consecutive years.
- The governor will submit an area designation recommendation to the EPA by October 1, 2016. The areas designated nonattainment must include places that exceed the current 70 ppb standard and areas that contribute to exceedances of the standard.
- Salt Lake, Davis, Weber, Utah, Duchesne, and Uintah counties have three-year design values that exceed the 70 ppb standard (green on map at right).
- The Division of Air Quality evaluated the counties that exceed the standard and adjacent areas using five criteria to determine the most appropriate nonattainment area recommendations.
 - Air Quality Data
 - Emissions & Emissions Related Data
 - Geography & Topography
 - Meteorology
 - Jurisdictional Boundaries



Wasatch Front

- We are required to consider counties adjacent to the violating counties that are part of the Core Based Statistical Area. This captures Box Elder, Morgan, Summit, Wasatch, Tooele, and Juab counties.
- Low emissions combined with the topography of the Wasatch Mountains led to the conclusion that Morgan and Wasatch counties and portions of Weber and Utah counties do not contribute to ozone on the Wasatch Front. Juab, Box Elder, and parts of Tooele were also excluded based on low emissions from those counties.
- A combination of topography and meteorology indicates that Summit County does not contribute to ozone exceedances on the Wasatch Front and should be excluded from the designation.
- Based on staff's review of the five criteria above, the ozone nonattainment area on the Wasatch Front should include all of Salt Lake and Davis counties, Weber and Utah counties west of the Wasatch Front, and a part of Tooele County that includes Tooele (orange on map above).
- The Wasatch Front nonattainment area classification will likely be marginal.

Uinta Basin

- Meteorology and topography are the driving factors for high ozone events in the Uinta Basin. The high ozone events occur in the winter months when there is snow on the ground and a cold temperature inversion traps the ozone precursor emissions, NO_x and VOCs, in the Basin. The sun reflecting off the snow creates needed energy for ozone formation.
- Complex jurisdictional issues in the Basin complicate air quality regulation. State lands are intermixed with the Uintah and Ouray Indian Reservation and Indian Country lands. Ouray is the regulatory monitor that drives the designation because it has the highest monitored values in the region. Though State monitors at Vernal and Roosevelt have measured exceedances of the new ozone standard, they are not as high nor occur as frequently.
- Based on the unique nature of the Uinta Basin ozone events and extensive studies of the area, staff's review shows that the ozone nonattainment area could begin at a maximum elevation of 6,000 feet following the topography of the Basin combined with Duchesne and Uintah county boundaries (blue on map below). This review excludes the Uintah and Ouray Indian Reservation and Indian Country lands that are within the 6,000-foot boundary (purple on the map below).
- The Uinta Basin designation could be Marginal or Moderate Nonattainment.

Uinta Basin Area Designation Review (blue)

