

Air pollution in the dramatic natural area National Parks of the West occupied a considerable number of inches in Western newspapers this summer, with NPS scientists, university professors, and private research outfits all serving as sources for the articles.

The *Rocky Mountain News* quoted David Ross of Air Resource Specialists in Fort Collins, whose research showed that visitors at Grand Canyon and Mesa Verde rated visibility-related attributes of the parks as most important to their park experience. Psychology professor Ross Loomis of Colorado State University said visibility is often taken for granted and because its impairment is gradual, its loss tends to be accepted for some time.

Phil Wondra, chief of the NPS research branch, division of air and water quality, Denver, and William Malm, a research physicist in Wondra's group, were the sources for a comprehensive story in the *Deseret News* (June 5-6, 1984). The major human-caused pollutant affecting such parks as Grand Canyon and Mesa Verde is sulfur dioxide and sulfates from southern California and southern Arizona, the scientists stated. "After seven years of monitoring in southern Utah," Wondra said, "there isn't a day when we can't measure man-made pollutants." The hazy air that sometimes hangs over Bryce and Zion National Parks "first passed over southern California 400 miles away or copper smelters in Arizona," said Malm. Malm's studies showed that sulfates were responsible for 50 to 70 percent of all lost visibility in Western parks.