



- Connecticut
- Delaware
- District of Columbia
- Maine
- Maryland
- Massachusetts
- New Hampshire
- New Jersey
- New York
- Pennsylvania
- Penobscot Nation
- Rhode Island
- St. Regis Mohawk Tribe
- Vermont

Statement of the Mid-Atlantic/Northeast Visibility Union on the Importance of the IMPROVE Monitoring Network

The Mid-Atlantic/Northeast Visibility Union (MANEVU) was formed in 2001 by the Mid-Atlantic and Northeastern states, the District of Columbia, Tribes, and federal agencies to foster a coordinated approach to improve visibility at national parks and wilderness areas in the Northeast and Mid-Atlantic Region. In furtherance of this goal, and in keeping with federal law, all states, including those in MANEVU, are required to submit periodic plans outlining the measures they will take to ensure reasonable progress in visibility improvement at mandatory federal Class I areas such as national parks and wilderness areas.

As part of these plans, and as per paragraph 51.308(f)(1) of the current regional haze rule, states with Class I areas must show baseline, current, and natural visibility conditions as well as progress made to date. For this information, MANEVU states and other states rely on the Interagency Monitoring of Protected Visibility Environments (IMPROVE) ambient monitoring network. IMPROVE was initially established in 1985 and is a collaboration of a broad range of federal and state agencies, non-governmental organizations, and international partners dedicated to the long-term measurement and tracking of visibility-impairing species in the ambient air at Class I areas and Protocol sites across the country. IMPROVE uses the latest available science for its ambient air measurement techniques and for calculating the resultant metrics (i.e., haze indexes in deciviews for the 20% most impaired and 20% clearest days) that are needed for states' federally required regional haze plans.

MANEVU relies heavily on the IMPROVE data to support its states' haze plans and to update its annual metrics report. The metrics report not only reprints the required IMPROVE metrics for easy incorporation into state haze plans and progress reports, it presents the IMPROVE data in a variety of ways (e.g., by visibility impairing species, by number of 20% most impaired days per season, etc.). This allows MANEVU, along with visibility planners at its member agencies, to assess changing atmospheric chemistry with respect to visibility-impairing species and the effectiveness of potential visibility-improving emissions control strategies.

MANEVU Class I Areas

- Acadia National Park
Maine
- Brigantine Wilderness
New Jersey
- Great Gulf Wilderness
New Hampshire
- Lye Brook Wilderness
Vermont
- Moosehorn Wilderness
Maine
- Presidential Range
Dry River Wilderness
New Hampshire
- Roosevelt Campobello
International Park
Maine/New Brunswick,
Canada

MANEVU gratefully acknowledges the essential work of IMPROVE and the steering committee that manages it. Therefore, we request continued long-term federal funding, at robust levels, of this critical resource so that MANEVU states, and indeed all US states, can continue to provide the federally required data needed to support their haze plans and so that states have the latest, state of the science data to develop cost-effective strategies for making reasonable progress in visibility improvement at Class I areas.

Adopted by MANEVU June 3, 2026

Note: This statement is of the MANEVU state and DC members only, and does not necessarily reflect endorsement by the MANEVU Tribal and federal partners.