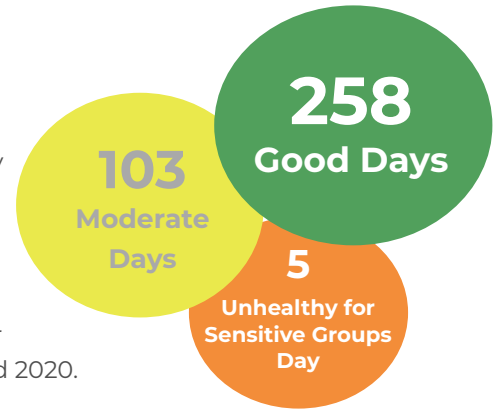




Monitoring Air Pollutants and Trends

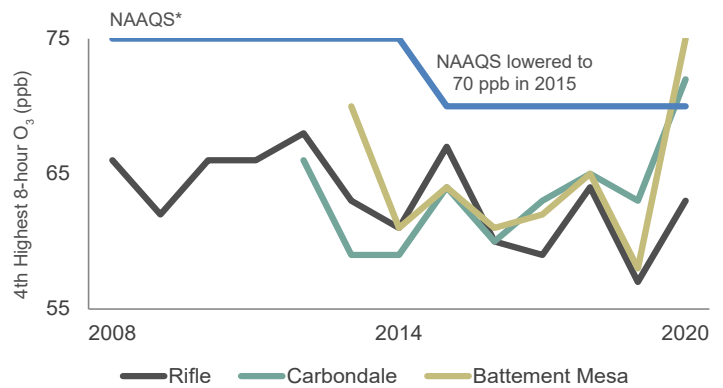
OZONE O₃

Ozone forms when pollutants emitted from vehicles and industrial sources react with sunlight. Ground-level ozone contributes to respiratory issues including difficulty breathing, coughing, and damage to lung tissue. It can aggravate chronic lung conditions like asthma and emphysema. Garfield County currently meets National Ambient Air Quality Standards (NAAQS) for ozone. Due, in part, to increased wildfire activity, the number of days classified as “Good Days” according to the Air Quality Index (AQI) has decreased from 309 to 258 days between 2019 and 2020.



What you can do to reduce ozone:

- Drive less - bike, walk, carpool, or take the bus
- Mow your lawn after 5 p.m., or get a push-mower
- Never top off your gas tank, and fill it up in the evening



* A violation occurs when the 3-year average of the 4th highest daily maximum exceeds the NAAQS

MONITORING LOCATIONS

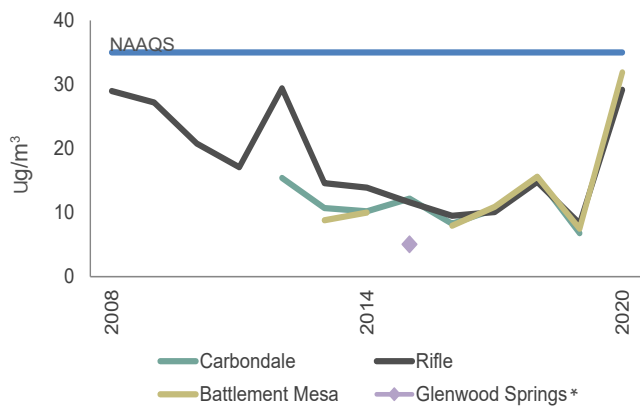


Monitoring Air Pollutants and Trends



PARTICULATE MATTER PM_{2.5}

PM_{2.5} (particulate matter smaller than 2.5 micrometers) originates from smoke, vehicles and industrial sources and contributes to decreased visibility. Breathing high levels of fine particulate matter can have serious health impacts including coughing and difficulty breathing, decreased lung function, irregular heartbeat and aggravation of heart and lung disease. PM_{2.5} concentrations in Garfield County are lower than the National Ambient Air Quality Standards. Due, in part, to decreased wildfire activity, the number of days classified as “Good Days” according to the Air Quality Index (AQI) has decreased from 365 to all 335 days between 2019 and 2020 due to heavy wildfire activity within the region.



* PM monitoring in Glenwood Springs occurred during 2015 only

What you can do to reduce particulate matter:

- “Burn-wise” - use wood-burning stoves properly
- Limit vehicle idling
- Compost or mulch woody materials

VOLATILE ORGANIC COMPOUNDS

The primary sources of outdoor volatile organic compounds (VOCs) in Garfield County are motor vehicles and natural gas development operations. In addition to a variety of short- and long-term health effects, VOCs contribute to the formation of ground-level ozone. Garfield County currently monitors 90 VOCs at diverse sites in our communities. Since monitoring began in 2008, concentrations of many compounds have drastically decreased. The chart to the right shows the annual averages of four groups of VOCs we collect.

