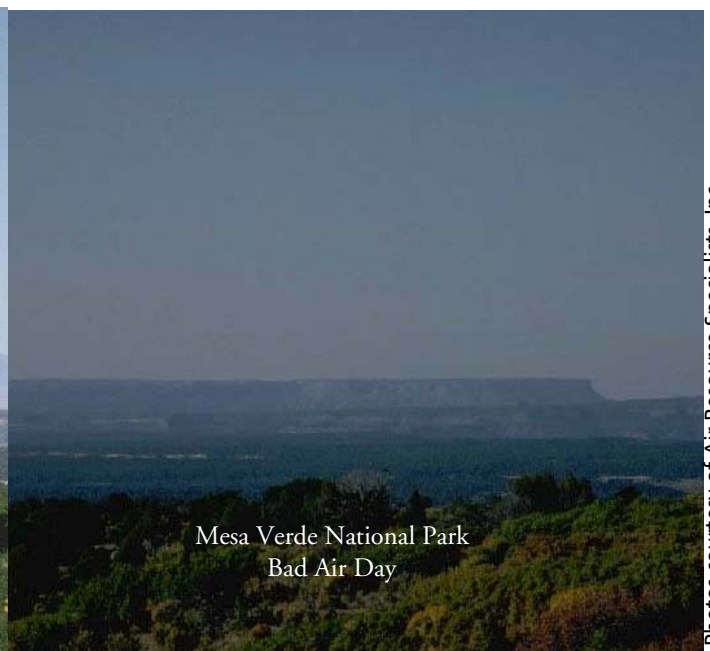


Mesa Verde National Park
Good Air Day



Mesa Verde National Park
Bad Air Day

Photos courtesy of Air Resource Specialists, Inc.

Mesa Verde National Park: Air Quality at Risk

Park highlights

- Mesa Verde National Park offers a spectacular look into the lives of Ancestral Pueblo people who lived in the area for more than 700 years.
- Located in Colorado, the park protects over 4,000 known archaeological sites, including 600 cliff dwellings – some of the most notable and best preserved in the United States.
- Visitors may hike to mesa top sites and cliff dwelling overlooks or enjoy observing birds and wildlife, and cross-country skiing.

Current air quality

- Coal-fired power plants in New Mexico and Arizona are the largest sources of air pollutants, including sulfur dioxide and nitrogen oxides, in Mesa Verde National Park. These pollutants bring hazy skies to the park and harm the park's ancient Pueblo structures.
- National Park Service monitoring shows a trend of increasing ozone levels in the park in recent years, and rates nitrogen deposition as a significant concern. These pollutants can cause unhealthy air for visitors and harm park wildlife.
- Park visibility is degrading significantly on the worst visibility days.

New coal-fired power plants

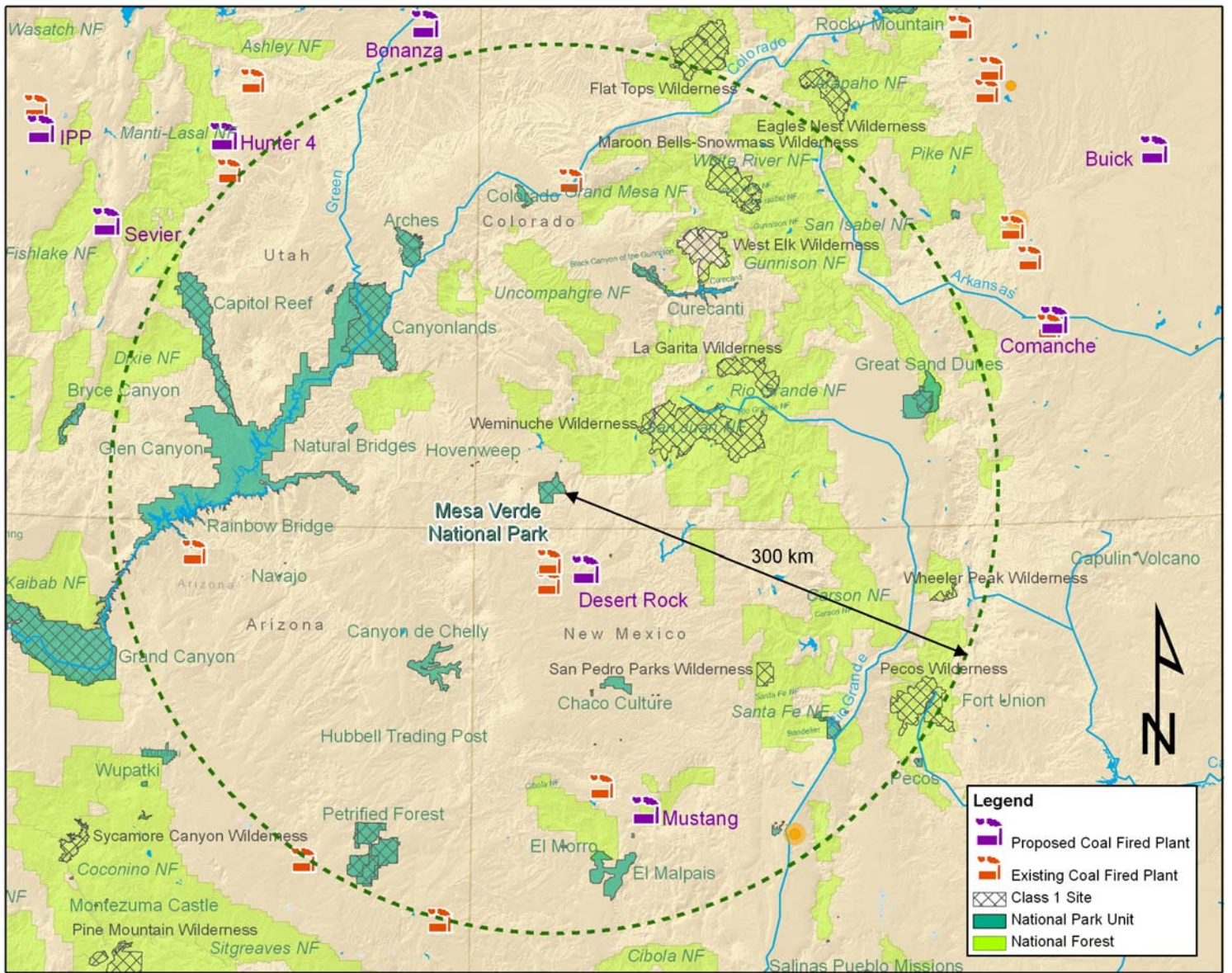
- A huge, 1500-megawatt coal-fired power plant is under active development just 46 miles (75 km) from Mesa Verde National Park. Seven coal-fired power plants currently operate within 186 miles (300 km) of the park, while three others are proposed for just beyond that distance.
- Each year, this massive coal-fired power plant would emit into the Mesa Verde area air shed nearly 9 million tons of carbon dioxide, 3,319 tons of sulfur dioxide, 3,325 tons of nitrogen oxides, and 263 pounds of toxic mercury. This new coal plant would rapidly accelerate the decline of park air quality.

National Park Service findings

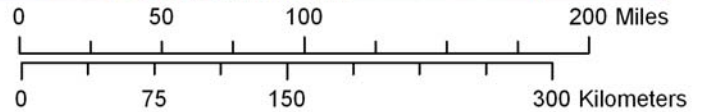
- “There are 27 units of the National Park System within 300 km of the proposed [Desert Rock] plant site; ... the proposed project may lead to adverse impacts to [Mesa Verde and other parks] in the absence of conditions and measures designed to mitigate these impacts.”



National Parks Conservation Association®
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Mesa Verde: Proposed Coal Fired Power Plants



Power plants that have received permits or are in active permit process

Plant	Location	Owner	Size (MW)	Distance from Park	CO2 tons/yr	SO2 tons/yr	NOx tons/yr	Hg lbs/yr	Permit Status
Desert Rock Energy Project	San Juan County, NM	Sithe Global Energy/Dine Power Authority	1500 MW	75 km	8,921,928	3,319	3,325	263	Draft air permit issued July 2006
Total New Pollution into Mesa Verde National Park Area Airshed					8,921,928	3,319	3,325	263	

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