



Photo courtesy of National Park Service

Wind Cave National Park: Air Quality at Risk

Park highlights

- Located in the Black Hills region of South Dakota, the park protects one of the world's longest and most complex caves, with an amazing amount of the rare formations called boxwork.
- The park also protects over 28,000 acres of one of the few remaining mixed-grass prairies, as well as ponderosa pine forest, and native wildlife such as bison, elk, pronghorn, mule deer, coyotes, and prairie dogs.

Current air quality

- Wind Cave National Park is in a rural area with comparatively good air quality, but the park is nevertheless vulnerable to nearby and distant sources of air pollution.
- The National Park Service is carefully monitoring visibility in the park, which shows signs decline.

New coal-fired power plants

- Seven new coal-fired power plants are under active development within 186 miles (300 km) of Wind Cave National Park.

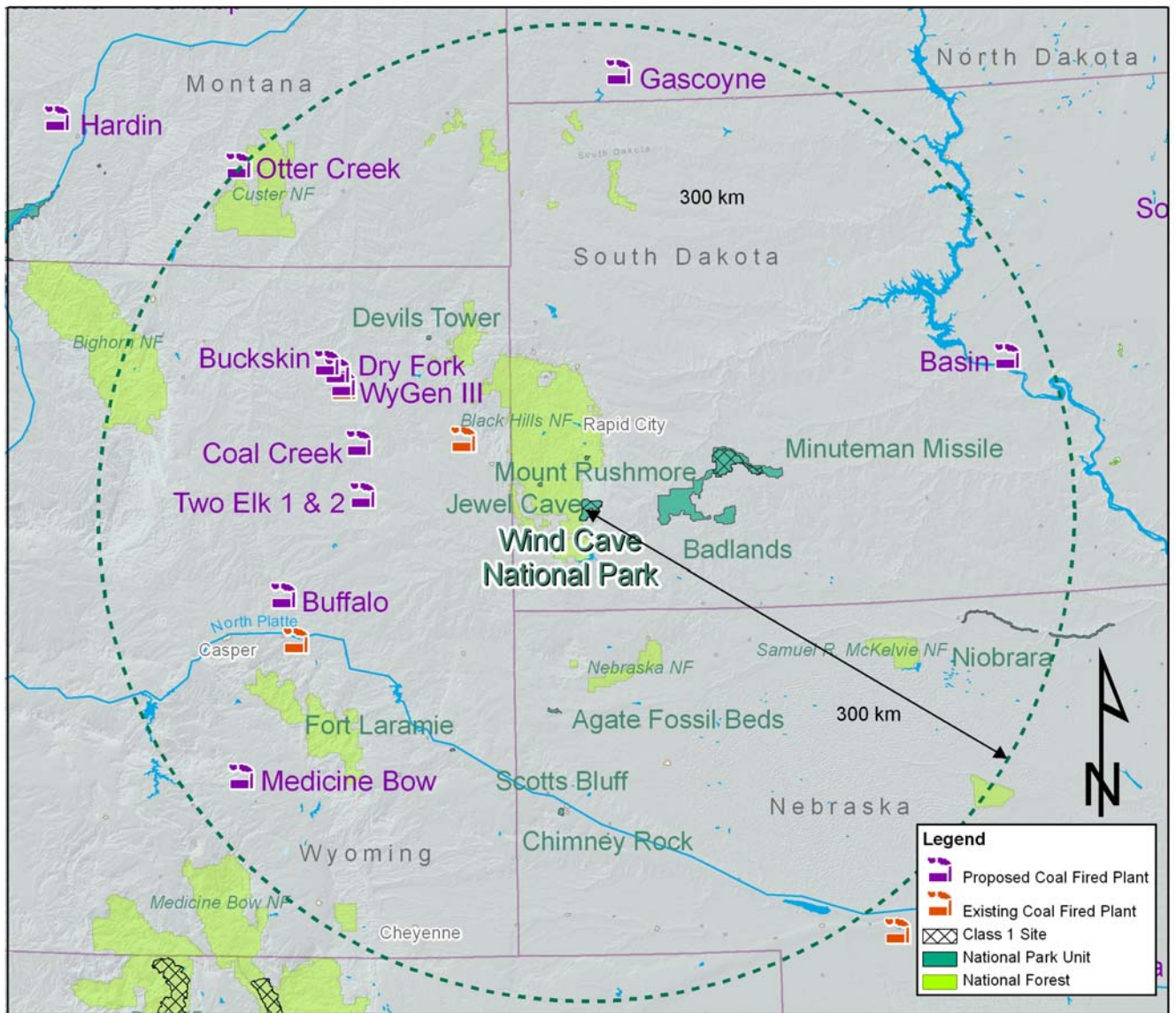
- Each year, these new plants would emit into the Badlands area air shed more than 17 million tons of carbon dioxide, 9,193 tons of sulfur dioxide, 7,843 tons of nitrogen oxides, and 1,501 pounds of toxic mercury. With new pollution from these seven plants, Wind Cave would no longer enjoy the distinction of having relatively clean and clear air.

National Park Service findings

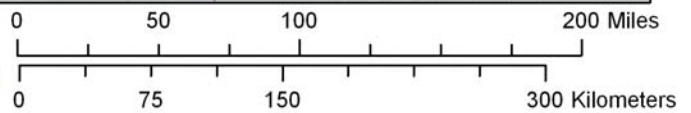
- "... Dry Fork [power plant] may have the potential to adversely impact visibility in Wind Cave National Park by itself."
- "We are especially concerned about the cumulative impacts upon visibility from the extensive development in the Powder River basin and around Wind Cave NP."
- "Dry Fork's contribution to sulfur deposition in the park triggers management concern and warrants further consideration.... An increase in [sulfur deposition], in particular (as they are the largest contributor to visibility degradation), impairs the ability to observe landscapes, vegetative types, geologic patterns, and even wildlife, not only at great distances, but even in the range of even yards."



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Wind Cave: 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
Dry Fork Station	Campbell County, WY	Basin Electric Power Cooperative	385	180 km	2,461,818	1,165	833	327	Final air permit issued October 2007
WYGEN 2	Campbell County, WY	Black Hills Corp.	100	168 km	2,510,178	569	399	141	Final air permit issued July 2005
WYGEN 3	Campbell County, WY	Black Hills Corp.	100	168 km	2,510,178	512	285	80	Final air permit issued February 2007
Two Elk Energy Park Unit 1	Campbell County, WY	North American Power Group	280	140 km	2,112,500	1,711	1,167	49	Final air permit re-issued May 2003
Two Elk Energy Park Unit 2	Campbell County, WY	North American Power Group	750	140 km	6,239,461	2,753	2,202	164	Application received September 2006
Gascoyne 500	Bowman County, ND	Westmoreland Power	500	280 km	3,250,000	1524	2286	660	Draft air permit issued May 2007
Evergreen Coal Creek	Campbell County, WY	Evergreen Energy Inc	NA	143 km	NA	959	671	80	Application received November 2006
Total New Pollution into Wind Cave Area Airshed					17,695,356	9,193	7,843	1,501	

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