

# North Idaho Air Quality Summary – March 2014

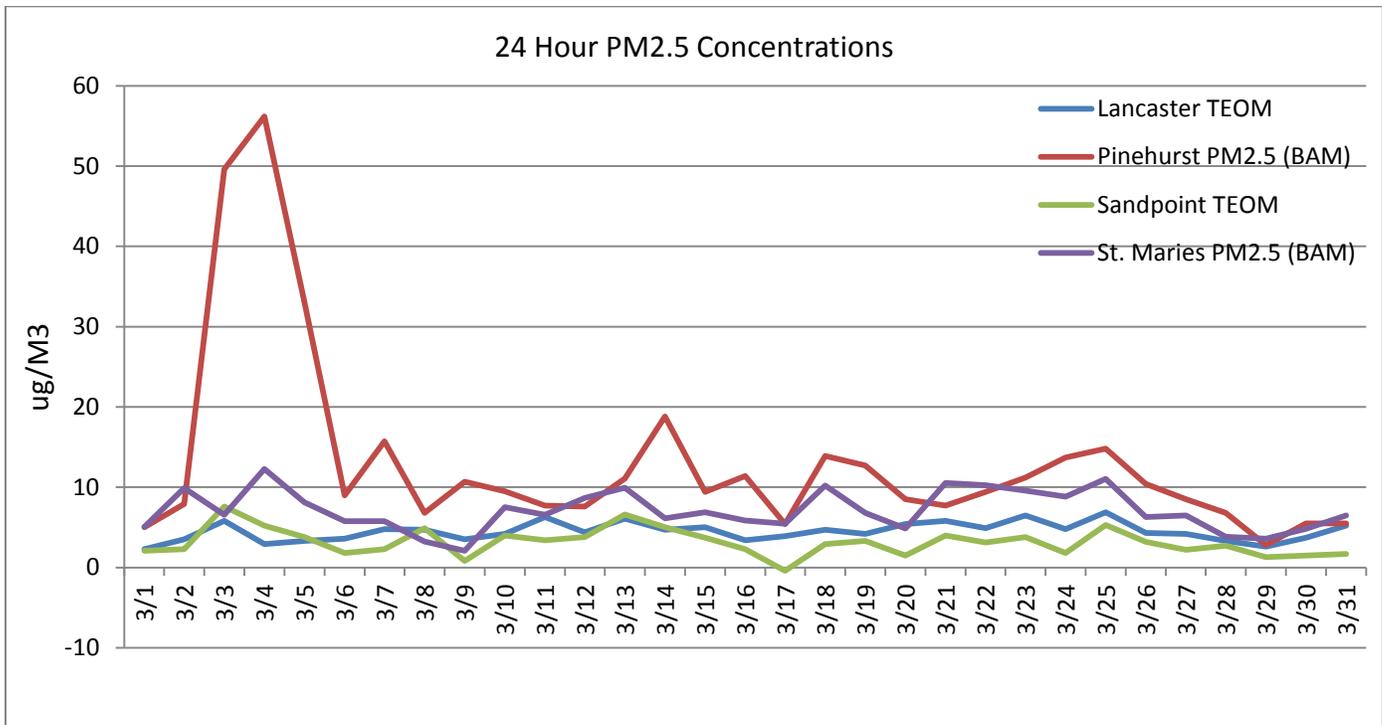
This summary of North Idaho’s air quality is compiled from the various air quality samplers located in the Department of Environmental Quality’s Coeur d’Alene Region for the month of March 2014.

The Coeur d’Alene Regional Network encompasses the counties of Boundary, Bonner, Kootenai, Shoshone, and Benewah. The data presented in this report is considered preliminary data and has not been completely evaluated for all quality assurance requirements.

## PM2.5 CONTINUOUS DATA

The graph below displays the average daily 24-hour PM<sub>2.5</sub> values for the month and is expressed in micrograms per cubic meter, ( $\mu\text{g}/\text{m}^3$ ). These values were calculated by averaging hourly values midnight to midnight from the agency’s PM<sub>2.5</sub> TEOM and BAM samplers located in the Cities of Pinehurst, Sandpoint, and St. Maries and on Lancaster Road in Kootenai County.

In March 2013 the US EPA revised the PM<sub>2.5</sub> NAAQS by lowering the annual standard to 12  $\mu\text{g}/\text{m}^3$  from 15  $\mu\text{g}/\text{m}^3$ . The 24 hour NAAQS remains at 35  $\mu\text{g}/\text{m}^3$ .



## North Idaho Air Quality Summary – March 2014

Page 2 of 5

The table below shows the maximum 24 hour values calculated from continuous TEOM and BAM monitoring for this reporting period. The National Ambient Air Quality Standard (NAAQS) for PM<sub>2.5</sub> is 35 µg/m<sup>3</sup> for a 24 hour average. The U.S. EPA approved the BAM 1020 as a Federal Equivalent Method (FEM) for the collection and reporting of PM<sub>2.5</sub> data. In February 2014 the Coeur d'Alene Regional Office requested approval to begin using a BAM for NAAQS reporting from the Pinehurst monitoring station beginning for 2014. The CRO still uses the Federal Reference Method (FRM) filter based sample measurements at the St. Maries monitoring site to determine NAAQS compliance. Depiction of preliminary continuous monitoring data in the table below is for reporting purposes only.

Region	Highest Reading	Date
Kootenai TEOM	6.9	March 25
Pinehurst BAM	56.2	March 4
Sandpoint TEOM	7.6	March 3
St. Maries BAM	12.3	March 4

### PM<sub>2.5</sub> FEDERAL REFERENCE METHOD (FRM) DATA

At this time the Coeur d'Alene Regional Office of Idaho DEQ uses the Federal Reference Method Sampler (filter based) measurements for NAAQS compliance determination at the St. Maries monitoring site. This method requires that 75% of available data be collected per quarter. Other filter processing requirements are applicable to this method. The Coeur d'Alene Regional Office's collection efficiency rate for March is shown in the table below. The FRM monitor at the Pinehurst site is used for quality assurance purposes.

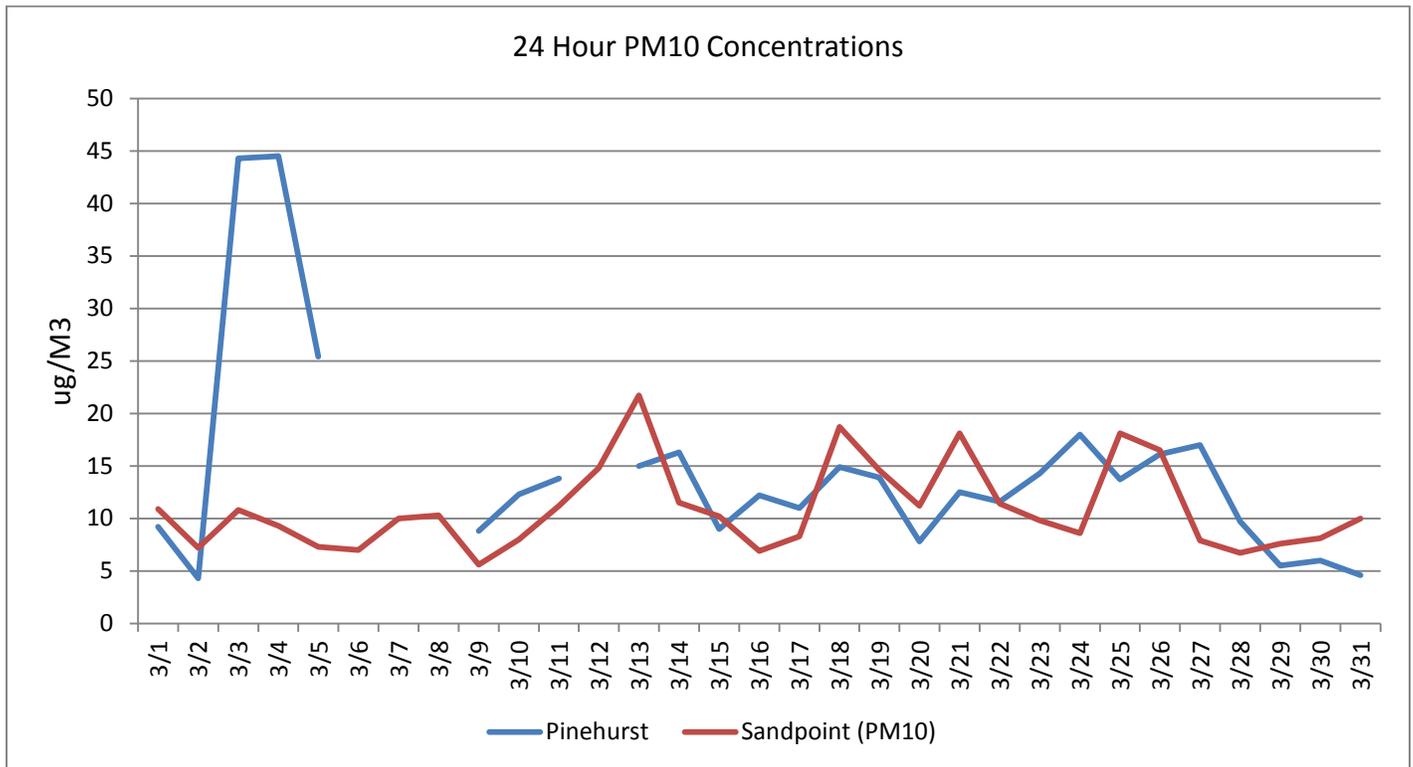
#### March FRM filter recovery Efficiency

Site	Sample Days	Valid Samples	Collection Percentage
Pinehurst	5	5	100%
St. Maries	5	5	100%

# North Idaho Air Quality Summary – March 2014

## PM10 CONTINUOUS DATA

The graph below shows the 24 hour values for PM10. No apparent exceedances of the 150  $\mu\text{g}/\text{m}^3$  for a 24 hour average standard have occurred over this reporting period. The gaps in the Pinehurst PM10 data were due to monitor malfunction caused by the seasonal temperature changes. The monitor was set to summer operating temperatures and resumed proper operations.



## Air Quality Actions

The Coeur d'Alene Regional Office called no Stage 1 Burn Bans in March. Early March had very cold temperatures in North Idaho and the Pinehurst BAM monitor recorded two days above the NAAQS for PM<sub>2.5</sub> most likely due to heavy wood stove use in the area. As the month wore on and temperatures warmed, PM<sub>2.5</sub> levels at the monitor dropped.

# North Idaho Air Quality Summary – March 2014

Page 4 of 5

## NETWORK INFORMATION

The table below summarizes all active and inactive air quality samplers located within the North Idaho area during the month of March 2014.

Site	Monitor	Type	Comments	Current Status	Data Completeness
Lancaster / Rathdrum Prairie	R&P 1400A TEOM PM2.5	Continuous		<b>Active</b>	<b>99%</b>
Lancaster / Rathdrum Prairie	Meteorological Tower	Continuous		<b>Active</b>	<b>96%</b>
St. Maries	PM2.5 BAM	Continuous		<b>Active</b>	<b>99%</b>
St. Maries	Thermo 1405 FDMS PM2.5	Continuous		<b>Inactive</b>	<b>NA</b>
St. Maries	Thermo Model 2025 FRM PM2.5	Filter		<b>Active</b>	<b>100%</b>
Pinehurst	R&P 8500 FDMS TEOM PM2.5	Continuous		<b>Active</b>	<b>99%</b>
Pinehurst	Thermo Model 2025 FRM PM2.5	Filter		<b>Active</b>	<b>100%</b>
Pinehurst	PM2.5 BAM	Continuous		<b>Active</b>	<b>99%</b>
Pinehurst	R&P 1400AB TEOM PM10	Continuous		<b>Active</b>	<b>88%</b>
Pinehurst	Meteorological Tower	Continuous		<b>Active</b>	<b>99%</b>
Sandpoint U of I Extension Office	Meteorological Tower	Continuous		<b>Active</b>	<b>99%</b>
Sandpoint U of I Extension Office	R&P 1400A TEOM PM2.5	Continuous		<b>Active</b>	<b>99%</b>
Sandpoint U of I Extension Office	R&P 1400AB TEOM PM10	Continuous		<b>Active</b>	<b>99%</b>
Lakes Management Plan	Meteorological Tower	Continuous		<b>Active</b>	<b>99%</b>
3 Meter G C Met	Meteorological Tower	Continuous		<b>Active</b>	<b>92%</b>
Porthill International Border Site	Radiance Research Nephelometer /wind speed & direction	Continuous	CRB Seasonal	<b>Inactive</b>	<b>NA</b>
Athol	Radiance Research Nephelometer	Continuous	CRB Seasonal	<b>Inactive</b>	<b>NA</b>
Mt. Hall School	Radiance Research Nephelometer	Continuous	CRB Seasonal	<b>Inactive</b>	<b>NA</b>
Garwood Elementary	Radiance Research Nephelometer	Continuous	CRB Seasonal	<b>Inactive</b>	<b>NA</b>

**During February, 14 of 14 active samplers achieved 75% or greater data completeness.**

# North Idaho Air Quality Summary – March 2014

Page 5 of 5

## AIR QUALITY INDEX

The air quality index is a tool used to convey information to the public regarding local levels of air pollution and the associated health concerns. These levels are depicted in the table below.

### Air Quality Index (AQI): Particle Pollution

Index Values	Levels of Health Concern	Cautionary Statements
0-50	Good	None
51-100	Moderate	Unusually sensitive people should consider reducing prolonged or heavy exertion outdoors.
101-150	Unhealthy for Sensitive Groups	People with heart or lung disease, older adults, and children should reduce prolonged or heavy exertion outdoors.
151-200	Unhealthy	People with heart or lung disease, older adults, and children should avoid prolonged or heavy exertion outdoors. Everyone else should reduce prolonged or heavy exertion.
201-300	Very Unhealthy	People with heart or lung disease, older adults, and children should avoid all physical activity outdoors. Everyone else should avoid prolonged or heavy exertion.
301-500	Hazardous	People with heart or lung disease, older adults, and children should remain indoors and keep activity levels low. Everyone else should avoid all physical activity outdoors.

Below is a table showing the total weekday Air Quality Index (AQI) values for each of the reporting cities located in North Idaho for this reporting month. Differences in totals were due to sampler down time. In March 2013 the US EPA revised the PM<sub>2.5</sub> NAAQS by lowering the annual standard to 12.0 µg/M<sup>3</sup> from 15.0 µg/M<sup>3</sup>. Because of this change in the NAAQS the breakpoints between AQI categories have also been modified.

#### March 2014

Coeur d'Alene	Pinehurst	Sandpoint	St. Maries
Green = 21	Green = 14	Green = 21	Green = 20
Yellow = 0	Yellow = 5	Yellow = 0	Yellow = 1
Orange = 0	Orange = 1	Orange = 0	Orange = 0
Red = 0	Red = 1	Red = 0	Red = 0

#### 2013 YEAR TO DATE AQI TOTALS

Coeur d'Alene	Pinehurst	Sandpoint	St. Maries
Green = 59 (100%)	Green = 26 (44%)	Green = 58(98%)	Green = 41 (70%)
Yellow = 0	Yellow = 30 (51%)	Yellow = 1 (2%)	Yellow = 16 (27%)
Orange = 0	Orange = 2 (3%)	Orange = 0	Orange = 2 (3%)
Red = 0	Red = 1(2%)	Red =0	Red = 0

For further information about air quality in Idaho and the northwest region visit the following sites on the Internet or contact Ralph Paul, Coeur d'Alene Region Airshed Coordinator, at 208-769-1422.

<http://www.deq.idaho.gov/>

<http://www.deq.idaho.gov/daily-air-quality-reports-forecasts>

[www.airnow.gov/index.cfm?action=airnow.fcsummary&stateid=16](http://www.airnow.gov/index.cfm?action=airnow.fcsummary&stateid=16)