



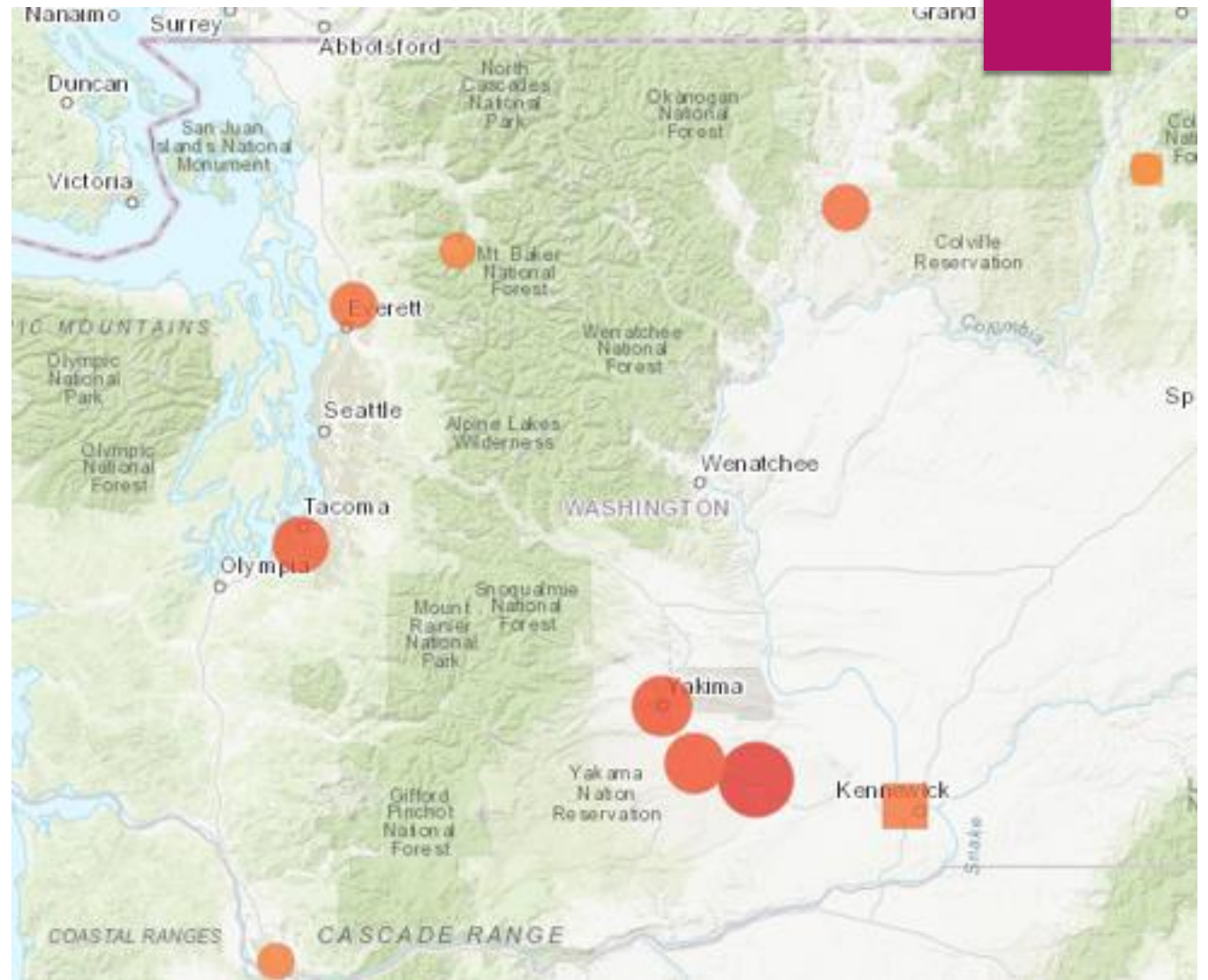
Reasons to Disband the Yakima Regional Clean Air Agency

PRESENTATION TO YAKIMA COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

MAY 2021

Yakima County has the worst air quality in Washington

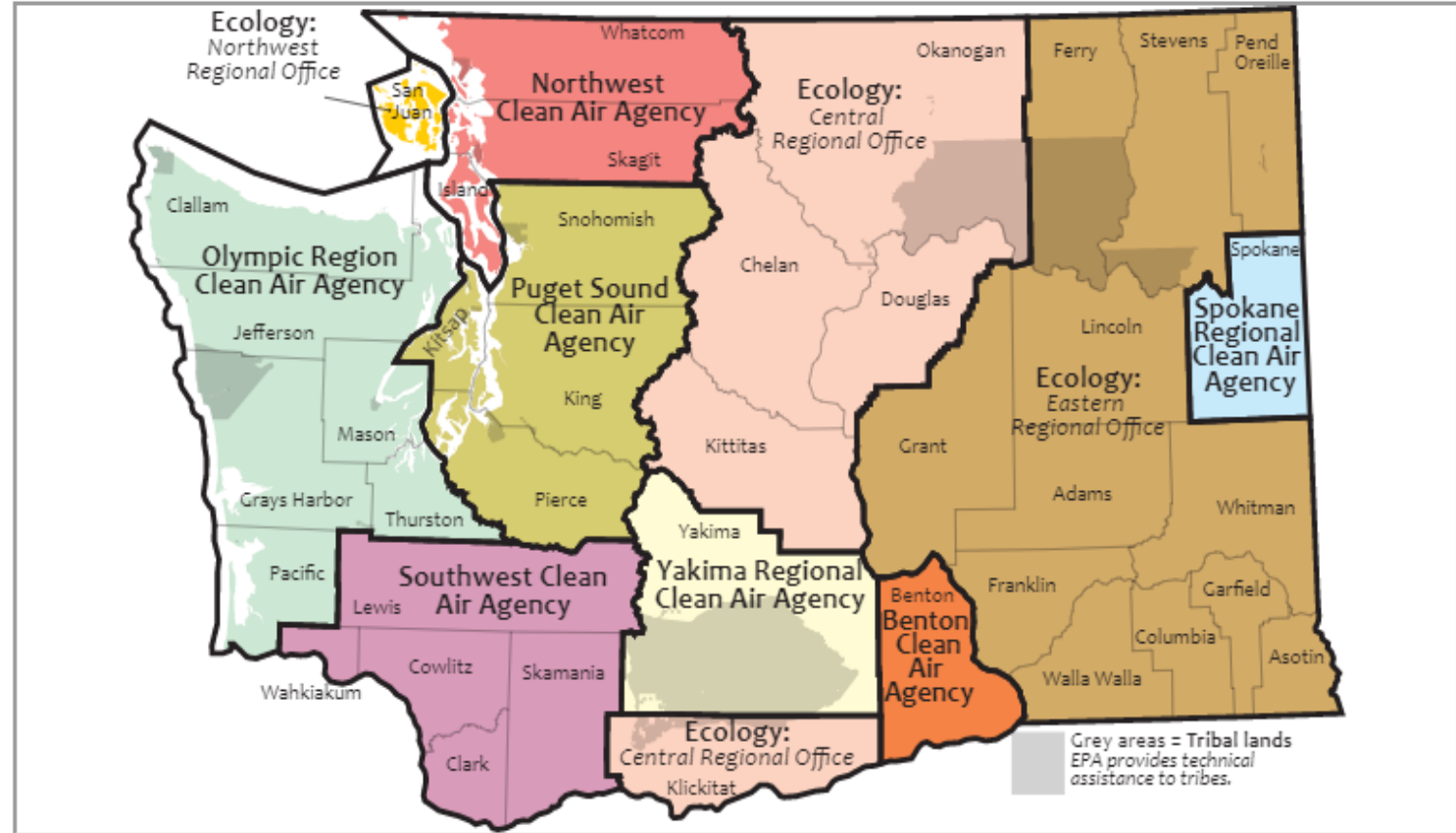
<https://ecology.wa.gov/Regulations-Permits/Plans-policies/Areas-meeting-and-not-meeting-air-standards>



Reasons to Disband the YRCAA

- **We all care about the health and wellbeing of the people**
- **YRCAA lacks the expertise to address the most serious air pollution in WA State**
- **Yakima County is at risk for non-compliance with the Clean Air Act**

OTHER COUNTIES
USE THE
WASHINGTON
STATE
DEPARTMENT OF
ECOLOGY TO
MANAGE AIR
QUALITY ISSUES



Conditions made worse by polluted air

- ▶ Heart Disease
- ▶ Lung disease
- ▶ Low Birth Weight
- ▶ Birth Defects
- ▶ COVID 19

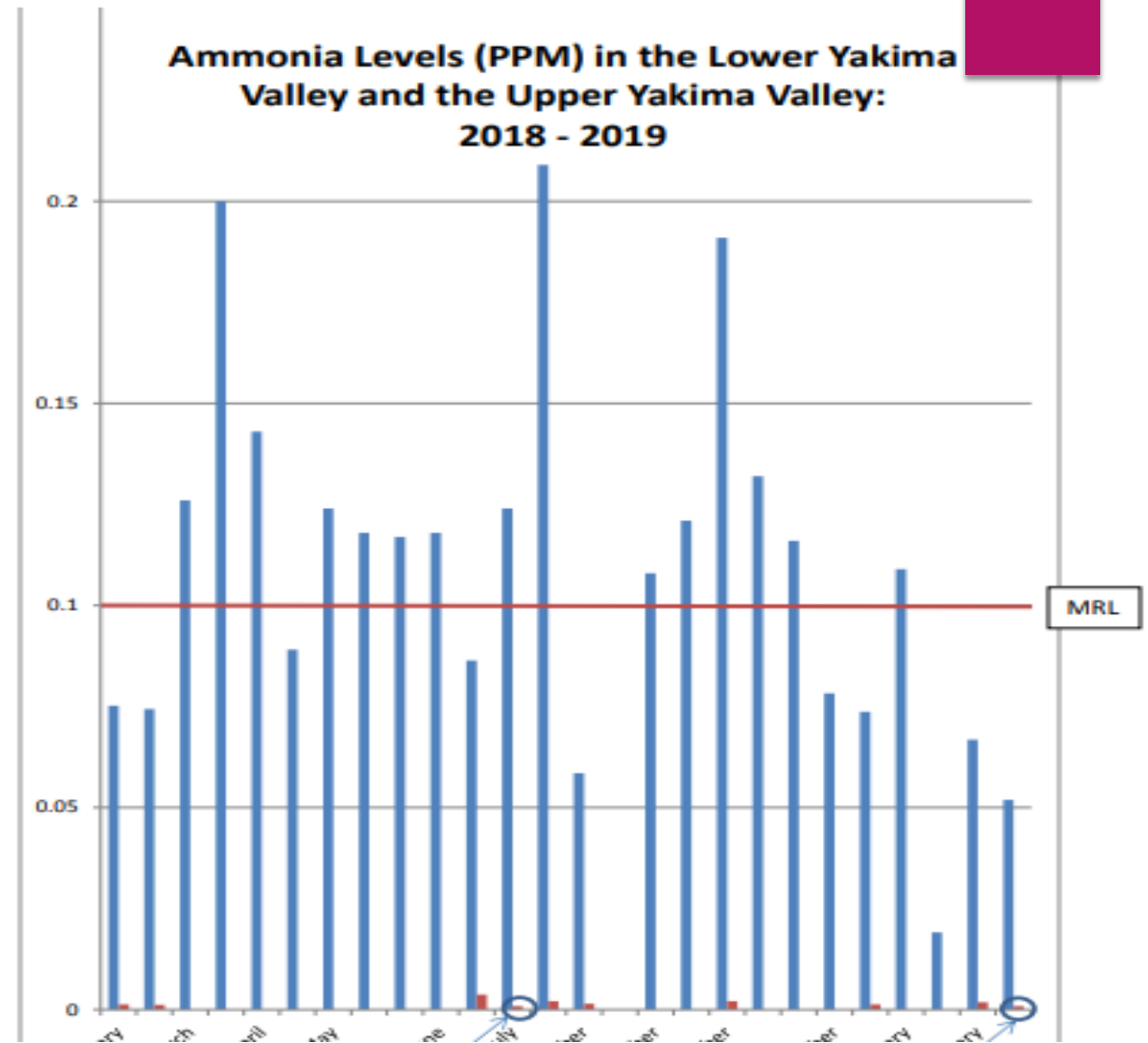





YRCAA ignores valid citizen
science

FOTC Ammonia Study

- ▶ Blue bars are from the Lower Valley near CAFOs
- ▶ Tiny red bars at the bottom are from the Upper Valley






THE DAIRY INDUSTRY'S
INTERESTS ARE SUPPORTED
WHILE THERE IS NO CITIZEN
REPRESENTATION ON THE YRCAA
BOARD



CITIZEN COMPLAINTS AT
PUBLIC MEETINGS ARE MET
WITH DISINTEREST OR
DISDAIN.



YRCAA HAS BEEN
SUCCESSFULLY SUED TWICE
BECAUSE OF THEIR LACK OF
RESPONSIVENESS TO
CITIZEN REQUESTS.

A magnifying glass is positioned behind the text, with its lens centered over the words "COMPLAINTS ARE".

SITE VISITS TO INVESTIGATE
CITIZEN COMPLAINTS ARE
NOT TIMELY OR DO NOT
HAPPEN AT ALL



THE CURRENT DIRECTOR
HAS NO BACKGROUND IN
AIR QUALITY SCIENCE

The YRCAA lacks the expertise to solve our air problems

- ▶ YRCAA knows nothing about health issues, so they ignore them
- ▶ But . . . RCW 70.A.15.4530 requires an air agency to balance health against economics
- ▶ YRCAA investigators do not take air samples, do not take pictures, do not record the testimony of complainants that describes their health problems.

WAC 173-400-260: YRCAA Board Member Steven Jones has a conflict of interest

- ▶ **Voted against an ammonia project that the Dairy Federation opposed**
- ▶ **Voted in favor of a revision to the YRCAA public comment period that was requested by the Dairy Federation**
- ▶ **Opposed restrictions on spraying of manure during inversions.**
- ▶ **Voted to rescind the Air Quality Management Policy for Dairies. Dairies no longer register and no longer pay a fee to address air pollution. The YRCAA now has one less inspector.**

RCW 70A.15.1005 says that all sources of air pollution must share in the cost of mitigation

- ▶ **YRCAA acknowledges that CAFO dairies are a source of air pollution in Yakima County.**
- ▶ **YRCAA does not register dairies and collects no fees to pay for actions to address air pollution from this source.**
- ▶ **YRCAA does not do all that is possible and reasonable to control and prevent air pollution in Yakima County as required by law.**

RCW 70A.15.4530 says that air agencies must determine if air pollution endangers health

“Odors or fugitive dust caused by agricultural activity consistent with good agricultural practices on agricultural land are exempt from the requirements of this chapter unless they have a substantial adverse effect on public health. In determining whether agricultural activity is consistent with good agricultural practices, the department of ecology or board of any authority shall consult with a recognized third-party expert in the activity prior to issuing any notice of violation.”

- ▶ YRCAA does not consult public health experts**
- ▶ YRCAA does not determine what are good agricultural practices in Yakima Co**

WAC 173-400-100 requires registration of cattle feedlots and composting operations

- ▶ **CAFO dairies are de facto animal feedlots, yet YRCAA does not register or regulate them.**
- ▶ **There are over 500 acres of manure compost in the LYV, yet YRCAA does not register or regulate these operations.**
- ▶ **YRCAA uses the exemption for odor and dust as a reason not to address emissions of ammonia, hydrogen sulfide and volatile organic compounds (VOCs). This is a false interpretation of the statutes.**

Thank You

