



Friends of Toppenish Creek

February 15, 2022

Dear Yakima Regional Air Agency Board of Directors:

The Friends of Toppenish Creek (FOTC) have studied air quality reports for Yakima County and learned that Yakima County is at risk for falling into non-attainment for fine particulate matter (PM 2.5). The WA State Dept. of Ecology (Ecology) is currently concerned about non-attainment in several areas of Washington State and Yakima County is at the head of the list. See Particle Pollution in Washington's Air at <https://ecology.wa.gov/Air-Climate/Air-quality/Air-quality-targets/Air-quality-standards/Particle-pollution>

We have listened to reports from the YRCAA Air Pollution Control Officer (APCO) and we do not recall recent presentations regarding this risk. The YRCAA Board of Directors has a duty to analyze the risk of non-attainment and the board cannot do so unless members are informed. In addition, the YRCAA cannot adequately screen and select a new APCO unless members understand how attainment is measured by the WA State Dept. of Ecology (Ecology) and the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA).

Below is an introduction to non-attainment discussions. FOTC has put data from EPA's Monitor Values Report into graphs that show the worsening of air quality in Yakima County since 2010. If we exceed the $12 \mu/m^3$ standard for three consecutive years or if the 98th percentile readings exceed $35 \mu/m^3$ for three years Yakima County could be out of attainment. This has serious consequences for businesses and people who live here – See the attached 2009 YRCAA PP on non-attainment, available at <https://www.yakimacleanair.org/resources/education.html>

Sincerely,

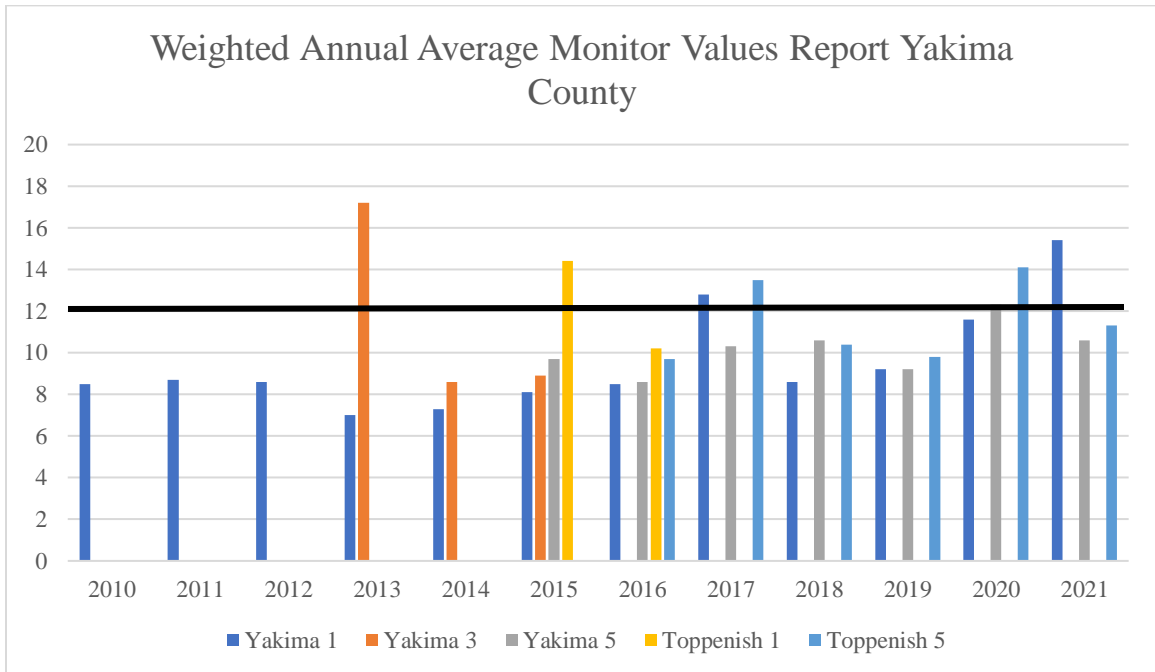
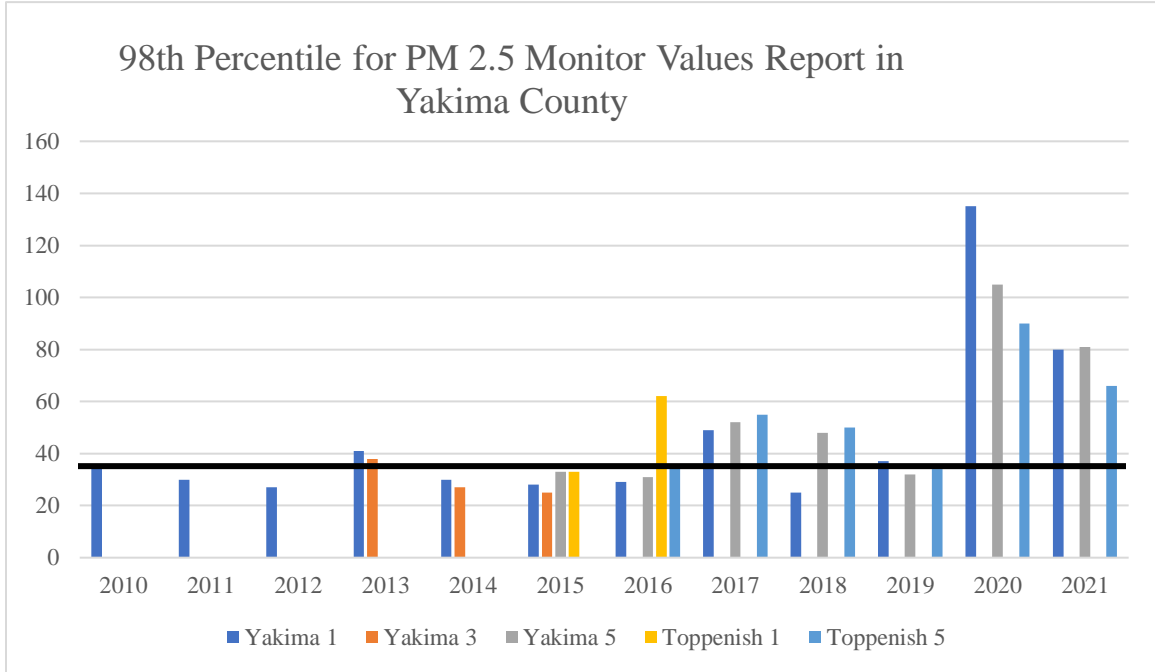
Jean Mendoza

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Executive Director, Friends of Toppenish Creek

Yakima County Design Values – Monitor Values Report (Exceptional Events Excluded)

From <https://www.epa.gov/outdoor-air-quality-data/monitor-values-report>



Note: Some of these numbers do not meet minimum data completeness

Horizontal black lines indicate EPA Standards: PM2.5: 35 $\mu\text{/m}^3$ (24-hour), 12.0 $\mu\text{/m}^3$ (annual)

Copies of Source Data from EPA Website

2010

Obs	First Max	Second Max	Third Max	Fourth Max	98th Percentile	Weighted Annual Mean	Exc Events	Monitor Number	Site ID	Address	City
115	50.7	38	35.1	35.1	35	8.5	None	1	530770009	402 South 4th Ave	Yakima
0	.	.	.	.	.	0.0*	Excluded	1	530770016	321 Signal Peak Rd, White Swan	White Swan

Note: The * indicates the mean does not satisfy minimum data completeness criteria.

2011

Obs	First Max	Second Max	Third Max	Fourth Max	98th Percentile	Weighted Annual Mean	Exc Events	Monitor Number	Site ID	Address	City
114	64.8	39	30.2	29.5	30	8.7	None	1	530770009	402 South 4th Ave	Yakima

2012

Obs	First Max	Second Max	Third Max	Fourth Max	98th Percentile	Weighted Annual Mean	Exc Events	Monitor Number	Site ID	Address	City
105	29.2	26.9	26.9	26.2	27	8.6*	Excluded	1	530770009	402 South 4th Ave	Yakima

2013

Obs	First Max	Second Max	Third Max	Fourth Max	98th Percentile	Weighted Annual Mean	Exc Events	Monitor Number	Site ID	Address	City
76	50.1	41.3	37	23.7	41	7.0*	None	1	530770009	402 South 4th Ave	Yakima
85	51.5	43.9	42.8	39.5	38	17.2*	Excluded	3	530770009	402 South 4th Ave	Yakima

2014

Obs	First Max	Second Max	Third Max	Fourth Max	98th Percentile	Weighted Annual Mean	Exc Events	Monitor Number	Site ID	Address	City
113	41	33.2	30.2	29.2	30	7.3	None	1	530770009	402 South 4th Ave	Yakima
332	44.6	40.8	39.2	36.5	27	8.6*	None	3	530770009	402 South 4th Ave	Yakima

2015

Obs	First Max	Second Max	Third Max	Fourth Max	98th Percentile	Weighted Annual Mean	Exc Events	Monitor Number	Site ID	Address	City
25	26.5	24.5	24.2	18.6	27	9.7*	None	1	530770005	810 16thst (Harrison Middle School)	Sunnyside
108	39.3	31.3	27.7	25.1	28	8.1*	Excluded	1	530770009	402 South 4th Ave	Yakima
231	28.9	25.8	25.5	25.1	25	8.9*	Excluded	3	530770009	402 South 4th Ave	Yakima
101	41	34.8	33.1	32.3	33	9.7*	None	5	530770009	402 South 4th Ave	Yakima
13	32.6	24.7	23.5	21.9	33	14.4*	None	1	530770015	141 Ward Rd., Toppenish, Wa	Toppenish

2016

Obs	First Max	Second Max	Third Max	Fourth Max	98th Percentile	Weighted Annual Mean	Exc Events	Monitor Number	Site ID	Address	City
21	26.1	21.7	19.9	18.3	26	12.1*	None	1	530770005	810 16thst (Harrison Middle School)	Sunnyside
116	49.6	30.9	29.1	26.6	29	8.5	None	1	530770009	402 South 4th Ave	Yakima
349	63.9	59.2	53.5	50.2	31	8.6	None	5	530770009	402 South 4th Ave	Yakima
47	61.8	29	24.3	23.6	62	10.2*	None	1	530770015	141 Ward Rd., Toppenish, Wa	Toppenish
149	49.5	47.9	35	31.2	35	9.7*	None	5	530770015	141 Ward Rd., Toppenish, Wa	Toppenish

2017

Obs	First Max	Second Max	Third Max	Fourth Max	98th Percentile	Weighted Annual Mean	Exc Events	Monitor Number	Site ID	Address	City
113	161.3	76.1	49.2	48	49	12.8	None	1	530770009	402 South 4th Ave	Yakima
356	184.6	173.3	166.4	84.5	52	10.3	None	5	530770009	402 South 4th Ave	Yakima
352	184	183.6	174.1	100.3	55	13.5	None	5	530770015	141 Ward Rd., Toppenish, Wa	Toppenish

2018

Obs	First Max	Second Max	Third Max	Fourth Max	98th Percentile	Weighted Annual Mean	Exc Events	Monitor Number	Site ID	Address	City
102	44	31.8	25.2	24.1	25	8.6*	None	1	530770009	402 South 4th Ave	Yakima
360	132	102	59.7	59.1	48	10.6	None	5	530770009	402 South 4th Ave	Yakima
307	137.5	124.5	57.4	56.1	50	10.4*	None	5	530770015	141 Ward Rd., Toppenish, Wa	Toppenish

2019

Obs	First Max	Second Max	Third Max	Fourth Max	98th Percentile	Weighted Annual Mean	Exc Events	Monitor Number	Site ID	Address	City
113	39.2	36.8	36.8	35	37	9.2	None	1	530770009	402 South 4th Ave	Yakima
353	40.8	38.8	37.3	35.1	32	9.2	None	5	530770009	402 South 4th Ave	Yakima
322	39.8	37.6	37.1	36.7	34	9.8	None	5	530770015	141 Ward Rd., Toppenish, Wa	Toppenish

2020

Obs	First Max	Second Max	Third Max	Fourth Max	98th Percentile	Weighted Annual Mean	Exc Events	Monitor Number	Site ID	Address	City
75	250.2	134.5	72.1	42.7	135	11.6*	None	1	530770009	402 South 4th Ave	Yakima
315	325.4	273.9	254.3	144.1	105	12.3*	None	5	530770009	402 South 4th Ave	Yakima
306	447.6	378.2	328.2	304.9	90	14.1*	None	5	530770015	141 Ward Rd., Toppenish, Wa	Toppenish

2021

Geographic Area: Yakima County, WA

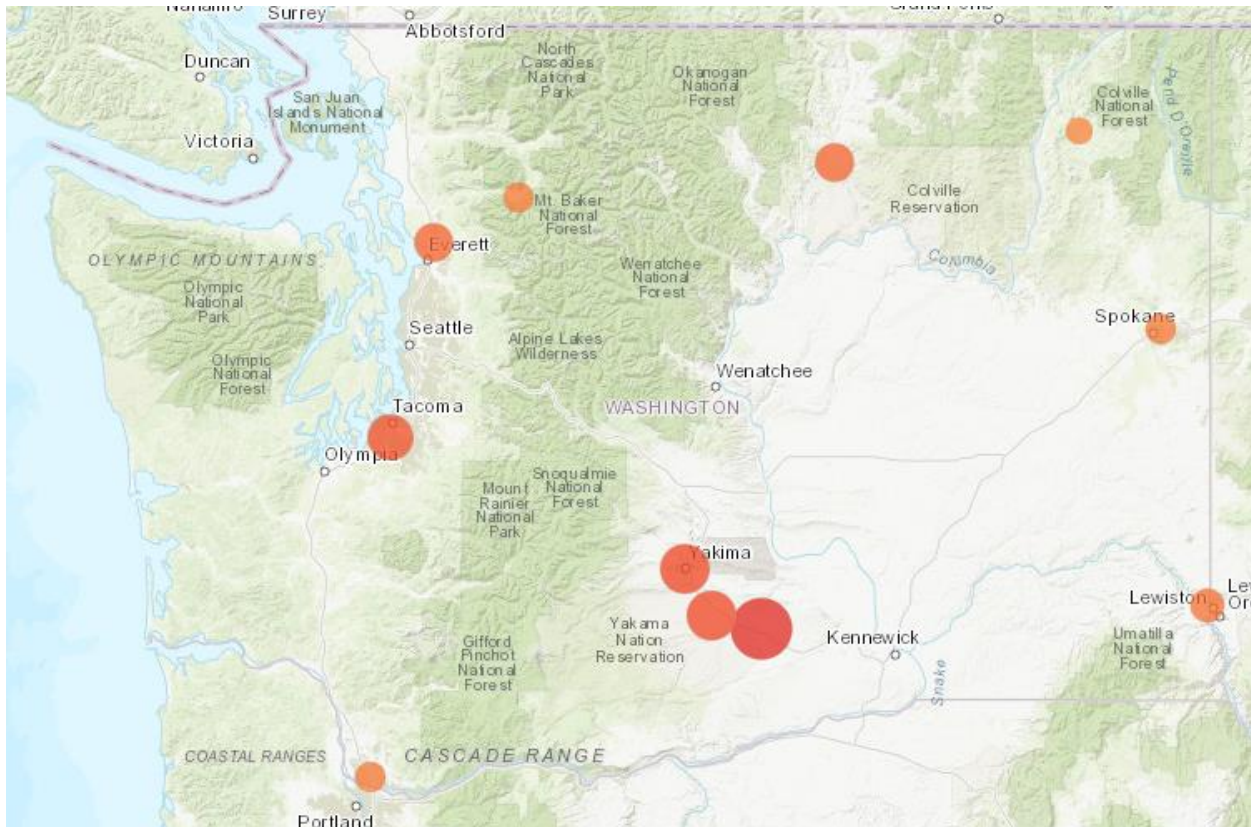
Pollutant: PM2.5

Year: 2021 (Annual statistics for 2021 are not final until May 1, 2022)

Exceptional Events: Excluded (if any)

Obs	First Max	Second Max	Third Max	Fourth Max	98th Percentile	Weighted Annual Mean	Exc Events	Monitor Number	Site ID	Address	City
72	80.1	79.8	65.1	61.6	80	15.4*	None	1	530770009	402 South 4th Ave	Yakima
299	134.3	99	88.6	86	81	10.6*	None	5	530770009	402 South 4th Ave	Yakima
263	104.4	92.5	90.8	86.3	66	11.3*	None	5	530770015	141 Ward Rd., Toppenish, Wa	Toppenish

Areas of Concern from Particle Pollution in Washington's Air at <https://ecology.wa.gov/Air-Climates/Air-quality/Air-quality-targets/Air-quality-standards/Particle-pollution>



Legend	Details
<p>Areas of Concern for Criteria Pollutants</p>	
<p>This map shows areas of concern for particle pollutants in Washington (PM2.5 and PM10). The color and size represent the level of pollution at each site, which indicates the risks of nonattainment and human health impacts. The underlying data are each site's design values (or partial design values where complete data are not available). A design value is a summary statistic used to show whether or not a site meets federal air quality standards.</p>	
<p>The design values are all generalized to a single scale called the Washington Air Quality Advisory (WAQA), which shows the severity of each pollutant on a scale of 0 to 500. WAQA values over 100 indicate design values considered unhealthy for sensitive individuals, and WAQA values over 150 indicate design values that are unhealthy for all people. Sites are included on this map if their WAQA value is greater than 100 or if they record frequent exceedances of federal standards. Data influenced by wildfires was removed from the dataset prior to display on this map.</p>	

Today, all of Washington meets air quality standards for particle pollution, but there are several areas of concern that are being watched closely. To make sure the air continues to meet air quality standards, we and [our partners](#) monitor the air at 55 sites using [Washington's Air Monitoring Network](#) [↗](#).

- Twenty-two are in urban areas (the Puget Sound region, Vancouver, Spokane, and Yakima Counties, and the Tri-Cities).
- Nineteen are in small communities outside of urban areas that have local sources of PM_{2.5} pollution.
- Seven are in agricultural areas and are used to inform agricultural burning decisions.
- Six are in tribal areas. These monitors are run by our tribal partners.
- One is in a natural rural location on the Olympic Peninsula.