

## AIR QUALITY ANNUAL SNAPSHOT : 2023



## Monitoring Air Pollutants and Trends

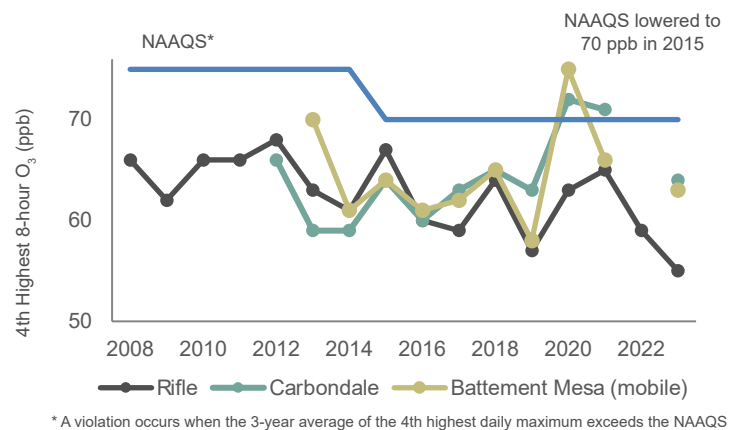
OZONE O<sub>3</sub>

Ozone forms when pollutants emitted from vehicles and industrial sources react with sunlight. Ground-level ozone contributes to respiratory issues including difficulty breathing, coughing, and damage to lung tissue. It can aggravate chronic lung conditions like asthma and emphysema. Garfield County currently meets National Ambient Air Quality Standards (NAAQS) for ozone. The number of days classified as "Good Days" according to the Air Quality Index (AQI) has decreased from 339 to 266 days between 2022 and 2023.

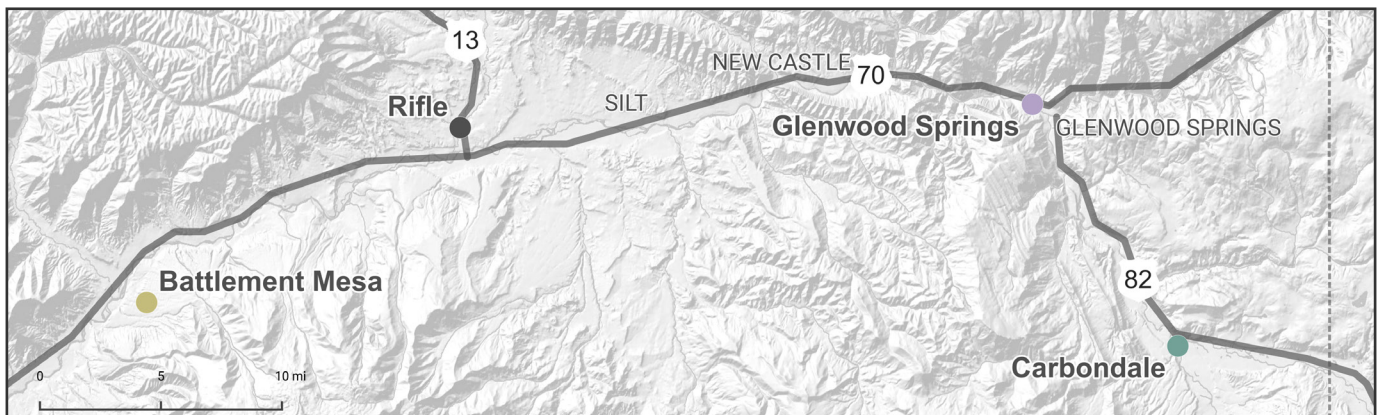


## What you can do to reduce ozone:

- Drive less - bike, walk, carpool, or take the bus
- Mow your lawn after 5 p.m., or get a push-mower
- Never top off your gas tank, and fill it up in the evening



## MONITORING LOCATIONS

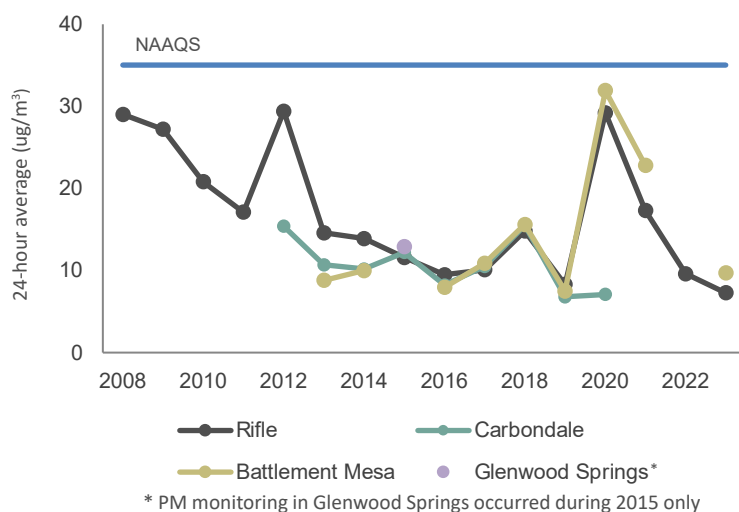


# Monitoring Air Pollutants and Trends



## PARTICULATE MATTER PM<sub>2.5</sub>

PM<sub>2.5</sub> (particulate matter smaller than 2.5 micrometers) originates from smoke, vehicles and industrial sources and contributes to decreased visibility. Breathing high levels of fine particulate matter can have serious health impacts including coughing and difficulty breathing, decreased lung function, irregular heartbeat and aggravation of heart and lung disease. PM<sub>2.5</sub> concentrations in Garfield County are lower than the National Ambient Air Quality Standards. The number of days classified as "Good Days" according to the Air Quality Index (AQI) has increased from 358 to 364 between 2022 and 2023.



### What you can do to reduce particulate matter:

- "Burn-wise" - use wood-burning stoves properly
- Limit vehicle idling
- Compost or mulch woody materials

## MONITORING UPDATES

After pausing air quality monitoring at the Carbondale and Battlement Mesa sites in 2022, Garfield County has resumed monitoring at these sites in 2023. In addition to monitoring for various gases (O<sub>3</sub>, NO<sub>x</sub>, THC/NMHC) and particulate matter, Garfield County has also resumed monitoring of 80 Speciated Non-Methane Organic Compounds (SNMOCs) beginning in April of 2023. Air quality monitoring also continued at the existing Rifle monitoring sites and throughout the transportation corridors in the county using Purple Air Sensors. Below are online resources available for the public to access real-time air quality and smoke conditions.

<https://airnow.gov/>

<https://fire.airnow.gov/>

<https://map.purpleair.com>

<https://data.coloradoan.com/fires/>

<https://www.colorado.gov/airquality/default.aspx>



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