

# Six-month study will record ozone levels around Pinedale

---

By JEFF GEARINO  
Southwest Wyoming bureau  
Tuesday, February 3, 2009 9:05 PM MST

GREEN RIVER -- University of Wyoming researchers are seeking volunteers in Sublette County to assist with an air quality monitoring study.

The six-month project will record ozone levels around Pinedale and at various sites in the Upper Green River Basin.

The study should provide researchers with much-needed data about the distribution of ozone in the basin.

A mobile air quality monitoring lab has been moved to Pinedale to measure ozone levels with state-of-the-art equipment, according to researchers.

Officials said passive ozone monitors are also being placed throughout the basin to map ozone distribution, and human exposure to ozone will be recorded by the volunteers as part of the project.

Volunteers in the study will wear a clip-on, passive ozone sampler, which will record how much ozone he or she comes into contact with during an eight-hour time period.

All volunteers will be required to keep a log of their whereabouts during the day while wearing the monitoring device.

Researchers said the ozone data gathered by participants will be the key to having the best available science to utilize for future management and policy decisions relating to ozone issues in the Upper Green River Basin.

"Because our ozone research covers such a large area, we need to engage volunteers who live and work in Sublette County to assist us," said Robert Field, a UW air quality measurement specialist and principal investigator on the project.

"With this collaborative effort, we feel confident we can meet our research goal to better understand the distribution of ozone levels," Field said in a release.

The six-month project is a joint effort between the university's Environment and Natural Resources program and the UW Atmospheric Science Department.

The research is being funded by the Wyoming Department of Environmental Quality's Air Quality Division and the UW School of Energy Resources.

Field said in addition to the personal exposure aspect of the study, researchers will be measuring ozone with similar sampling devices at 50 strategic locations throughout the county.

He said the stationary samplers will measure ozone levels during the same eight-hour period that volunteers will be recording their daily routines. The data will then be compiled into an ozone contour map that spans population and developed and rural lands in the basin.

A UW mobile air quality monitoring lab will also be used at five different locations in the county, including at Big Piney and Pinedale high schools.

Contact southwest Wyoming bureau reporter Jeff Gearino at 307-875-5359 or gearino@tribcsp.com