

GWS Abstract 2009

Title: After the Western Airborne Contaminants Assessment Project (WACAP): Ongoing and Future Strategies

Authors: Tamara Blett and Colleen Flanagan

Abstract:

The Western Airborne Contaminants Assessment Project (WACAP) was designed to determine the risk to ecosystems and food webs in western US and Alaskan national parks from the atmospheric transport of toxic contaminants such as mercury and pesticides. Key parks included in the study were: Denali, Gates of the Arctic, Glacier, Mount Rainier, Noatak, Olympic, Rocky Mountain, and Sequoia. Detecting measureable levels of contaminants in the twenty national park ecosystems studied, the 6 year multi-agency project (2002-2007) yielded a wealth of data about the distribution and effects of contaminants in these parks. Over the past year study results have been widely shared with federal and state agencies, as well as stakeholders and the international community, resulting in follow-up studies and partnerships. This talk presents an overview of ongoing and future efforts by the NPS and other partners to apply data and communicate results from the WACAP study for policy, management, and research applications.