Fires Are Increasingly Driving Traffic
Key AirNow Take-Aways from 2020 Fire Season

• Fire events were larger and of longer duration than the “benchmark” Camp Fire event of November 2018
• Our cloud.gov-based infrastructure is incredibly resilient; it did not crash and did not slow down
• The Sensor Pilot provided useful and much appreciated information for the public
• We learned more and have more to do
AirNow Sensor Data Pilot

• Created a map with traditional monitors, but added a PurpleAir sensor layer
• Soft launch on August 14th, no significant media outreach
• Release coincided with large number of fires in the West
• Since release, over seven million pageviews of the sensor fire map, a peak of nearly 400 thousand one day, currently between 30 and 40 thousand per day
NASA focused issues

• How are you using or assimilating NASA datasets (particularly aerosol data) within your organization?
  • Right now, using MODIS AOD to provide a once-daily estimated PM2.5 surface
  • Used for forecasting and event analysis, not publicly available

• Which NASA datasets do you find most useful or are of interest to you?
  • At present, aerosol products. However, any product that informs the levels of EPA’s criteria pollutants could be useful, particularly ozone, NO2, and SO2.
NASA focused issues, cont’d

• Where do you see some existing gaps in information your organization has that may be addressed with future satellite data?
  • The AirNow vision: “AirNow is the authoritative source for reliable, accurate, clear and actionable air quality and health information.”
• There are not enough in-situ monitors to meet that goal
• Adding sensors was well-received, but still mostly in urban areas
• Fire is driving our high-traffic times and satellite products could help in many ways
  • Smoke plumes
  • Aerosols
  • Ozone?