

Viewing the Western Canada BlueSky Wildfire Smoke Forecasts in Google Earth

These instructions assume that the user has a working knowledge of Google Earth and its features.

1. Depending on the version of Google Earth, there may be minor differences in the way these instructions apply.
2. When the BlueSky Google Earth *.kmz file is opened (either by a left-click with the pointer on the file, or by opening the file in Google Earth), a faint white, time slider will appear on the top left hand corner of the image.
3. Move the mouse pointer over the slider. A series of icons will appear.
4. To start the hour-by-hour animation of the smoke forecast, click on the small clock/arrow icon above the time slider. This icon is on the far right of the series of four icons above the left-hand side of the slider. Clicking on this icon starts and pauses the animation.
5. As the animation progresses, the forecast hourly *ground-level* PM_{2.5} concentrations along with the corresponding date and time are shown. The *time zone associated with the displayed times depends on the default setting in Google Earth.*
6. To confirm (and change) the time zone of the displayed time, click on the wrench icon.
7. To adjust the speed of the animation, click on the wrench symbol icon beside the time slider. An animation speed adjustment slider is provided.