Date: March 28

Time: 11:00 AM

Location: Ames 234

Dr. James A. Coakley

Speaker: College of Oceanic & Atmospheric Sciences

Oregon State University

Title: "Haze, Clouds and Man's Impact on Climate"

Abstract

Human activity is not only increasing the concentrations of greenhouse gases, it is also increasing the burden of haze in the atmosphere. Haze particles alter the size and number of cloud droplets, and as a result, are thought to increase the amount of sunlight reflected by clouds thereby moderating global warming. This haze-cloud interaction ranks as the largest unknown in assessments of the human impact on climate. Recent satellite observations of polluted clouds indicate, however, that climate model simulations of this haze-cloud interaction greatly exaggerate the impact.