

Land Use Planning



UNIT 4 — RMP Development

Unit 4 Objective

Understand how to incorporate Visual Resource Inventory Classes into land use planning



Land Use Planning

- Inventory Classes – assessment of visual values for the RMP process
- Visual values are weighed along with other resource considerations

Land Use Planning

VRM Classes and other Land Use Allocations

NLCS

Recreation

ACEC

SRMA

Archaeology

Trails

Oil and Gas

Travel Mgmt

Minerals

Wilderness and WSA

Alternative Energy

Range

Wildlife

Lands and Realty

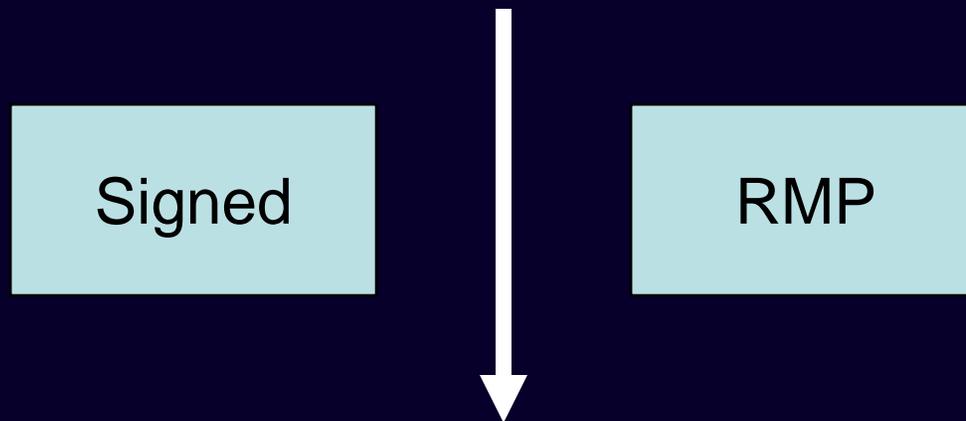
Land Use Planning Handbook

H-1601-1

- Designate VRM Classes
- Design implementation decisions to achieve VRM objectives

Inventory to Management Classes

- Management objectives



- Visual Resource Management Classes

Land Use Planning

- Inventory should be described in the Affected Environment chapter
- Environmental Impacts chapter should reflect how the alternatives affect the inventory

Inventory to Management Classes

Final Visual Resource Management Classes may or may not reflect Inventory Classes



Defining Management Classes



Class I

Objective:
To preserve
the existing
character of
the landscape.



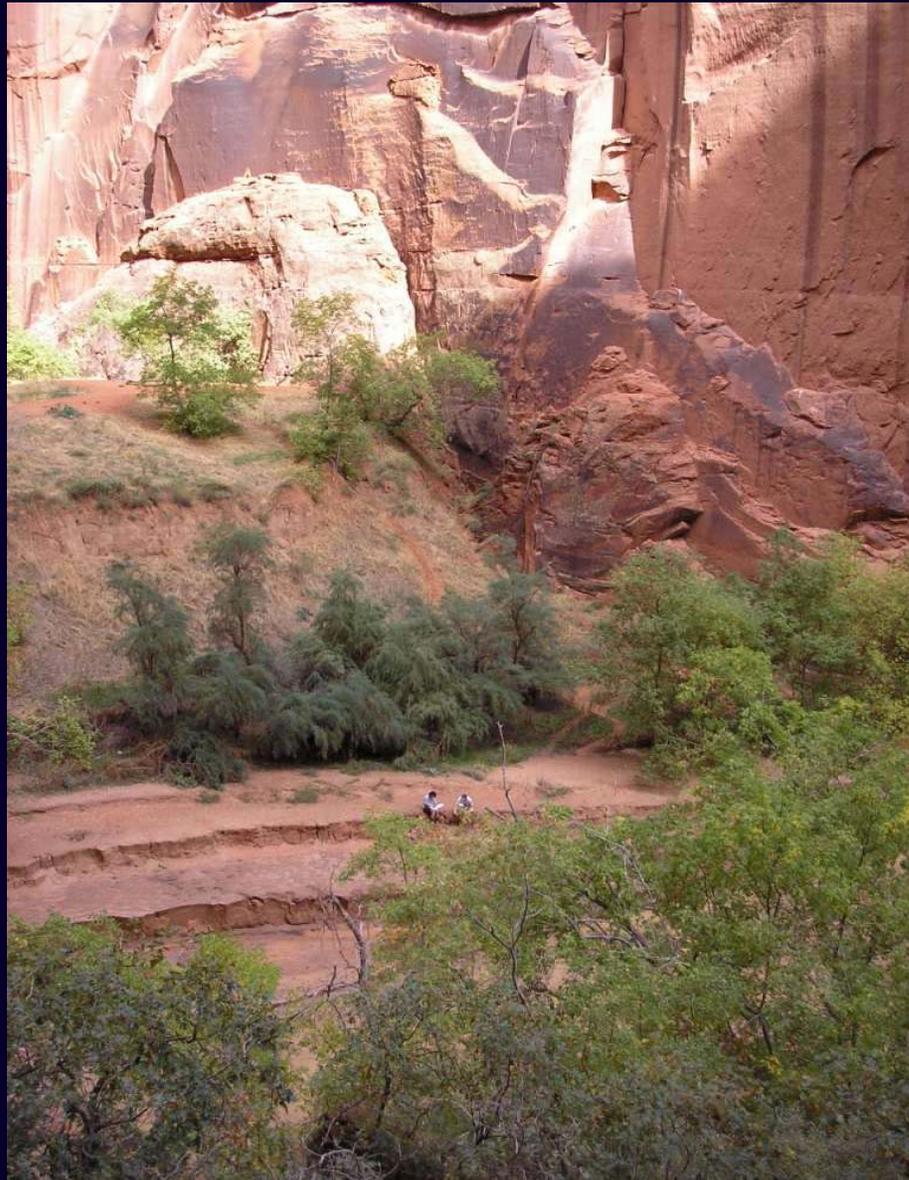
Class I

Level of change to the landscape should be very low; and must not attract attention.



Class I

Provides for
natural
ecological
change



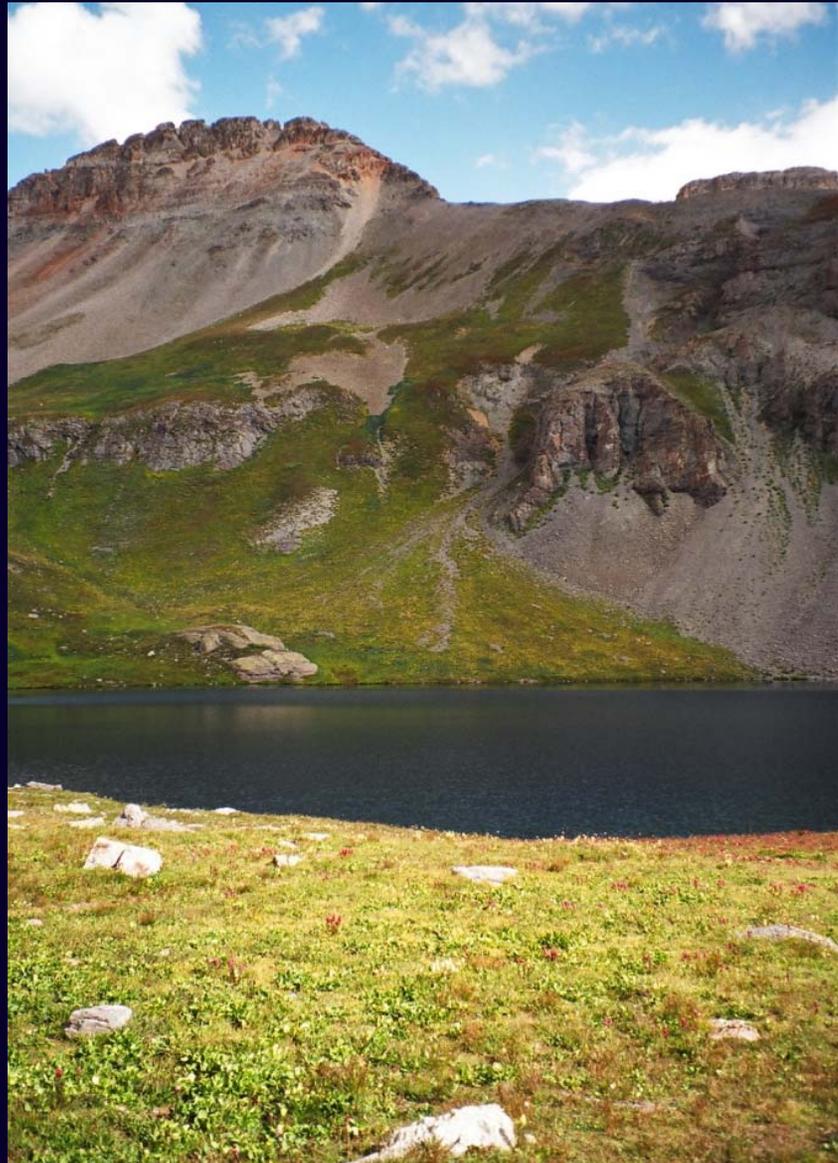
Class I

Provides for
limited
management
activity



Class I

- Designated Wilderness
- Wilderness Study Areas (WSA)
- Outstanding Natural Areas (ONA)
- Primitive Areas



Class II

Objective:

To retain the existing character of the landscape.



Class II

Level of
change to the
landscape
should be low



Class II

Changes should repeat the basic elements found in the natural features of the landscape – form, line, color, & texture



Class II

Management activities may be seen but should not attract attention of the observer



Class III

Objective:

To partially retain the existing character of the landscape



Class III

Level of
change to the
landscape
can be
moderate



Class III

Management activities may attract attention, but should not dominate the view of the casual observer



Class III

Change should repeat the basic elements found in the natural landscape – form, line, color, & texture



Class IV

Objective:

To provide for activities that require major modification of the landscape



Class IV

Level of
change to the
landscape can
be high



Class IV

Management activities may dominate the view and be the major focus of attention



Class IV

Still minimize impacts through location and design by repeating form, line, color, and texture



Working With Other Resources

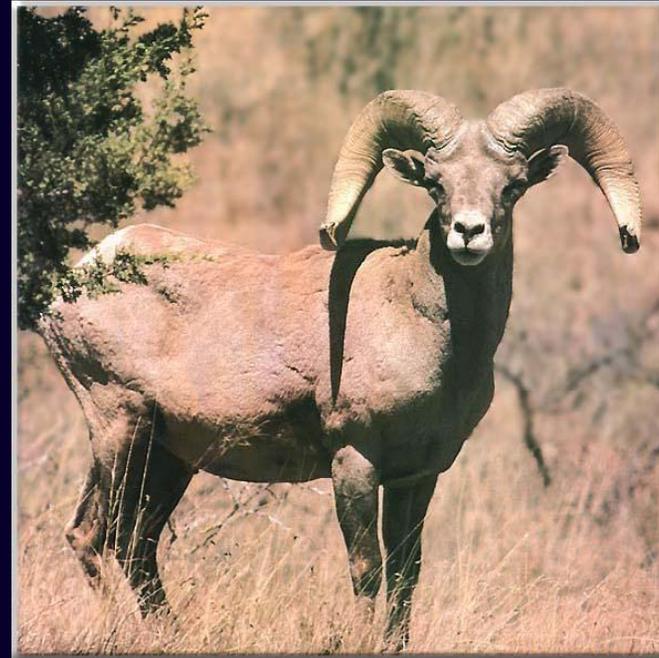
Planning Team

Recreation represents the values of visual resources on the planning team



Working With Other Resources

Will discover that some resources are compatible with high VRM classes. . .



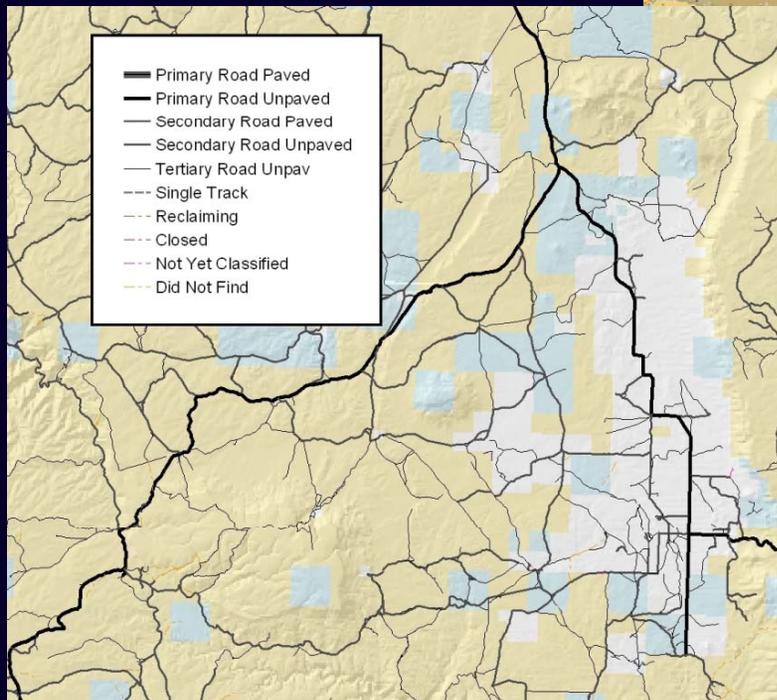
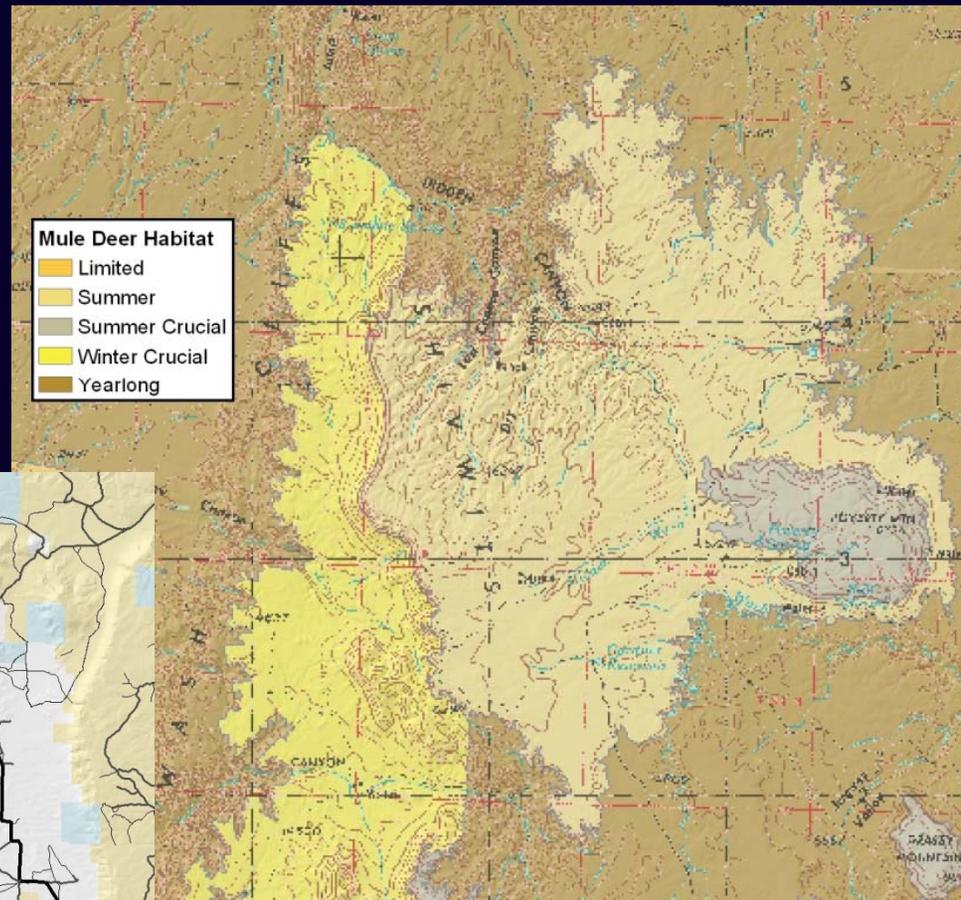
Working With Other Resources

. . . . and some with
low VRM classes



Working With Other Resources

Alliances and conflicts lead to development of viable alternatives



Working With Other Resources

What BLM and its
Partners **DO**

The **PLACE** they pick to
recreate in

The **OPPORTUNITIES &
OUTCOMES** they want to
realize

What about Benefits Based Recreation Management?

**Recreation
Administration,
Management,
Monitoring, &
Marketing Actions**

The **Physical, Social &
Administrative
Character
of
Recreation Settings**

Providing desired
**Recreation
Opportunities
&
Beneficial Outcomes**

Working With Other Resources

How are the opportunities, experiences, and benefits tied to the physical setting?



Working With Other Resources

Is a pristine setting important to the RMZ?



Working With Other Resources

...or not important at all?



What about Wilderness Characteristics and VRM?

Wilderness Inventory and Study Procedures

Handbook, H-1630-1 was rescinded

Replaced with IM 2003-275, Change 1

Consideration of Wilderness

Characteristics in Land Use Plans

“The BLM can make a variety of land use plan decisions to protect wilderness characteristics, such as establishing Visual Resource Management (VRM) class objectives and other authorizations to achieve the desired level of resource protection”

What about Wilderness Characteristics and VRM?

VRM can be used as a tool to manage lands with wilderness characteristics



What about Wilderness Characteristics and VRM?

Can wilderness characteristics be managed as VRM Class I?



What about Plan Amendments?

Consider valid existing rights and reasonable foreseeable development scenarios



What about Plan Amendments?

What if there is a scenario that you didn't foresee?

Three Options

1. Deny
2. Mitigate
3. Amend the Plan



What about Wind Energy?

Programmatic EIS – amended 52 Land Use Plans



Going Beyond VRM Classes

- Land Use Handbook requires VRM Classes I-IV
- RMP process allows for further definition of standards
- Consider visual language within other allocations
- Consider cumulative impacts
- Language with Leases, development scenarios, off-site mitigation.

Going Beyond VRM

Night Sky



Going Beyond VRM

Visual ACEC

If the importance of the viewshed supersedes other resource considerations, a Visual ACEC can be considered



Going Beyond VRM

Visual ACEC

- Scenic Highway
- Scenic Byway
- Scenic Backway



Rehabilitation Areas

- Flag areas needing rehab during the inventory.
- Level of rehab will be determined by the visual objectives assigned in the RMP.
- Set goals that are achievable.

Interim Guidelines

WHAT DO YOU DO WHEN YOU HAVE NO VRM OBJECTIVES FOR AN AREA OF PUBLIC LAND?

- Develop interim classes using guidelines from H-8410-1.
- Management classes will reflect decisions made in the existing RMP.
- A plan amendment is not required unless the project driving the VRM evaluation requires one.