

# Design Strategies



# Design Strategies

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- Selecting Appropriate Colors
- Designing Earthwork Projects
- Manipulating Vegetation
- Designing and Siting Structures
- Locating Linear Alignments
- Reclaiming/Restoring Surface Disturbances

# Selecting Color

Landscapes exhibit complex color combinations



# Selecting Color

Color variation is the rule



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# Selecting Color

A single dominant color is often the exception

This sagebrush exhibits subtle color variation



# Selecting Color

Our goal is to select appropriate colors for projects being placed on public lands



# Selecting Color

## Use of Standard Environmental Colors



# Selecting Color

Inappropriate color selection



# Selecting Color

Widespread use of *Carlsbad Canyon*



# Selecting Color

Field Offices in  
the Rocky  
Mountain West  
widely specify  
*Carlsbad Canyon*



# Selecting Color

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## Strategies for Color Selection

- Choose a color that is equal to or slightly darker than the surroundings
- Dark colors retreat into the landscape
- Light colors advance, attract attention and create contrast
- Color is most effective at distances beyond  $\frac{1}{4}$  mile

# Selecting Color

Comparison of colors



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# Selecting Color

## Comparison of colors



# Selecting Color

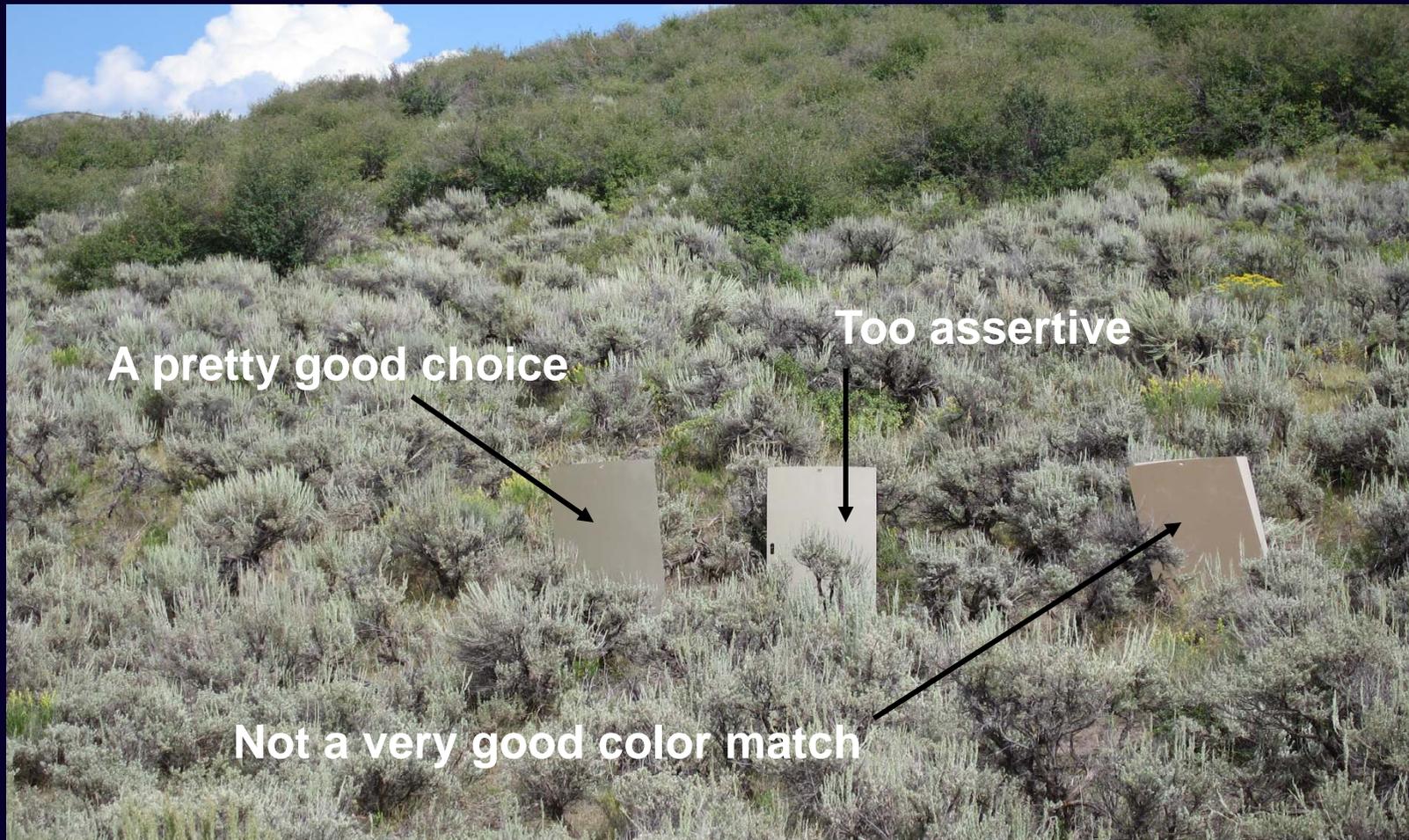
Which would you choose?



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# Selecting Color

Which would you choose?



# Selecting Color

Which color fits here?



# Selecting Color

Which color fits here?



The lighter colors obviously don't work.

# Selecting Color

Here are fewer choices.



This is my choice – *Covert Green*.

# Selecting Color

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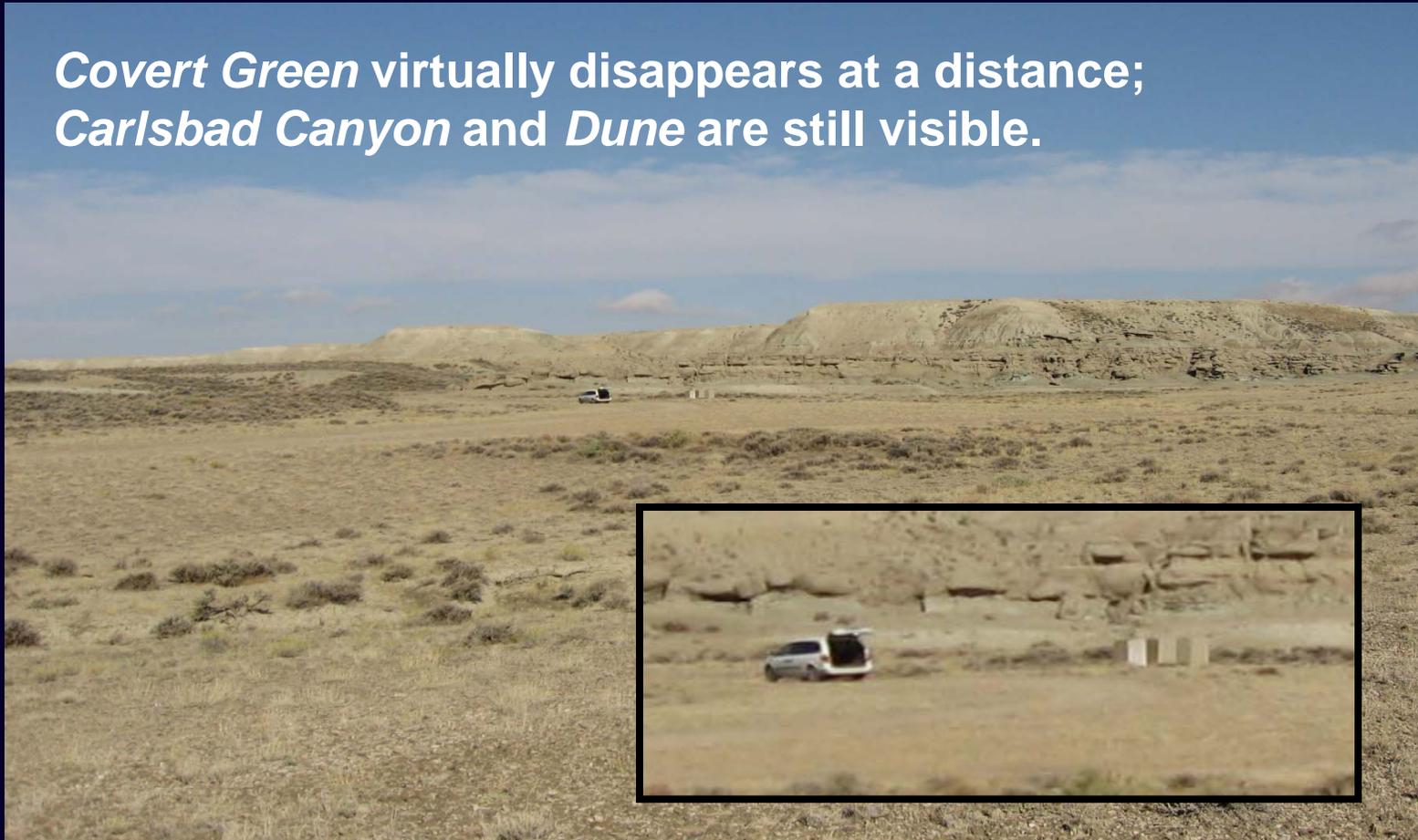
The same colors at a distance



# Selecting Color

The same colors at a distance

*Covert Green* virtually disappears at a distance;  
*Carlsbad Canyon* and *Dune* are still visible.



# Selecting Color

Possible colors in Ponderosa Pine



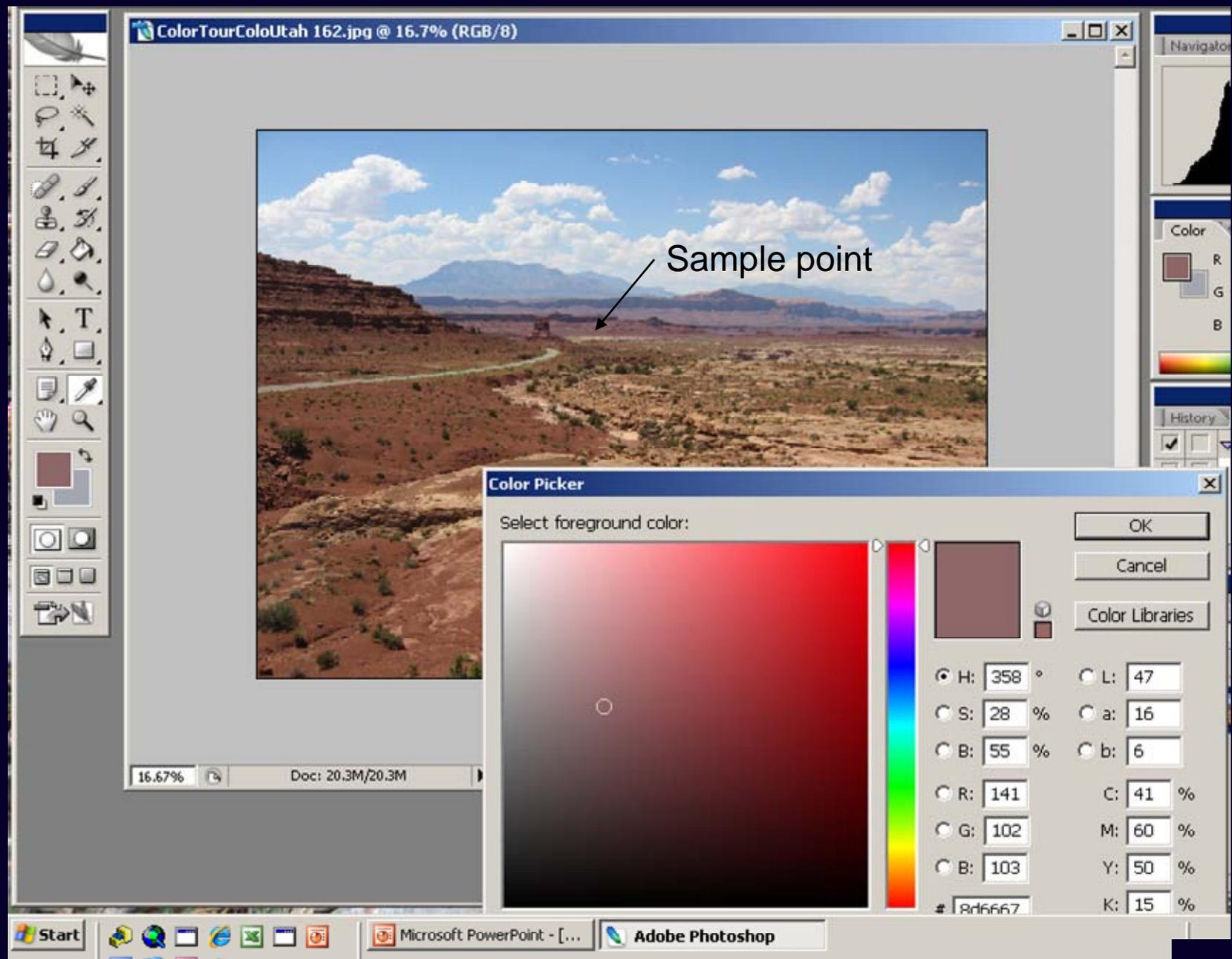
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# Selecting Color

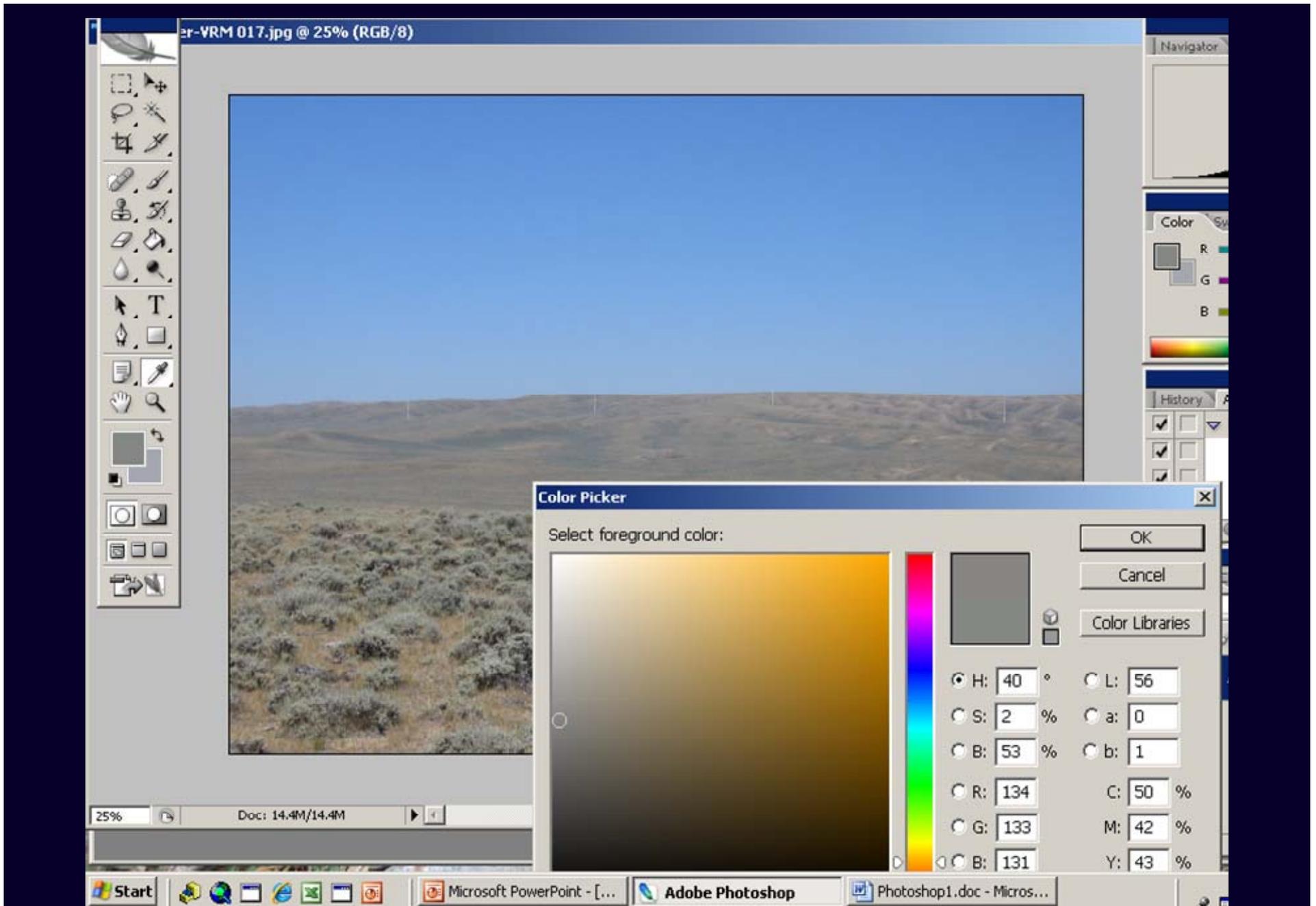
The darkest color is the best choice



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## UNIT 7 –Design Strategies

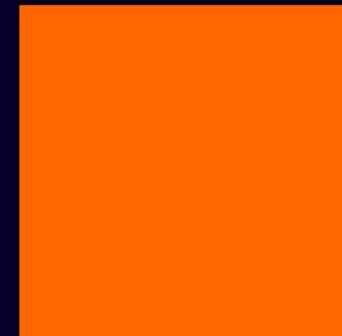
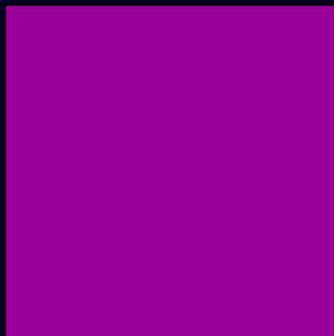
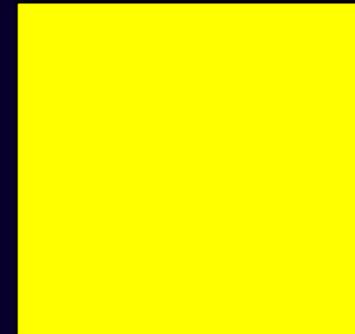
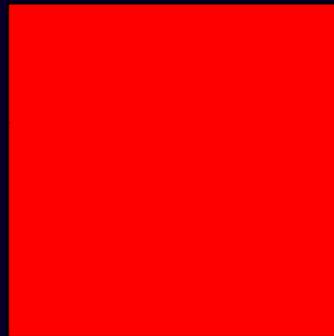
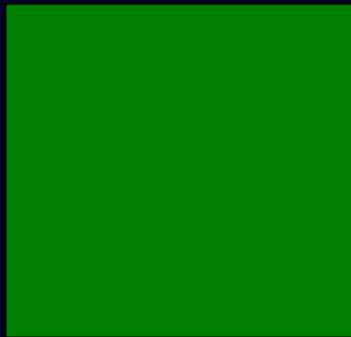


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# Selecting Color

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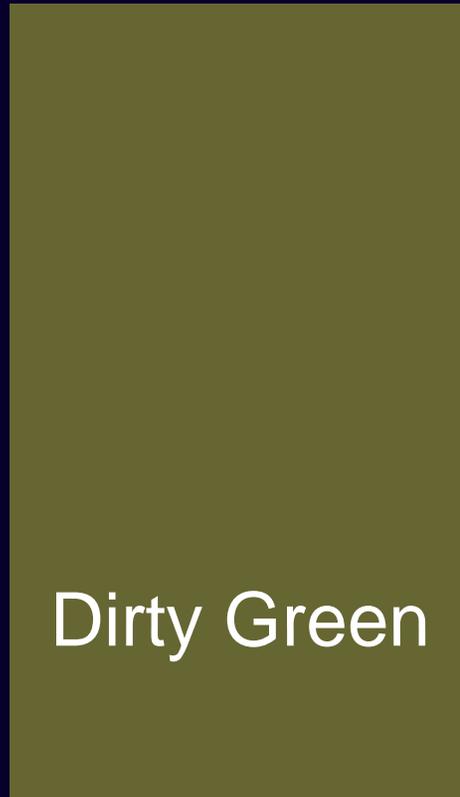
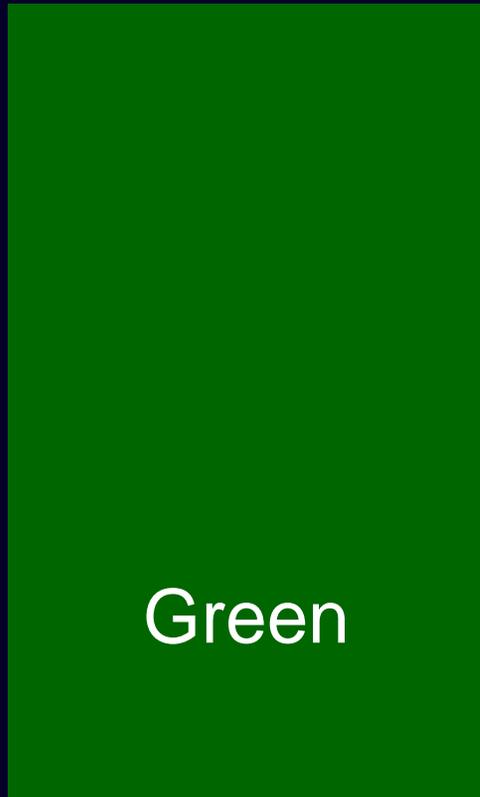
Primary and secondary colors



# Selecting Color

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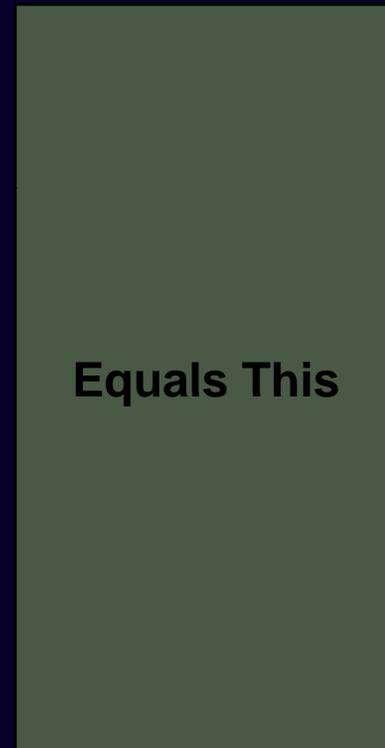
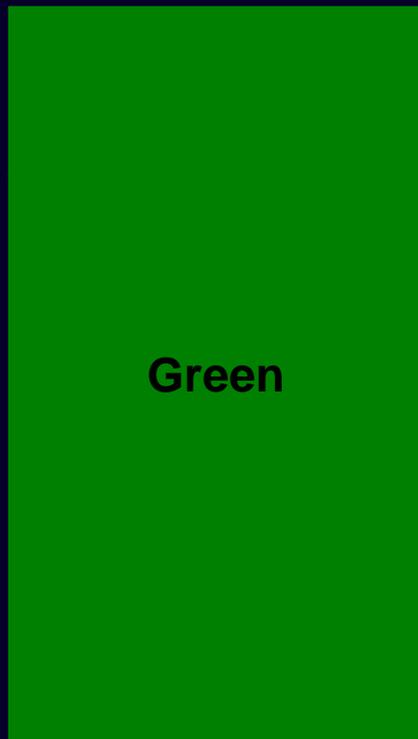
Several varieties of green



# Selecting Color

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The color **Gray** heavily influences western landscapes.



**Mixing Gray With Green**

# Selecting Color

## Typical "Green" Landscape



# Selecting Color



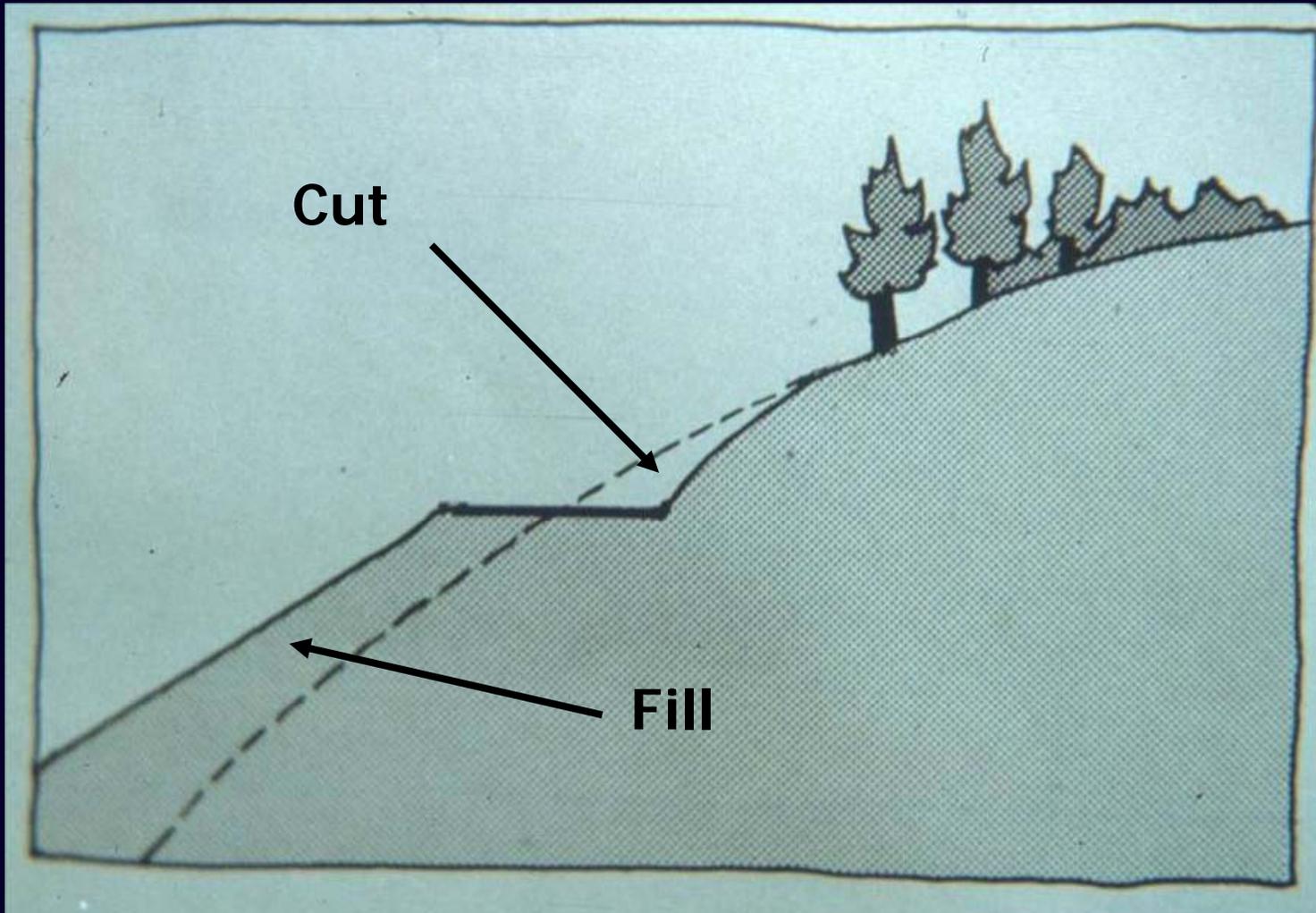
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# Earthwork

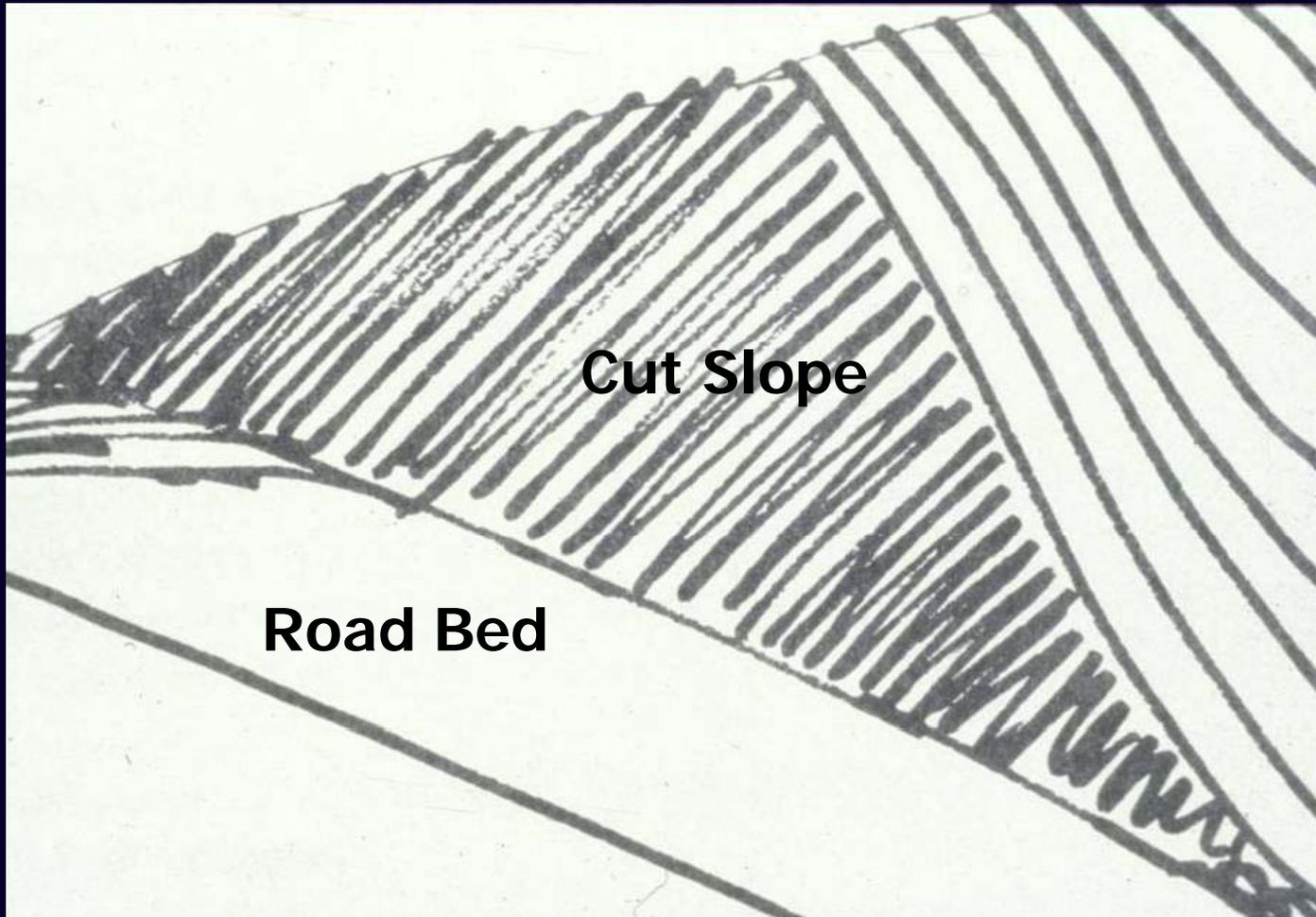


Avoid casting excavated material down slope.

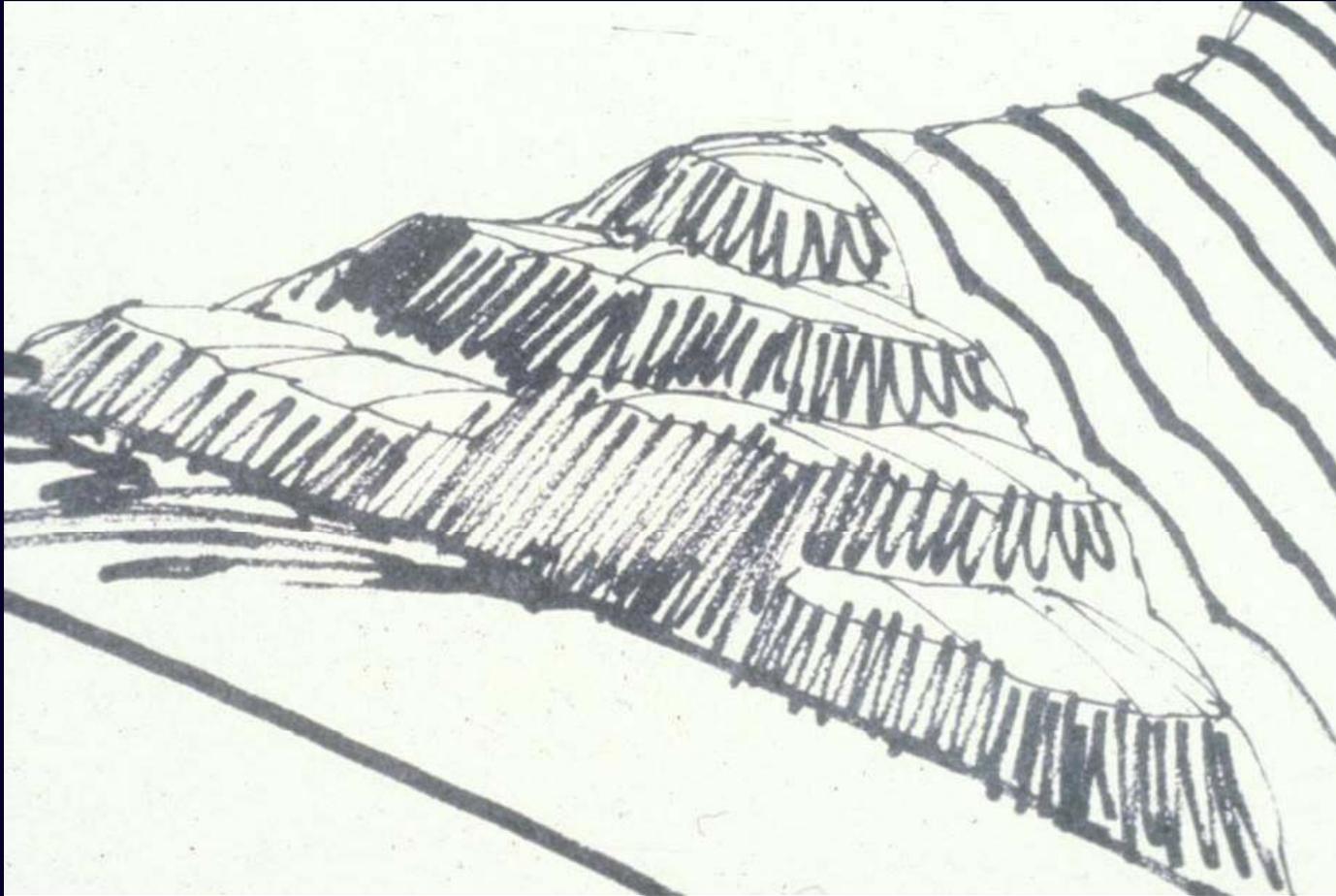
# Earthwork



# Earthwork

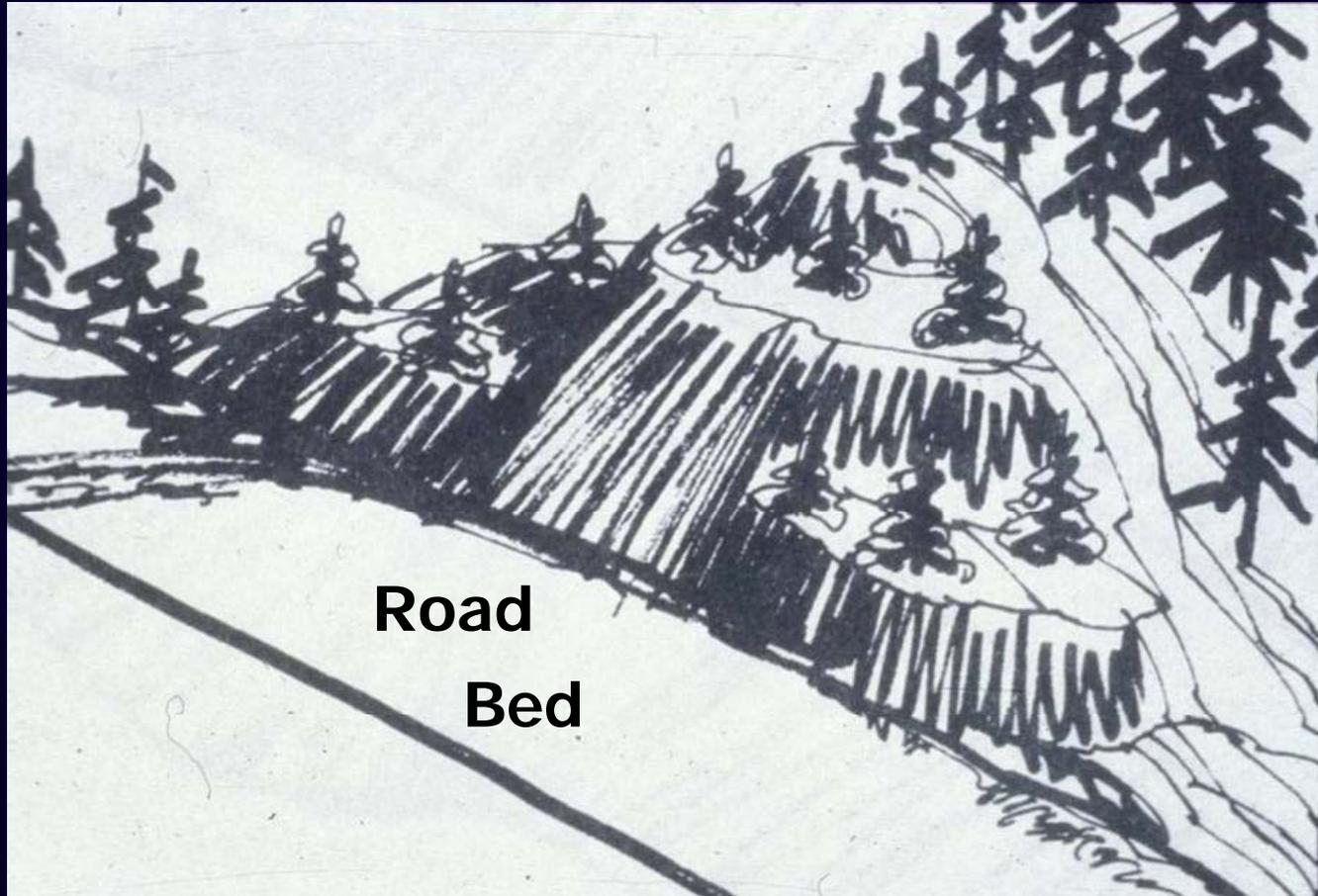


# Earthwork



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# Earthwork



# Earthwork



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# Earthwork



- Pitted surface facilitates entrapment of water, seed, and organic matter.
- Pitted surface often mimics surrounding texture in landscape.

# Earthwork

Six Months Later



One Year Later



# Vegetative Manipulation



Prescribed Fire

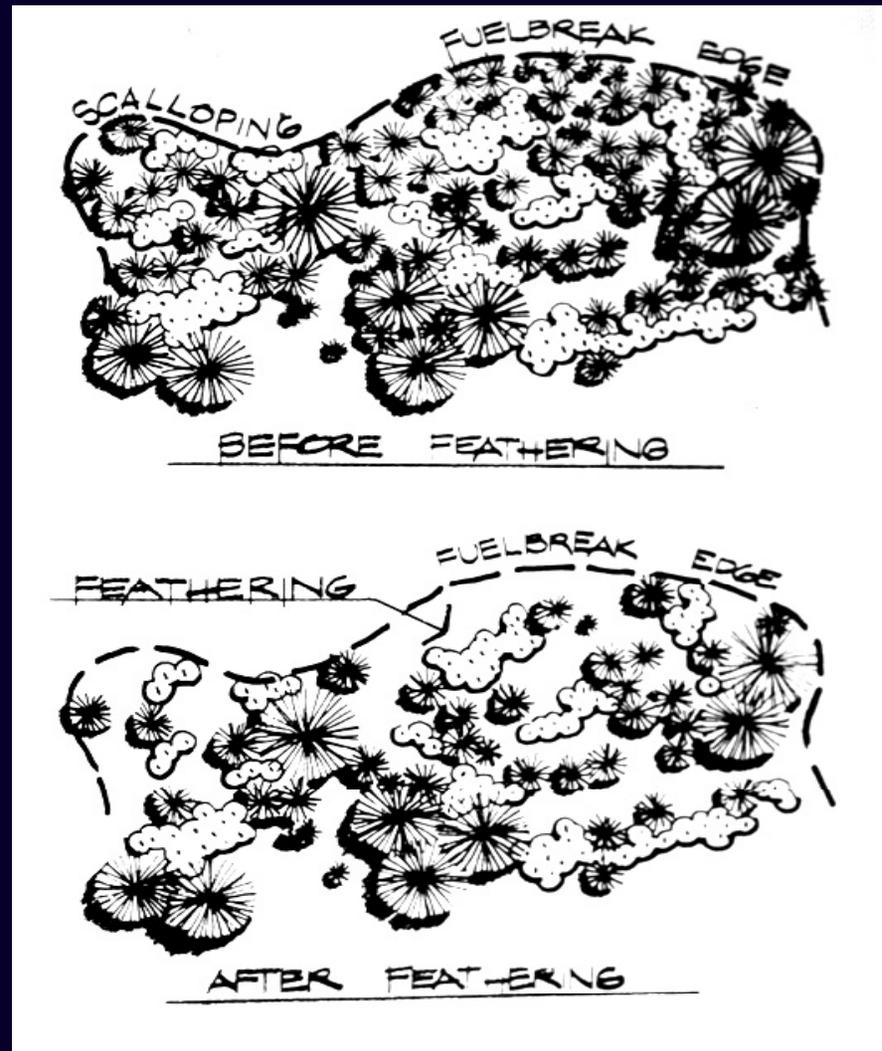
# Vegetative Manipulation



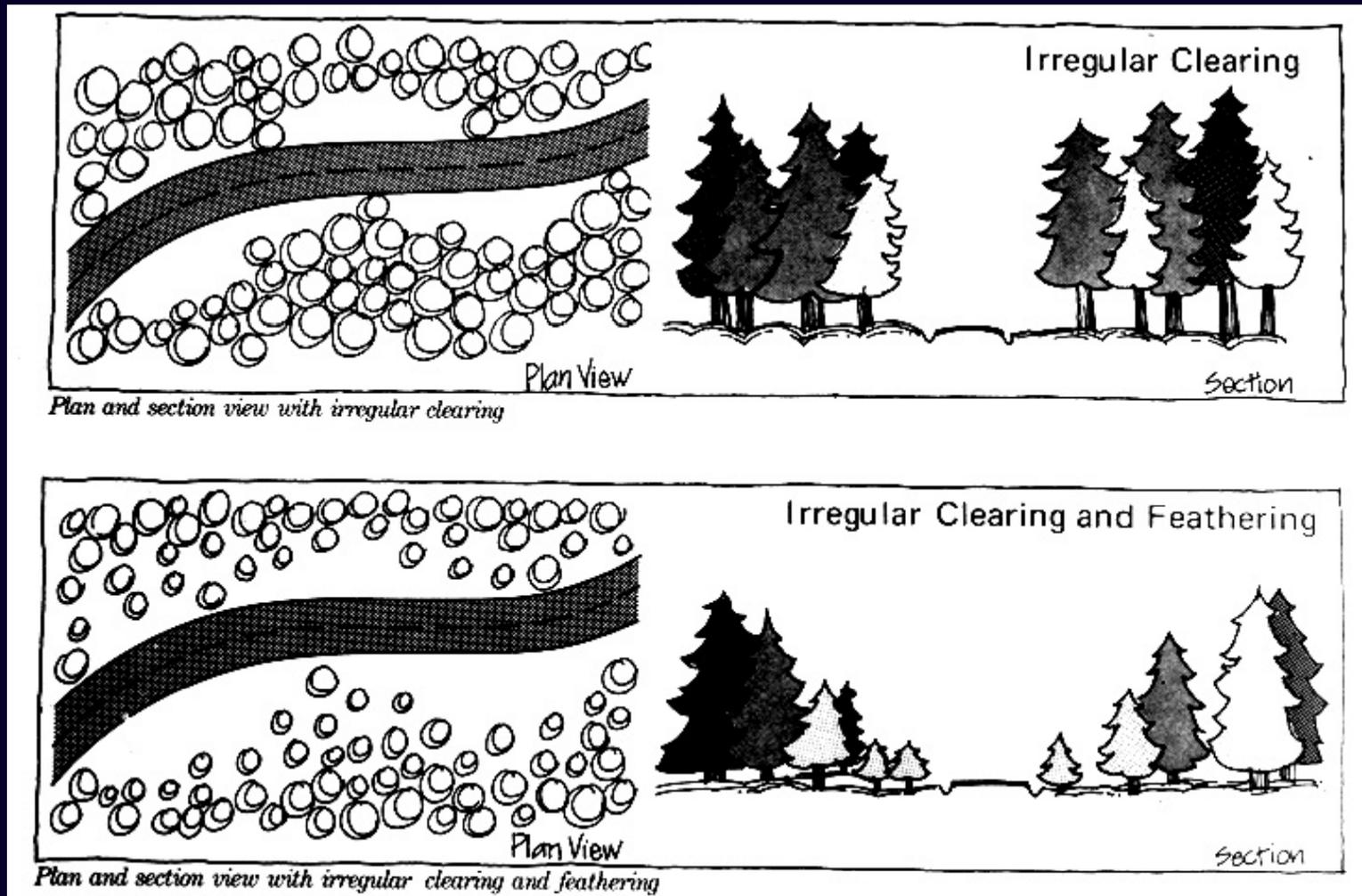
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# Vegetative Manipulation

Feathering  
edges along  
Rights-of-way



# Vegetative Manipulation



# Vegetative Manipulation



A more gradual transition from forest to meadow

# Designing & Locating Structures



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# Designing & Locating Structures



Tanks sky-lined at the edge of a huge pad (not a BLM well).



# Designing & Locating Structures

Oil & Gas  
location  
screened by  
topography



# Locating Linear Alignments

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- Fit contour of landscape
- Repeat Landscape Character Elements
- Don't over-build
- Co-locate with other facilities

# Locating Linear Alignments

There are lots of poor examples out there



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# Locating Linear Alignments

Ski Area Development (not quite so bad)



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# Locating Linear Alignments

Improper Location of Rights-of-way



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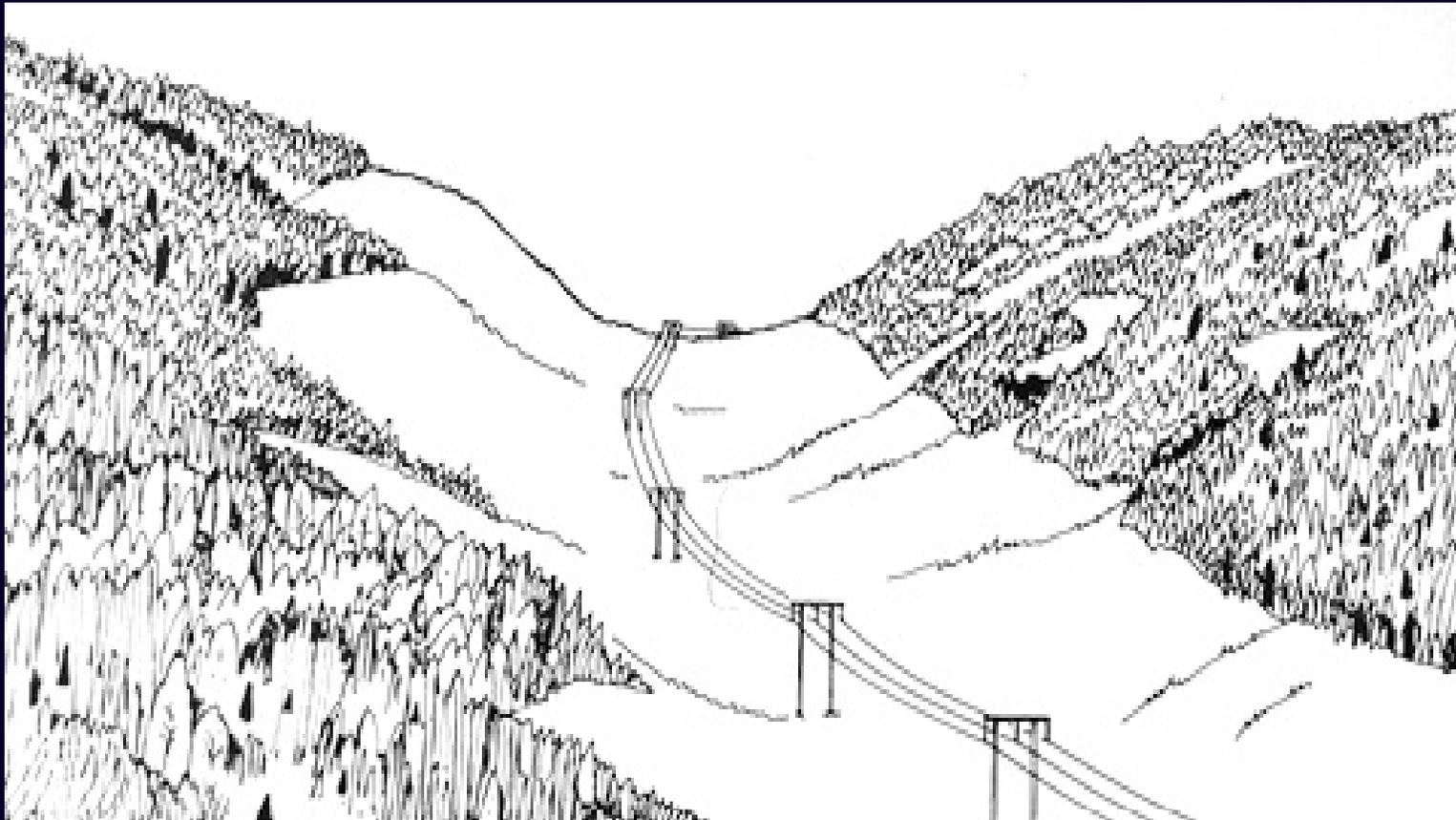
# Locating Linear Alignments

Power line located below ridge; repeats elements



# Locating Linear Alignments

Power line located in opening; creates new line



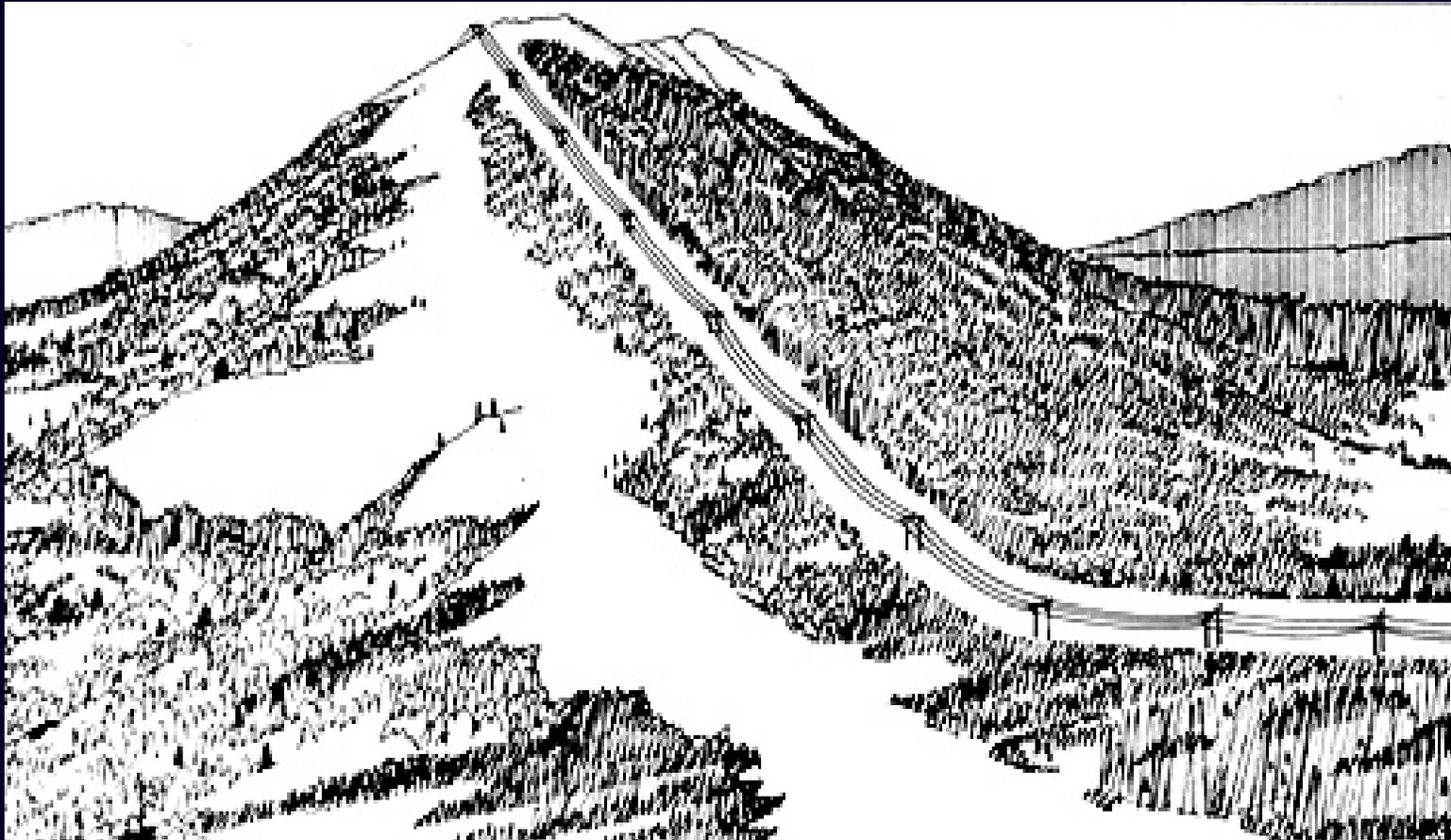
# Locating Linear Alignments

Relocate ROW to edge of opening; repeat linear element



# Locating Linear Alignments

Design Considerations?



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# Locating Linear Alignments

Repeating the element "LINE"



# Locating Linear Alignments

Co-locate roads & pipelines



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# Reclamation & Land Restoration



**Visual Reclamation/Restoration means:**

Restoration of Form, Line, Color &  
Texture of Landforms & Vegetation

# Reclamation & Land Restoration

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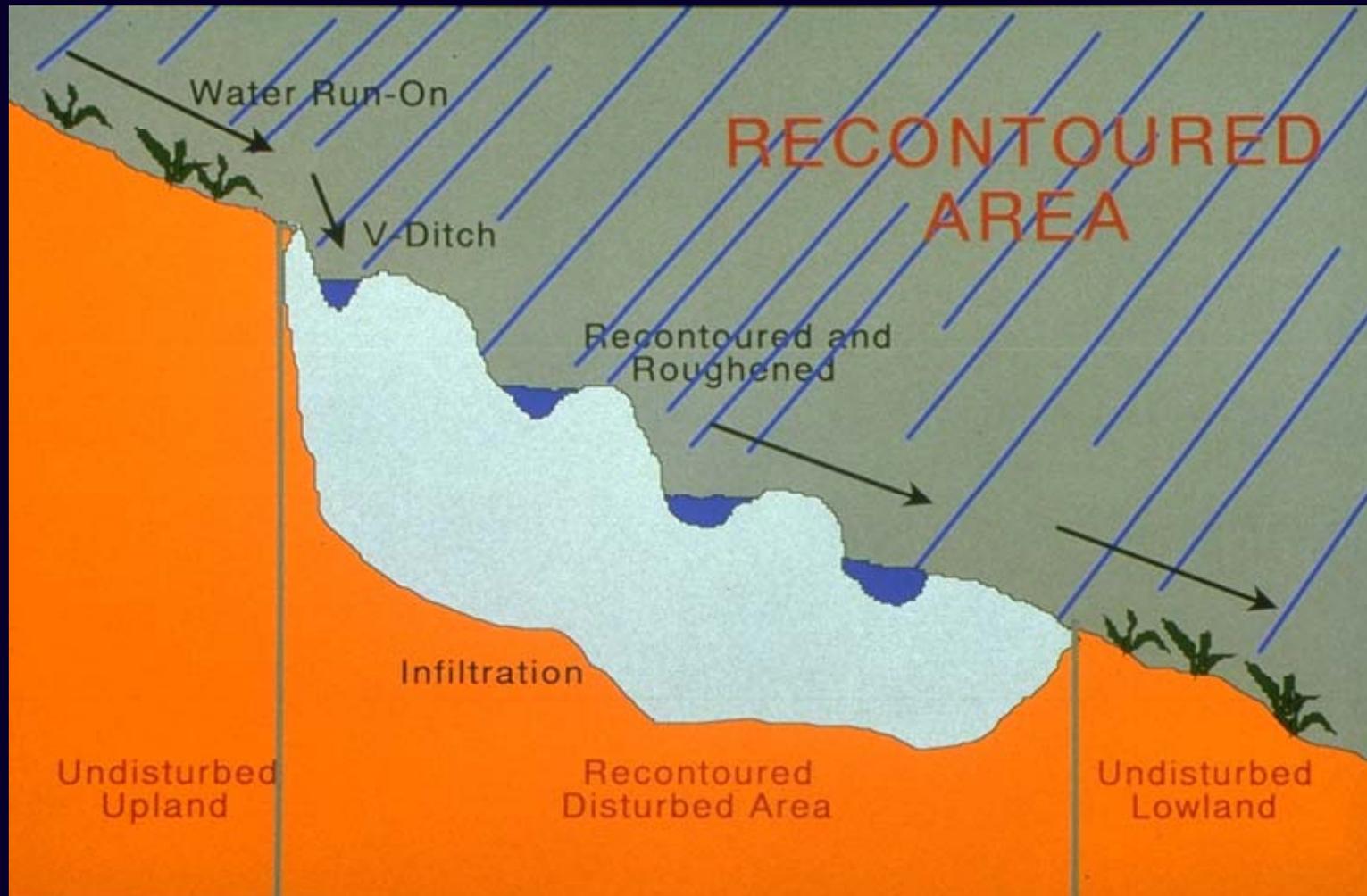
Reclamation Should

**ALWAYS**

Have

A Visual Objective

# Reclamation & Land Restoration



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# Reclamation & Land Restoration

Road closing and rehabilitation



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# Reclamation & Land Restoration

Completed road rehab project



UNIT 7 –Design Strategies

# Reclamation & Land Restoration

Completed road rehab project



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# Reclamation & Land Restoration

## Pipeline construction



# Reclamation & Land Restoration

Completed pipeline project



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# Reclamation & Land Restoration

Re-establish vegetation on the location



# Reclamation & Land Restoration

Reclamation that restored Form, Color, & Texture



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# Reclamation & Land Restoration



Has the visual character of this area been successfully restored?

# Reclamation & Land Restoration

Inadequate reclamation & land restoration results

- **Hastened erosion of disturbed soils**
- **Loss of forage productivity**
- **Loss of wildlife habitat**
- **Spread of weeds**
- **Negative visual impacts**

