

# Course Wrap Up

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# Overall Course Objective

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Having participated in the course, you should be able to:

- Describe the basic principles and concepts of VRM
- Communicate the role of VRM in land use planning and activity planning within the Bureau.
- Demonstrate knowledge/skills to: inventory visual resources, analyze landscape, develop mitigations for minimizing contrast.

# Unit Highlights



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- Scenic resources are a public resource
- BLM has legal obligation
- **VRM system**
  - Inventory scenic values
  - Establish Mgt. Classes
  - Evaluate/design activities to meet classes



2

- VRM is like “Language for Landscapes”
  - **Types** of Landscapes
  - **Elements** of Landscape Character
    - FORM, LINE, COLOR, TEXTURE
  - **Analysis Factors**



# Unit Highlights



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## • Land Use Planning and VRM

- VRM Inventory Classes
  - Scenic Quality
  - Sensitivity Levels
  - Distance Zones

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- VRM Management Classes I-IV
- GIS, RMP, other Allocations

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## • Project Level Planning and VRM

- Site Planning Considerations
- Observation
- Project Design
- Design Strategies
- Environmental Factors

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# Unit Highlights



8

- **Project Analysis and Evaluation**
  - Visual Contrast Rating System
    - Project Description
    - Identify VRM Objectives
    - Key Observation Points (KOP)
    - Visual Simulations
    - Contrast Rating Form



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- **Writing Good EA's**
  - Proposed Action
  - Alternative
  - Affected Environment
  - Environmental Consequences
  - Mitigation

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT		
VISUAL CONTRAST RATING WORKSHEET		Date: _____
SECTION A. PROJECT INFORMATION		Project Name: _____
1. Project Name: _____	4. Location: _____	5. Location Sketch: _____
2. Key Observation Point: _____	Route: _____	
3. VRM Class: _____	Notes: _____	
SECTION B. VISUAL CONTRAST RATING DESCRIPTION		
1. LANDSCAPE: _____	2. VISUAL QUALITY: _____	



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- **Monitoring and compliance**



12

- **Design and Mitigation Experiences**

# Unit Highlights



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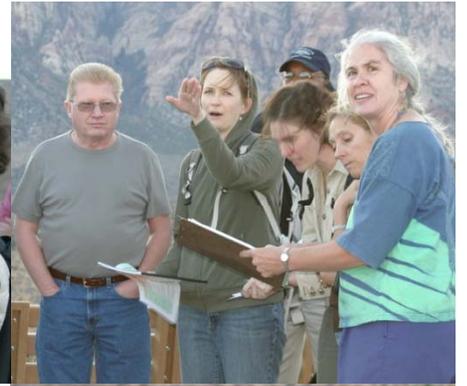
# Unit Highlights



# Unit Highlights



UNIT 16



# Unit Highlights



UNIT 16

# Unit Highlights



UNIT 16

# VRM Activities

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- VRM Clarification IM
- Tech Note 407 Update
- VRM GIS Standards
- VRM Manuals and Handbooks
- Research on affect of distance on wind turbine visibility
- Camouflage technology
- Software development for contrast rating
- Oil and gas cumulative effects thresholds
- Wyoming Reclamation Policy
- VRM Training program expansion – 2 day short course

# Final Comments

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- Members of the VRM Elite - please be assertive stewards of our BLM settings in protecting BLM's VRM values
- Call upon the instructors if you need assistance
- Share your challenges and successes with us and your fellow students
- Encourage customers to use qualified contractors the conduct VRM analysis.
- Scenic America and Brad Cownover [www.scenic.org](http://www.scenic.org)

**Thank you for coming and safe travels**



**UNIT 16**