

Visual Resource Inventory- BASICS



Unit Objective

Understand how to conduct a VRM Inventory and create Inventory Classes



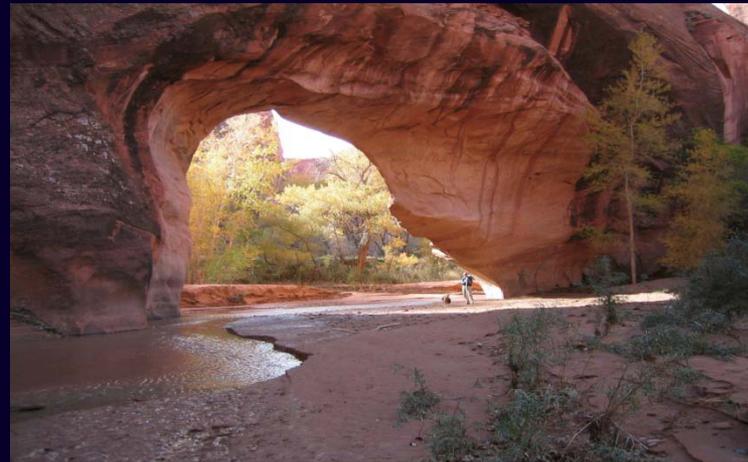
Principle Components of VRM System

- 1 • **Inventory Scenic Values**
 - Scenic Quality, Sensitivity Level, Distance Zones
 - (Required for every acre of BLM land)
- 2 • **Establish Management Objectives** (Land Use Planning)
 - (Required for every acre of BLM land)
 - Part of land use decisions
- 3 • **Design/ Evaluate Activities** to meet objectives (Project)
 - Contrast Rating Form



Visual Resource Inventory

- **Systematic Process**
 - Objectivity
 - Repeatability
- Extent & Quality
 - Amount
 - Location
 - Relative Values



VRM Inventory Process

Inventory Process Has 3 Parts

- Scenic Quality Evaluation
- Sensitivity Level Analysis
- Visibility- Distance Zones



Based on Inventory of Three Factors

.... BLM Lands are rated as;

- Class I *
- Class II
- Class III
- Class IV

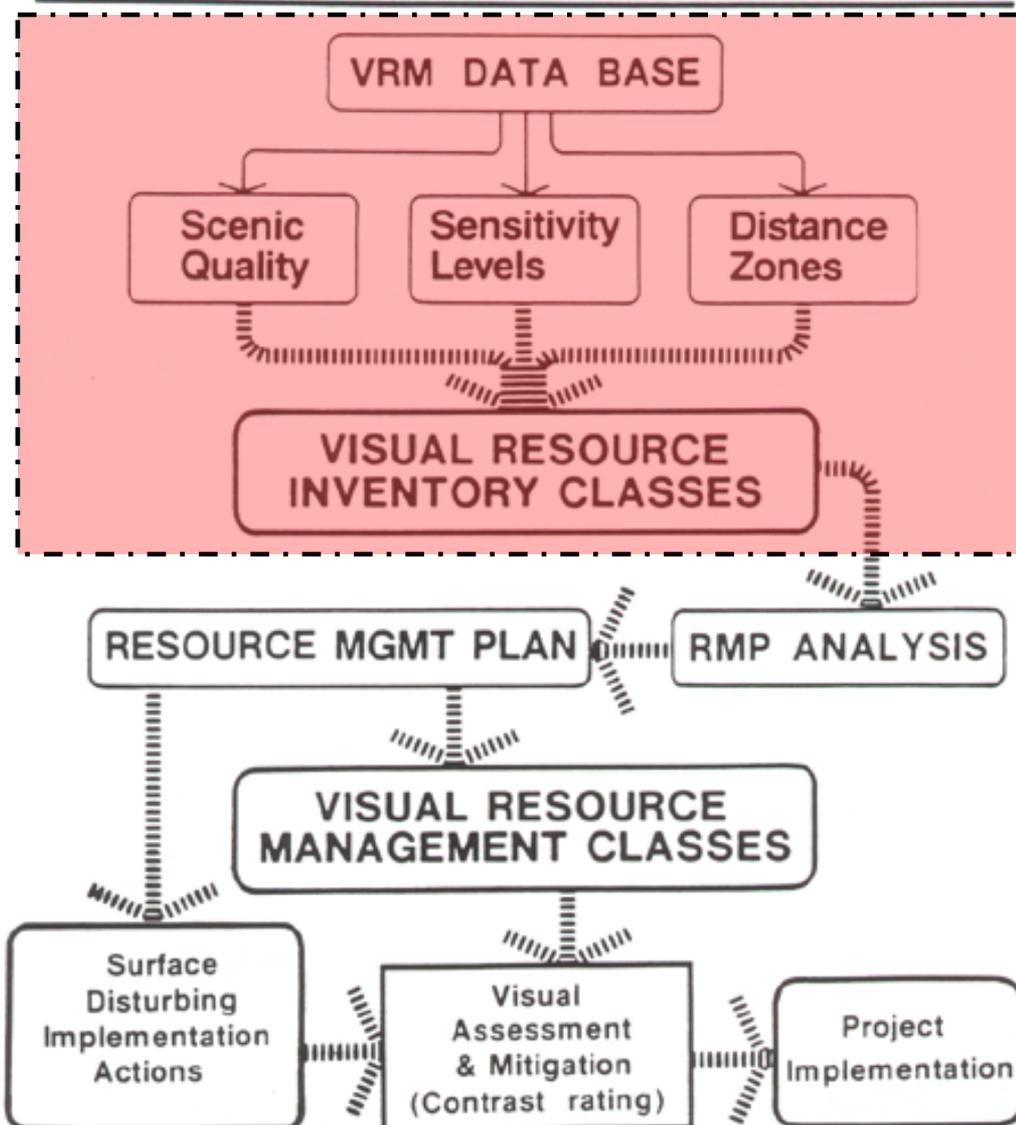
**Basis for Determining
Visual Resource Inventory Classes**

		Visual Sensitivity Levels						
		High		Medium		Low		
Special Areas		I	I	I	I	I	I	I
Scenic Quality	A	II	II	II	II	II	II	II
	B	II	III	III/IV*	III	IV	IV	IV
	C	III	IV	IV	IV	IV	IV	IV
		f/m	b	s/s	f/m	b	s/s	s/s
		Distance Zones						

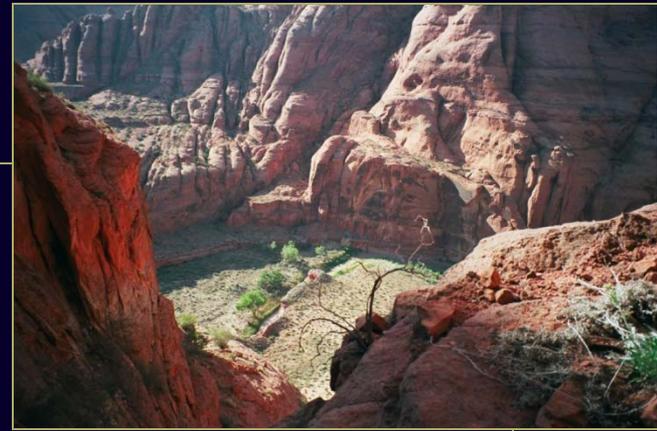
* if adjacent area is Class III or lower, (ie - Class II) assign Class III, if higher, (ie. Class IV) Class IV

Inventory classes, NOT Mgt. classes!

Visual Resource Management



Inventory Process



- **Scenic Quality Evaluation**
- Sensitivity Level Analysis
- Delineation of Distance Zones

Scenic Quality Evaluation



Scenic Quality Evaluation

All lands have scenic value but areas with the most variety & the most harmonious composition have the greatest scenic value.

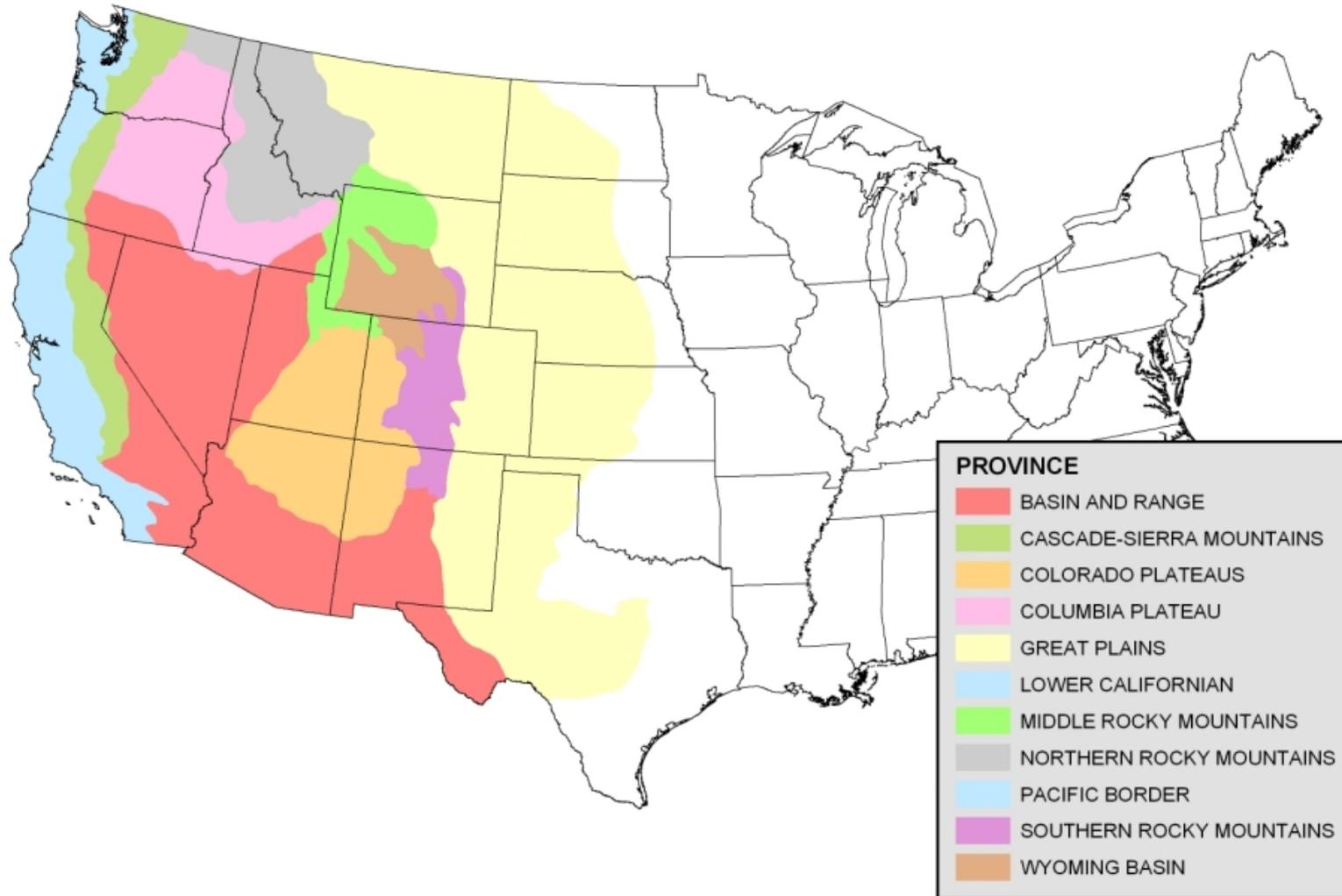


Scenic Quality Evaluation

- Evaluate in relationship to the natural landscape.
- Doesn't mean built features necessarily detract!
- A measure of the visual appeal of a tract of land.
- Given an **A**, **B**, or **C** rating

Scenic Quality Evaluation

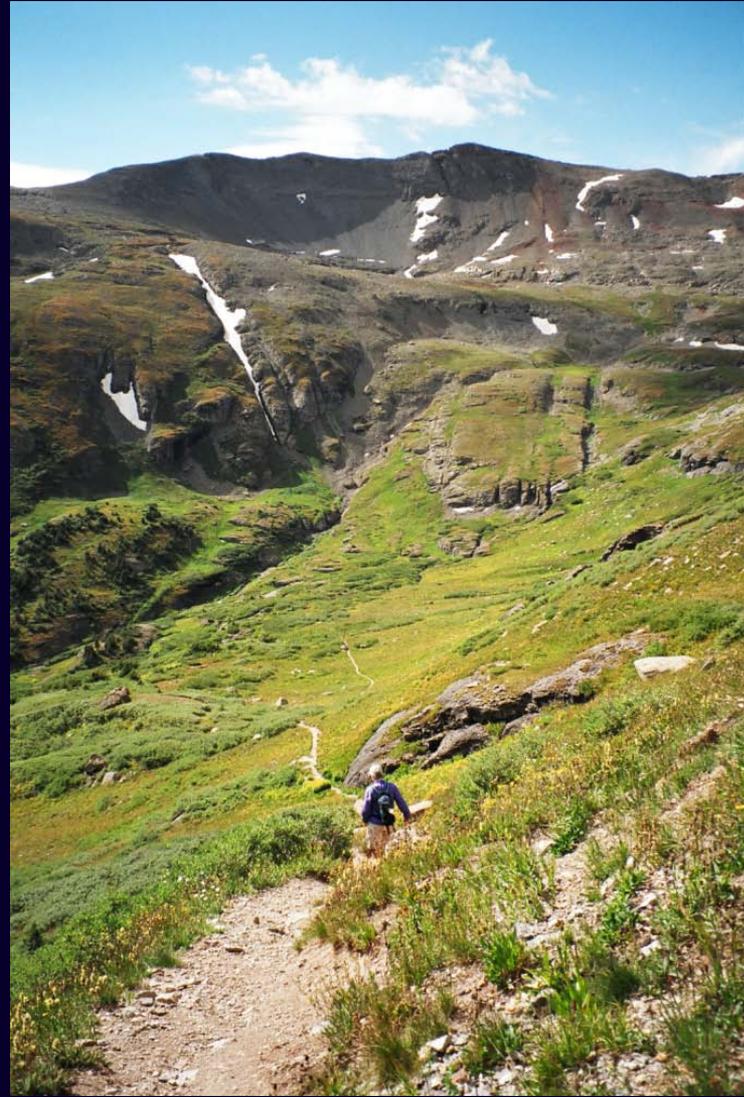
Physiographic Provinces of the Western United States



Scenic Quality Evaluation



Colorado Plateau



Southern Rocky Mountains

Scenic Quality Evaluation



Colorado Plateau



Colorado Plateau

Scenic Quality Evaluation

Determined Using 7 Key Factors

- **Landform** Steep & massive - more interest
- **Vegetation** Variety of pattern, form, texture
- **Water** Adds movement, serenity
- **Color** Season, high use period
- **Adjacent Scenery** Enhances overall impression
- **Scarcity** Relative uniqueness
- **Cultural Modifications** Detract or compliment

Landform

Topography gets more interesting as it gets steeper and more massive, or more severely sculpted



Vegetation

Give primary consideration to the variety of patterns, forms, color, and texture created by plant life.



Water

- Water can have a profound impact on scenery
- Degree to which water dominates the scene
- Movement and/or Serenity



Water



Color

- Consider the Overall Color in the Landscape
- Key Factors are Variety, Contrast, and Harmony



Contrast in Color



Adjacent Scenery

The degree to which scenery outside the unit being rated enhances the overall impression of the scenery within the rating unit.



Adjacent Scenery



Lack of "Adjacent Scenery"



Scarcity

Adds importance to scenic features that may be relatively unique within a physiographic region.



Cultural Modifications

- May detract or compliment
- May improve scenic quality of an area



Scenic Quality Evaluations

- **Team**
- **Several Viewpoints**
 - **Inventory Observation Points (IOPs)**
- **Overall Impression within Scenic Quality Rating Unit (SQRU)**
- **Photographic Record**
- **Documentation- Forms 8400-1**



UNITED STATES
DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT

SCENIC QUALITY FIELD INVENTORY

Date
District
Resource Area
Scenic quality rating unit

1. Evaluators (*names*)

2. LANDSCAPE CHARACTER (*Feature*)

	a. LANDFORM/WATER	b. VEGETATION	c. STRUCTURE (<i>General</i>)
FORM			
LINE			
COLOR			
TEXTURE			

3. Narrative

Handbook 8410

4. SCORE (*Circle Appropriate Level*)*

	HIGH	MEDIUM	LOW	EXPLANATION OR RATIONALE	SCENIC QUALITY CLASSIFICATION <input type="checkbox"/> A — 19 or more <input type="checkbox"/> B — 12-18 <input type="checkbox"/> C — 11 or less
a. Landform	5	3	1		
b. Vegetation	5	3	1		
c. Water	5	3	0		
d. Color	5	3	1		
e. Adjacent Scenery	5	3	0		
f. Scarcity	5+	3	1		
g. Cultural Modification	2	0	-4		
TOTALS	+	+	=		

- FORM
- LINE
- COLOR
- TEXTURE

Scenic Quality Evaluation

Form 8400-1
(September 1985)

UNITED STATES
DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT

SCENIC QUALITY FIELD INVENTORY

Date

District

Resource Area

Scenic quality rating unit

1. Evaluators (*names*)

2. LANDSCAPE CHARACTER (*Feature*)

a. LANDFORM/WATER

b. VEGETATION

c. STRUCTURE (*General*)

FORM

LINE

COLOR

TEXTURE

Scenic Quality Evaluation

3. Narrative

Overall landscape character description...

4. SCORE (Circle Appropriate Level)*					SCENIC QUALITY CLASSIFICATION
	HIGH	MEDIUM	LOW	EXPLANATION OR RATIONALE	
a. Landform	5	3	1		<input type="checkbox"/> A – 19 or more <input type="checkbox"/> B – 12–18 <input type="checkbox"/> C – 11 or less
b. Vegetation	5	3	1		
c. Water	5	3	0		
d. Color	5	3	1		
e. Adjacent Scenery	5	3	0		
f. Scarcity	5+	3	1		
g. Cultural Modification	2	0	-4		
TOTALS		+	+	=	

(Instructions on reverse)

SCENIC QUALITY

Inventory and Evaluation Chart

SCENIC QUALITY INVENTORY AND EVALUATION CHART

Key Factors	Rating Criteria and Score		
Landform	High vertical relief as expressed in prominent cliffs, spires, or massive rock outcrops; or severe surface variation or highly eroded formations including major badlands or dune systems; or detail features dominant and exceptionally striking and intriguing such as glaciers. 5	Steep canyons, mesas, buttes, cinder cones, and drumlins; or interesting erosional patterns or variety in shape and size of landforms; or detail features which are interesting though not dominant or exceptional. 3	Low rolling hills, foothills, or flat valley bottoms, or few or no interesting landscape features. 1
Vegetation	Variety of vegetative types as expressed in interesting forms, textures, and patterns 5	Some variety of vegetation but only one or two major types 3	Little or no variety or contrast in vegetation. 1
Water	Clear and clean appearing, still or cascading white water, any of which are a dominant factor in the landscape. 5	Flowing or still, but not dominant in the landscape. 3	Absent, or present but not noticeable. 0
Color	Rich color combinations, variety or vivid color, or pleasing contrasts in the soil, rock, vegetation, water, or snowfields. 5	Some intensity or variety in colors and contrast of the soil, rock, and vegetation, but not a dominant scenic element. 3	Subtle color variations, contrast, or interest, generally mute tones. 1
Influence of Adjacent Scenery	Adjacent scenery greatly enhances visual quality. 5	Adjacent scenery moderately enhances overall visual quality. 3	Adjacent scenery has little or no influence on overall visual quality. 0
Scarcity	One of a kind, or unusually memorable, or very rare within the region. Consistent chance for exceptional wildlife or wildflower viewing. 5+	Distinctive, though somewhat similar to others within region. 3	Interesting within setting, but fairly common within the region. 1
Cultural Modifications	Modifications add favorably to visual variety while promoting visual harmony 2	Modifications add little or no visual variety to the area, and introduce no discordant elements. 0	Modifications add variety but are very discordant and promote strong disharmony. -4

SCENIC QUALITY: A = 19 or more, B = 12 – 18, C = 11 or less

4. SCORE (Circle Appropriate Level)*

	HIGH	MEDIUM	LOW	EXPLANATION OR RATIONALE
a. Landform	5 (4)	3	1	
b. Vegetation	5	3 (2)	1	
c. Water	(5)	3	0	
d. Color	(5)	3	1	
e. Adjacent Scenery	5 (4)	3	0	<i>see explanation on reverse</i>
f. Scarcity	5+	(3)	1	
g. Cultural Modification	2	0	(-3) 4	
TOTALS	18 +	5	+(-3) =	20

SCENIC QUALITY CLASSIFICATION

A — 19 or more

B — 12-18

C — 11 or less

(Instructions on reverse)

Scenic Quality Evaluations

You Will Use 7 Key Factors to Rank Lands
as **A**, **B**, or **C**

-w/in Physiographic Province



Class A Scenery



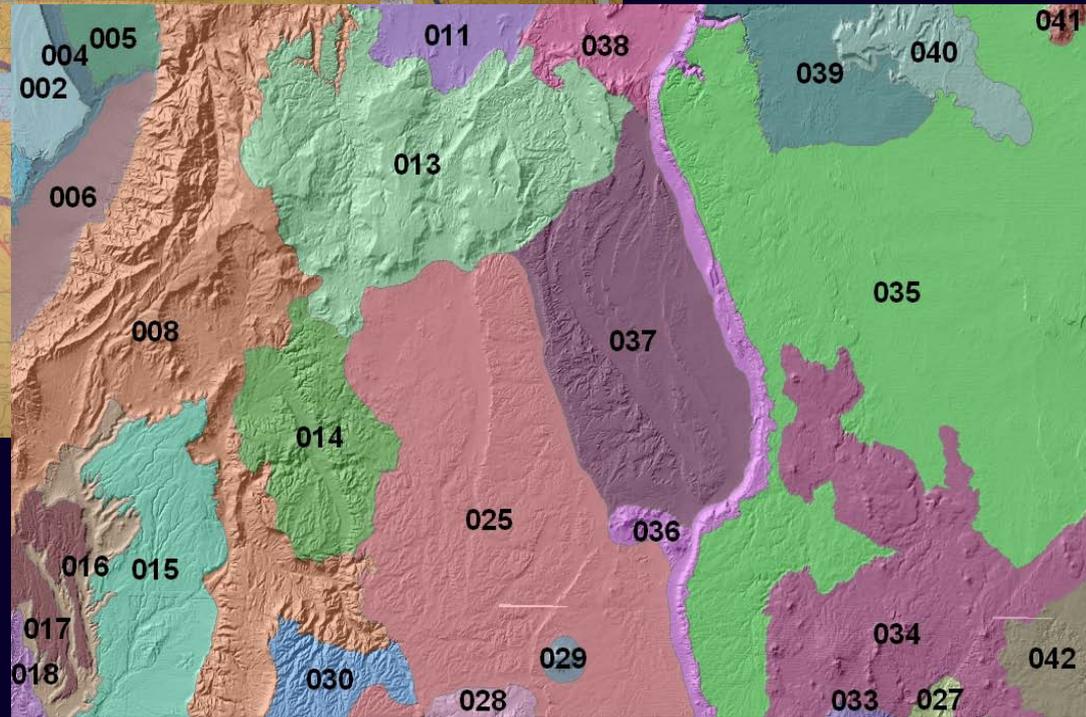
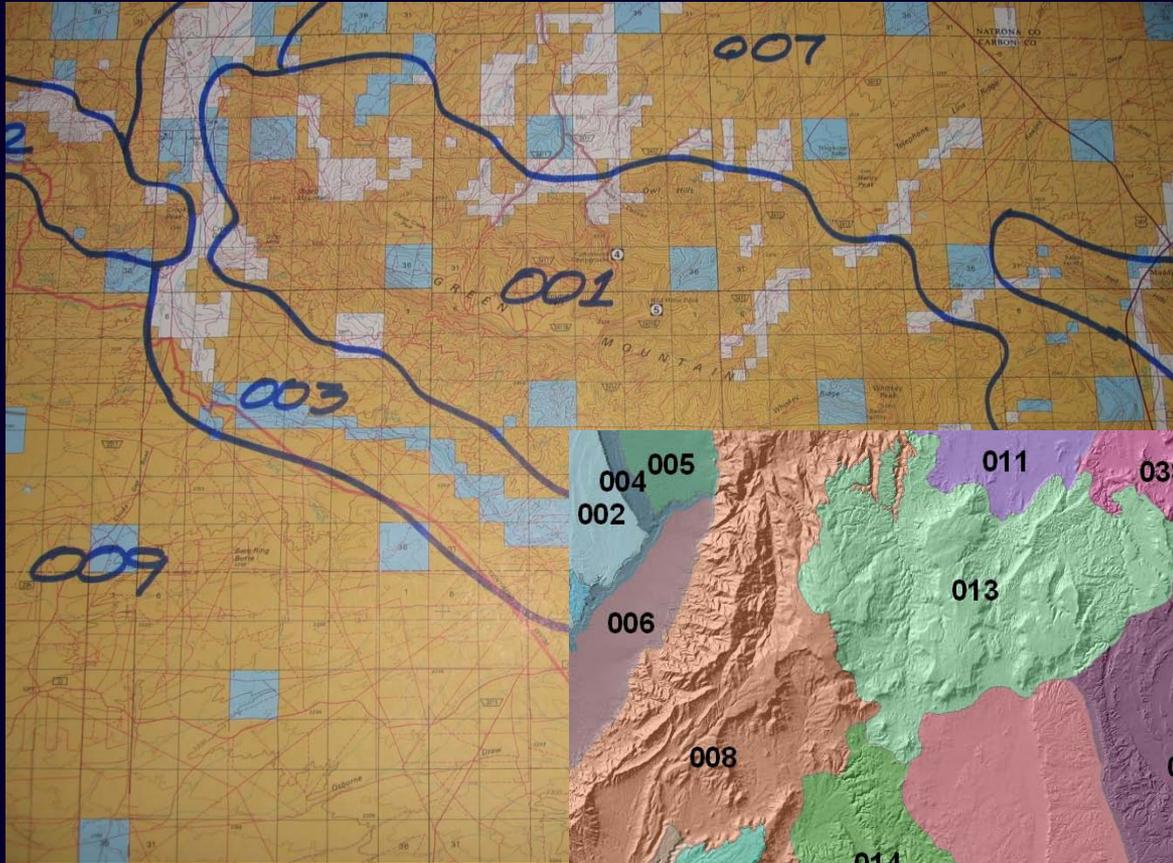
Class B Scenery



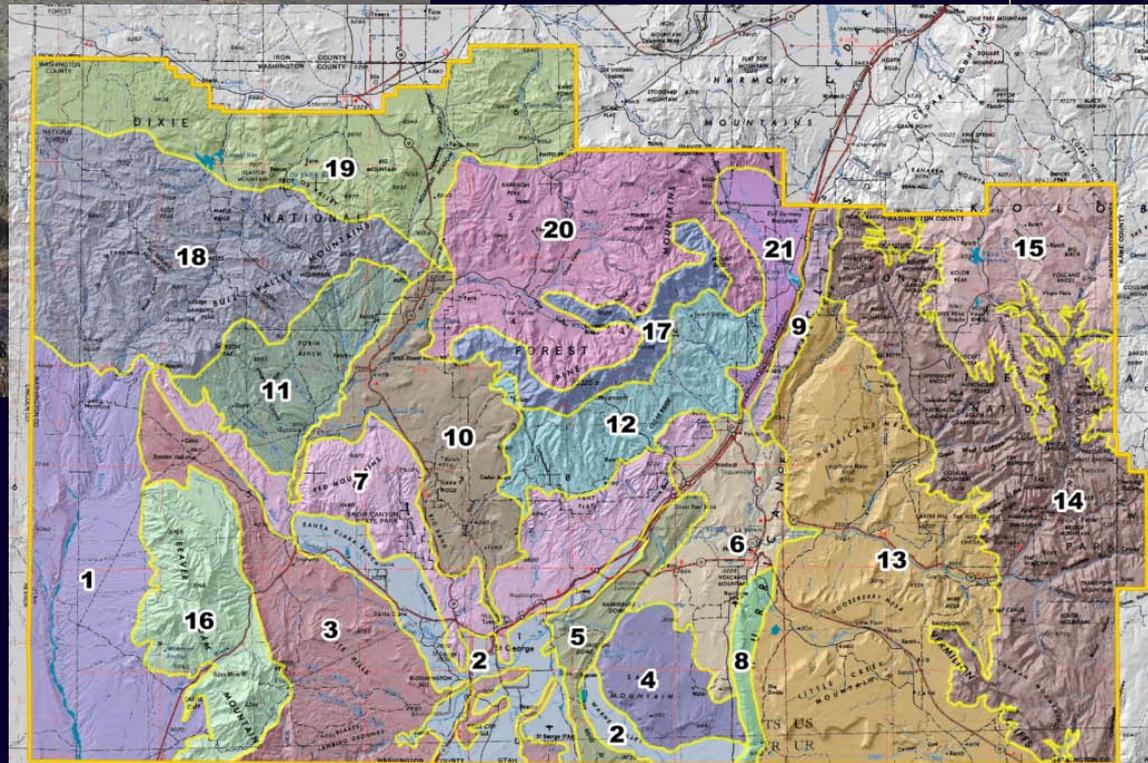
Class C Scenery



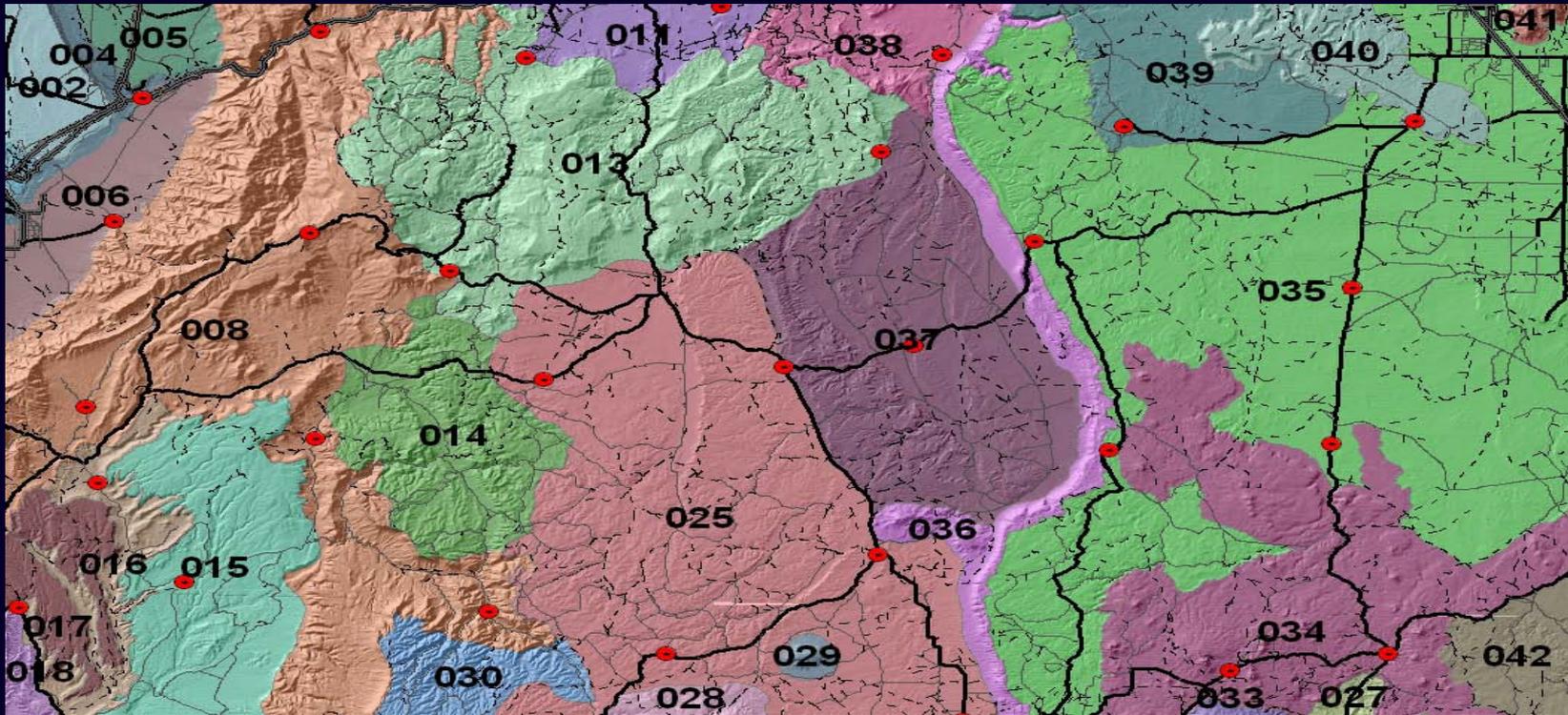
Scenic Quality Rating Units Paper/GIS



Rating Unit Size



Choosing IOP's



- 1) Along Road &/or within UNIT
- 2) Logical stopping places
- 3) Effectively evaluate the SQRU
- 4) Repeatable (Monitoring)

UNITED STATES
 DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
 BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT

Field Office: Las Cruces L00000 Date: 2/10/2010

Scenic Quality Rating Unit: Lake Valley Time (24hr format): 14:30

Unit Number: 32

1. Evaluators: CLaPierre SThompson LÜtter

2. LANDSCAPE CHARACTER (Features)

	A. Landform/Water	B. Vegetation	C. Structures
Form	Broad, mesa-like valley with deeply incised drainages; some badlands features in drainages	Low, sparse; mostly creosote, some cottonwood in drainages	Roads, power lines, communication tower, ranches, small communities
Line	Horizontal but vertical at drainages	Horizontal except vertical cottonwood	Typically horizontal
Color	Tans, dark browns, grays	Tan, olive green, silvery green; seasonally green	Typically light-colored structures
Texture	Smooth except rough at drainages	Fine	Varies

3. Narrative:

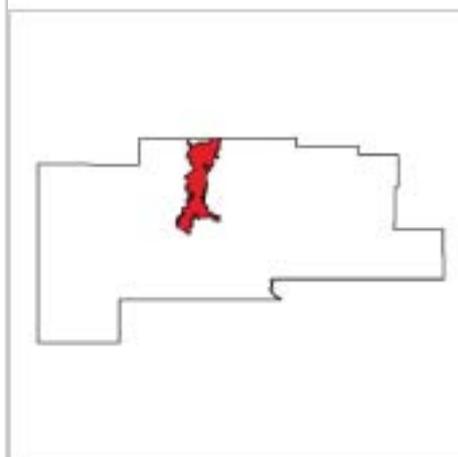
Formed by Rio Grande Valley to the east, Mimbres Mountains unit to the north and west, and Las Uvas unit to the south.

Scenic Quality Rating Unit: Lake Valley

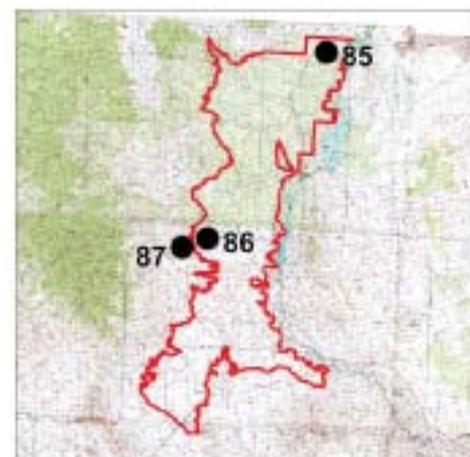
4. SCORE			SCENIC QUALITY CLASSIFICATION (check one)
	Rating	EXPLANATION OR RATIONALE	
a. Landform	2	Steep drainages	<input type="checkbox"/> A - 19 or more <input type="checkbox"/> B - 12 - 18 <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> C - 11 or less
b. Vegetation	1.5	Some trees but few	
c. Water	0	None present	
d. Color	1	Highly muted	<input type="checkbox"/> Rehab <input type="checkbox"/> Special Area
e. Adjacent Scenery	3	Panoramic views of three mountain ranges	
f. Scarcity	1	Common	
g. Cultural Modification	0	Small amount as a total percentage of unit	
TOTAL	8.5		

Comments:

None.



SQRU Locator



• IOP Location



IOP 127. Looking northeast (IOPL000000058)

25_NE_OrganMountains_0058.jpg



IOP 128. Looking northeast (IOPL000000065)

27_NE_OrganMountains_0065.jpg



IOP 129. Looking north (IOPL000000073)

30_N_OrganMountains_0073.jpg

Inventory Process



- Scenic Quality Evaluation
- **Sensitivity Level Analysis**
- Delineation of Distance Zones

Sensitivity Level Analysis

- A measure of public concern for Scenic Quality
- Public Lands assigned:
 - **High** Sensitivity
 - **Medium** Sensitivity
 - **Low** Sensitivity

Low - High Visual Sensitivity



Sensitivity Level Analysis

Factors to Consider

- Types of Users
- Amount of Use
- Public Interest
- Adjacent Land Uses
- Special Areas

Types of Users



Types of Users



Types of Users



Amount of Use



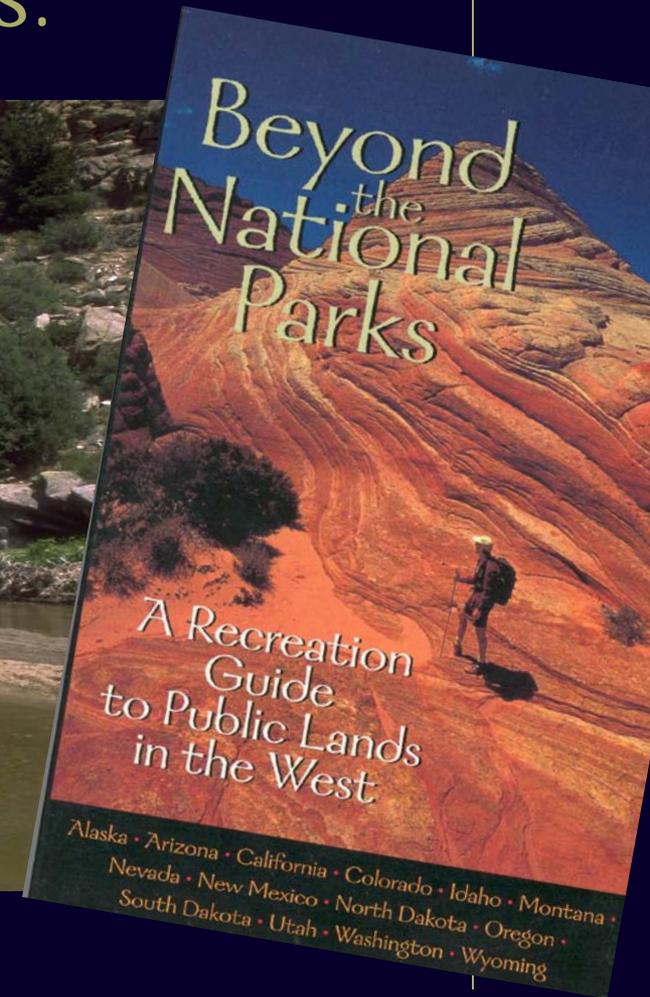
Amount of Use

Areas seen by large numbers of people are often more sensitive.



Public Interest

Visual Quality may be of concern to Local, State, or National groups.



Adjacent Land Uses

Interrelationship w/ adjacent land uses

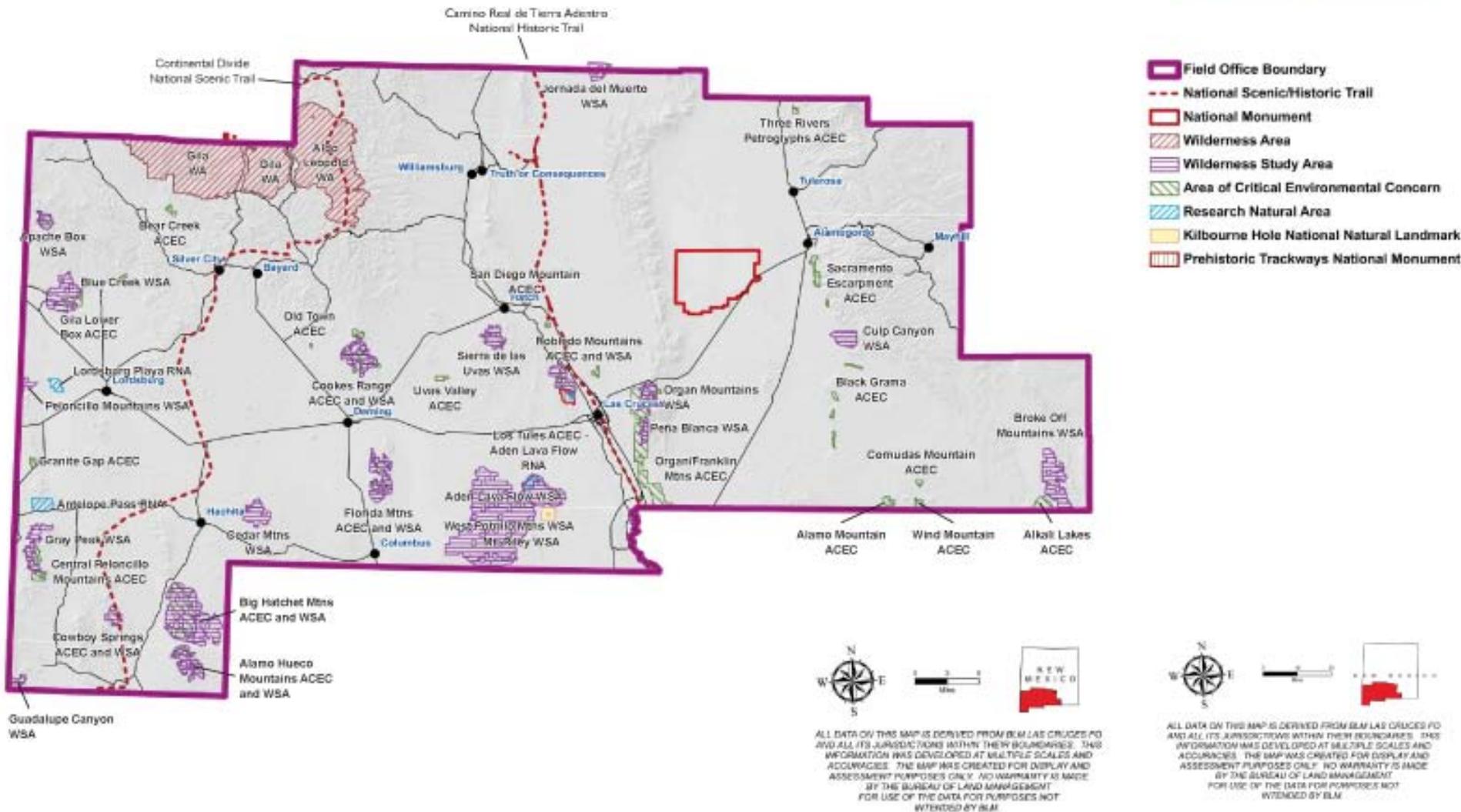


Special Areas

Management objectives for special areas frequently require special consideration.



Map I-3
Special Management Areas



Sensitivity Level Analysis

- Sensitivity Level Rating Units (SLRU)
- Based on social characteristics
- Boundaries are unique ≠ SQRU
- Score using **Form 8400-6**

- Rate as High, Medium, and Low
- Score high sensitivity areas first

Sensitivity Level Analysis

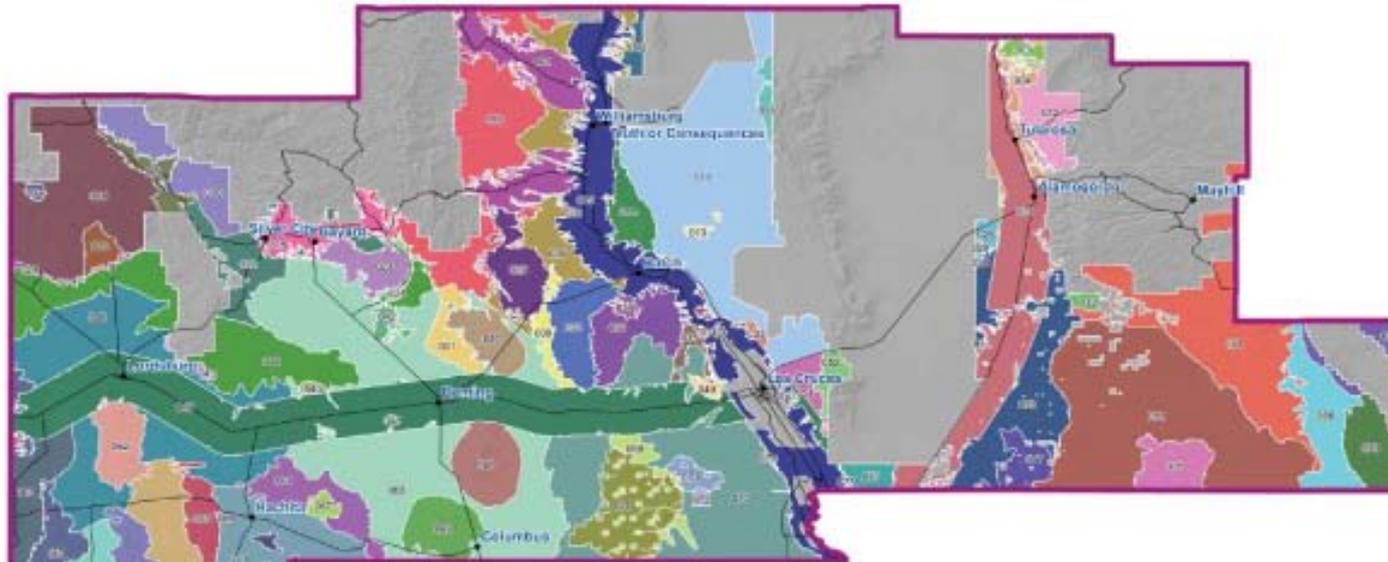
High Sensitivity Examples

- National Monuments
- Wilderness / WSA
- Scenic Byways / Back Country Byways
- Major Transportation Corridors
- Historic Trail Corridors (portions)

Lower Sensitivity Examples

- OHV Open Areas
- Open pit Mine

Map 3-1 Sensitivity Level Rating Units



Field Office Boundary

- | | | | | |
|---|----------------------------------|--------------------------------|---|-----------------------------------|
| 01 Geronimo Trail Scenic Byway | 20 Gila Valley | 40 Florida to Coolsen Peak | 61 Cedar Mountains | 81 Hachita Valley |
| 02 North Rio Grande Valley | 21 Greater Gila Lower Box | 41 Coolsen Range | 62 Pyramid Mountains | 82 Poyas Valley |
| 03 Three Rivers Petroglyph ACEC | 22 Silver City | 42 Old Town ACEC | 63 I-10 to Rodeo | 83 San Simon Valley |
| 04 Tularosa Basin | 23 Whitehorse | 43 Grandmother-Victoria | 64 Peloncillo Mountains | 84 Animas Valley |
| 05 San Andres Mountains | 24 Minner River Valley | 44 Lordsburg Mesa | 65 Little Hachet Mountains | 85 Cowboy Springs WSA/ACEC |
| 06 Minner Mountains | 25 Lake Valley Backcountry Byway | 45 Langfort Mountains | 66 Old Hachita | 86 Big Hachet Mountain WSA/ACEC |
| 07 Apache Box WSA/ACEC | 26 Lake Valley | 46 Lordsburg Valley | 67 Cedar Mountain WSA | 87 Big Hachet Mountains |
| 08 Buckhorn Hills | 27 Rincon ACEC | 47 I-10 - Deming to Lordsburg | 68 Deming Valley | 88 Alamo Hueco Mountains WSA/ACEC |
| 09 Gila Tributaries | 28 White Sands National Monument | 48 Red Mountain | 70 West Poriflo/Mt. Riley WSA | 89 Animas Mountain |
| 10 Whitehorse Mesa | 29 Highway 70 Corridor | 49 Trackways National Monument | 71 Aiken Lava Flow WSA Office | 90 Alamo Hueco Mountains |
| 11 San Andres Bajada | 30 Twin Buttes | 50 Tortugas Recreation Area | 72 Kibbourne Hole National Natural Landmark | |
| 12 Sacramento Mountains | 31 Highway 54 | 51 Organ Bajada | 73 Aboe | |
| 13 Point Rocks | 32 Culp Canyon WSA | 52 Organ Mountains | 74 Highway 28 | |
| 14 Caballo Mountains | 33 Delta Ana Mountains | 53 Jarilla Mountains | 75 Franklin Mountains | |
| 15 El Camino Real Scenic Byway | 34 Selden Canyon | 54 Comacopa Hills | 76 Chaparral | |
| 16 South Rio Grande Valley | 35 Greater Robledo Mountains | 55 Guadalupe Escarpment | 77 Hueco Mountains | |
| 17 Kneeling Nun | 36 Las Uvas Mountains | 56 Crow Flats | 78 Comudas Mountains | |
| 18 Trail of the Mountain Spirits Scenic Byway | 37 Las Uvas WSA | 57 Otero Mesa | 79 Broken Off Mountains | |
| 19 Redrock Mesa | 38 Uvas Valley | 58 Red Sands | 80 Sierra Rica Mountains | |
| | 39 Good Sight Mountains | 59 East Poriflo Mountains | | |
| | | 60 Florida Mountains | | |



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UNITED STATES
DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT

Date *Aug. 15, 1985*

District *Moab*

Resource Area *Grand*

SENSITIVITY LEVEL RATING SHEET

1. Evaluators (*names*)

Bob Tumwater, Russ Grimes, Pete Jordan

SENSITIVITY LEVEL RATING UNIT (1)	Type of User (2)	Amount of Use (3)	Public Interest (4)	Adjacent Land Uses (5)	Special Areas (6)	Other Factors (7)	Overall Rating (8)	EXPLANATION (9)
<i>001</i>	<i>H</i>	<i>H</i>	<i>H</i>	<i>H</i>	<i>H</i>	<i>-</i>	<i>H</i>	<i>within f/m zone of i-70 & u163</i>
<i>002</i>	<i>H</i>	<i>L</i>	<i>M</i>	<i>L</i>	<i>H</i>	<i>-</i>	<i>H</i>	<i>visible from river & floatboat users.</i>
<i>003</i>	<i>L</i>	<i>L</i>	<i>L</i>	<i>L</i>	<i>L</i>	<i>-</i>	<i>L</i>	<i>isolated area with low scenic values</i>
<i>004</i>	<i>H</i>	<i>M</i>	<i>H</i>	<i>M</i>	<i>M</i>	<i>-</i>	<i>H</i>	<i>f/m zone for state park entrance road.</i>

Discretion and Judgment

Inventory Process



- Scenic Quality Evaluation
- Sensitivity Level Analysis
- **Delineation of Distance Zones**

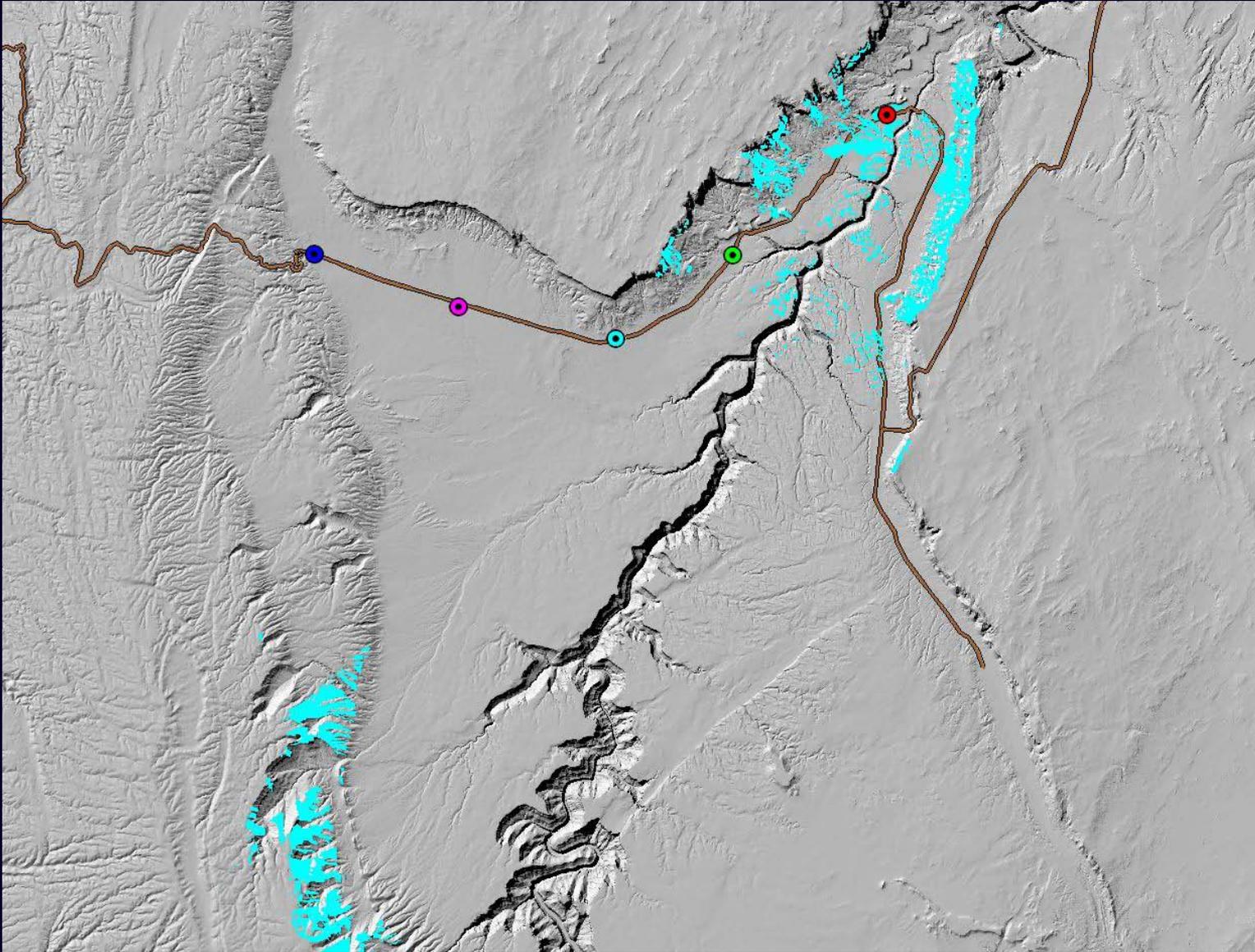
Distance Zones

Three Distance Zones (VISIBILITY)

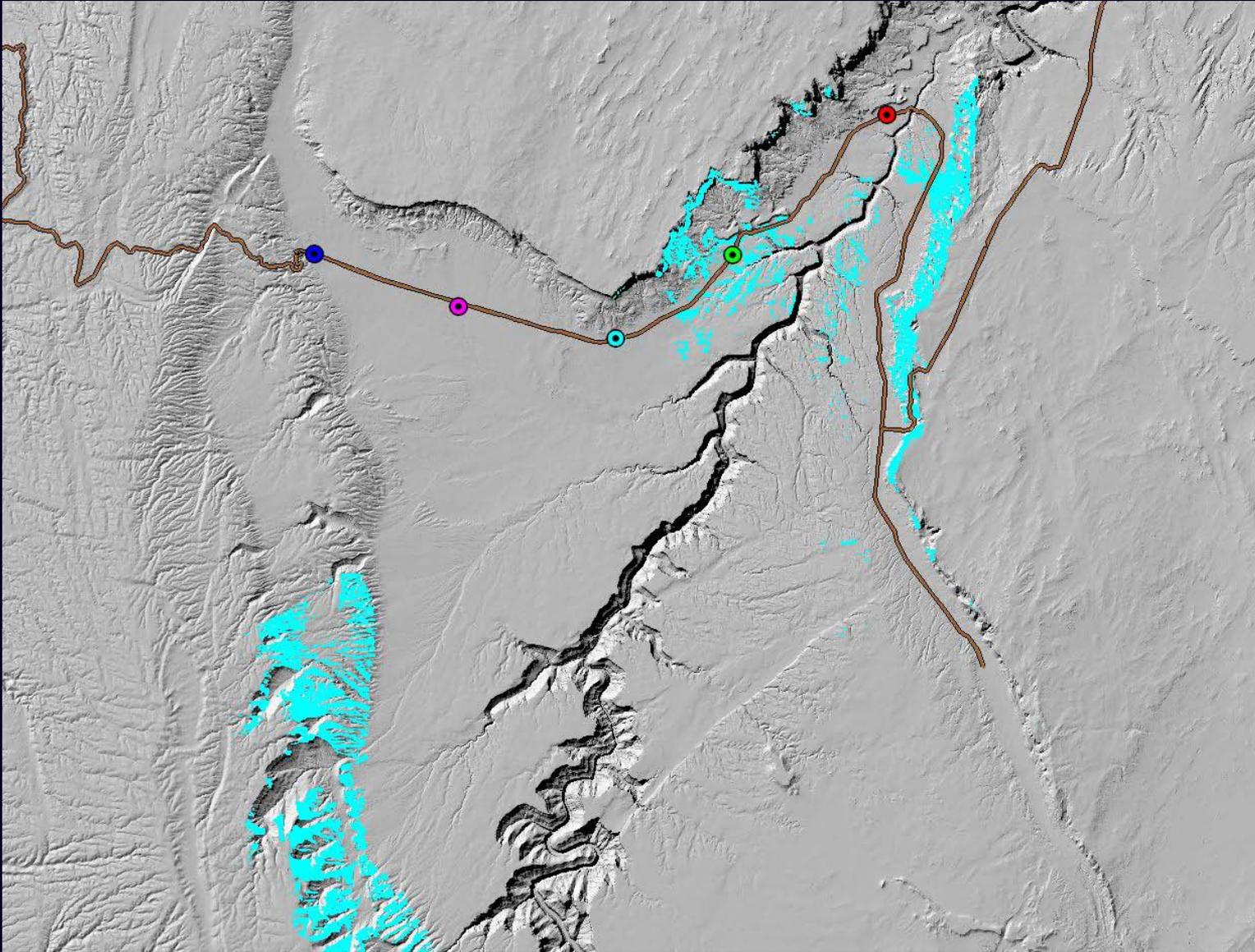
- Foreground/Middleground: 0 to 3-5 miles
- Background: 5 to 15 miles
- Seldom Seen: +15 miles or unseen

- **Relative Visibility** – from Travel Routes & Reference Points
- Closer to Viewer – More Details are Visible

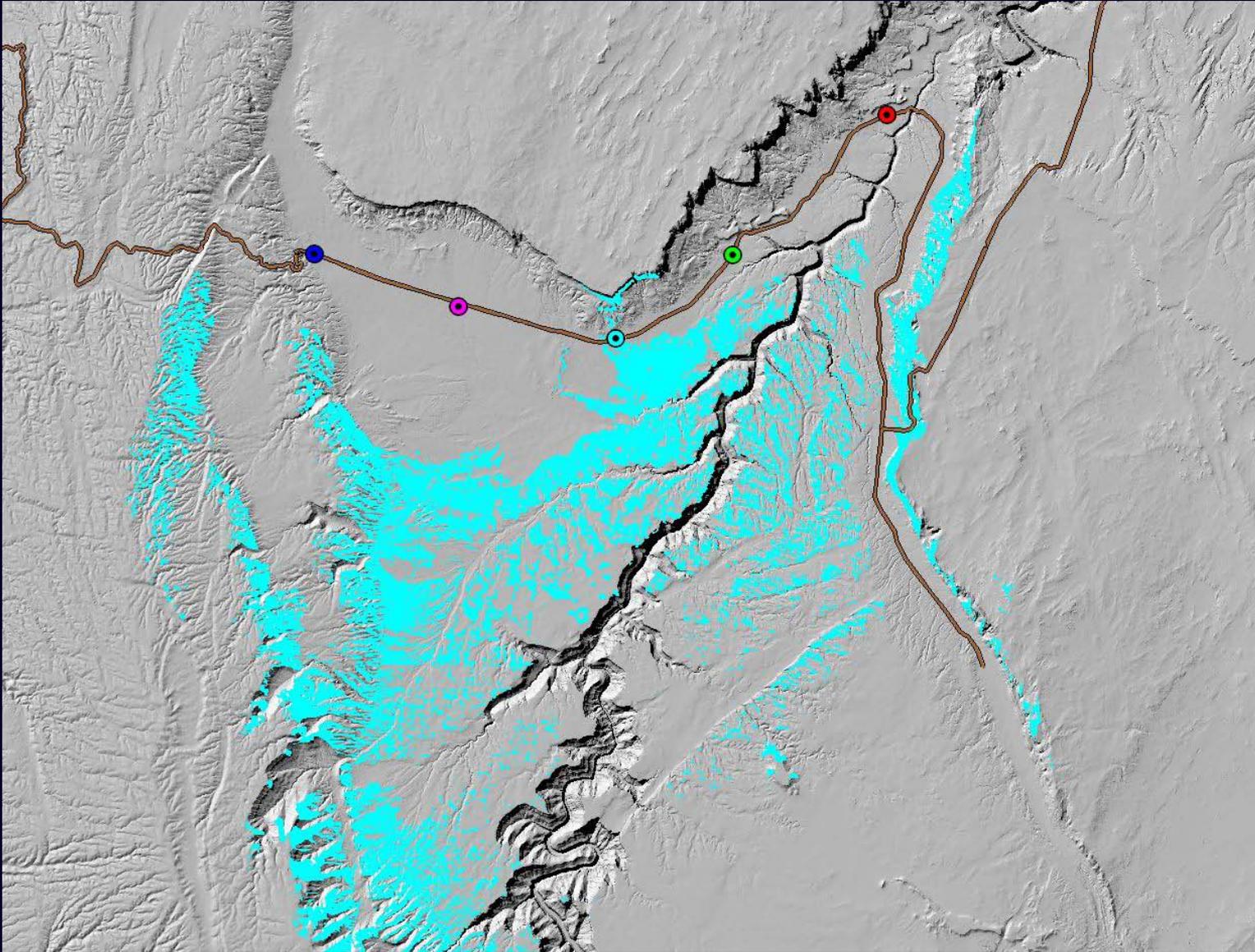
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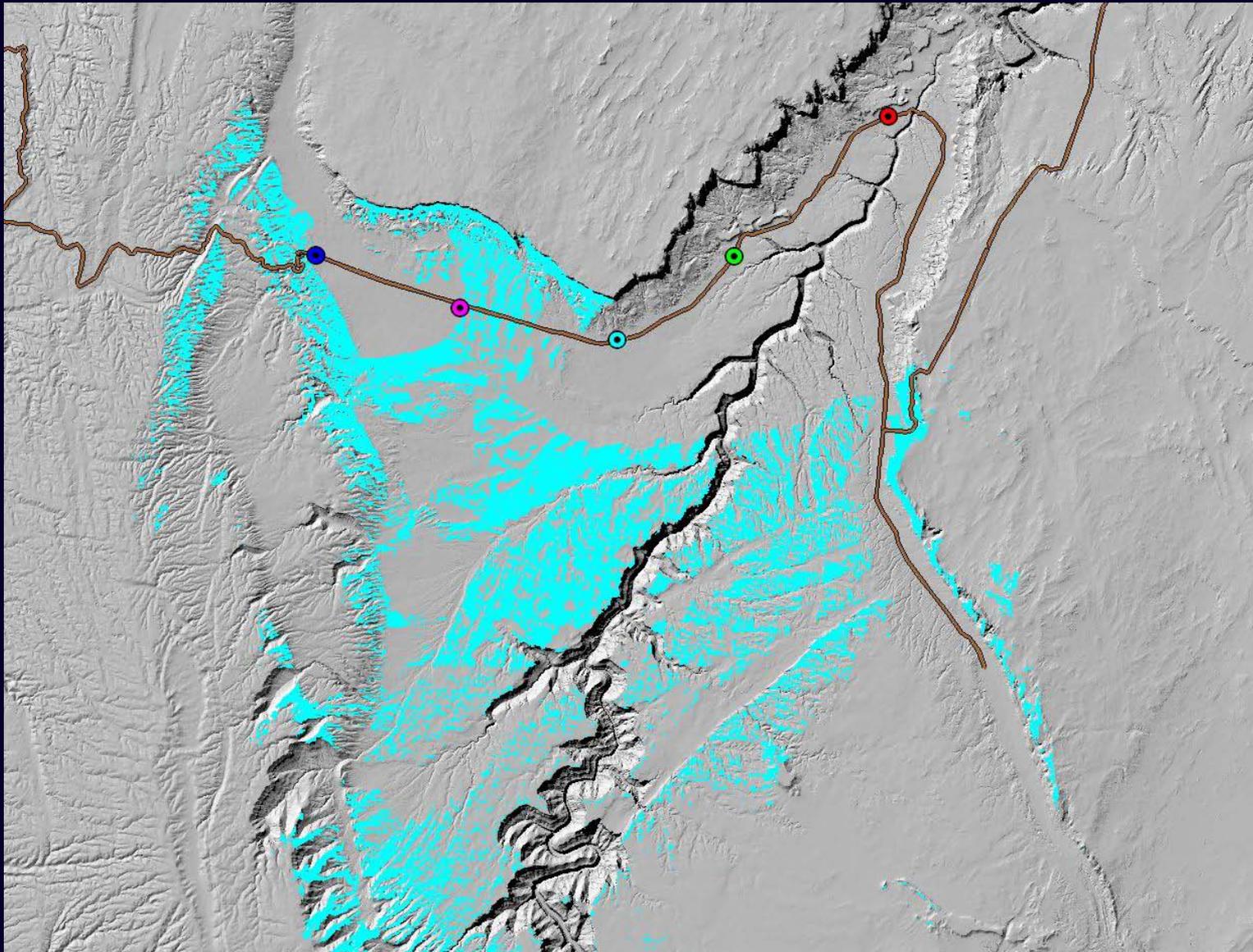
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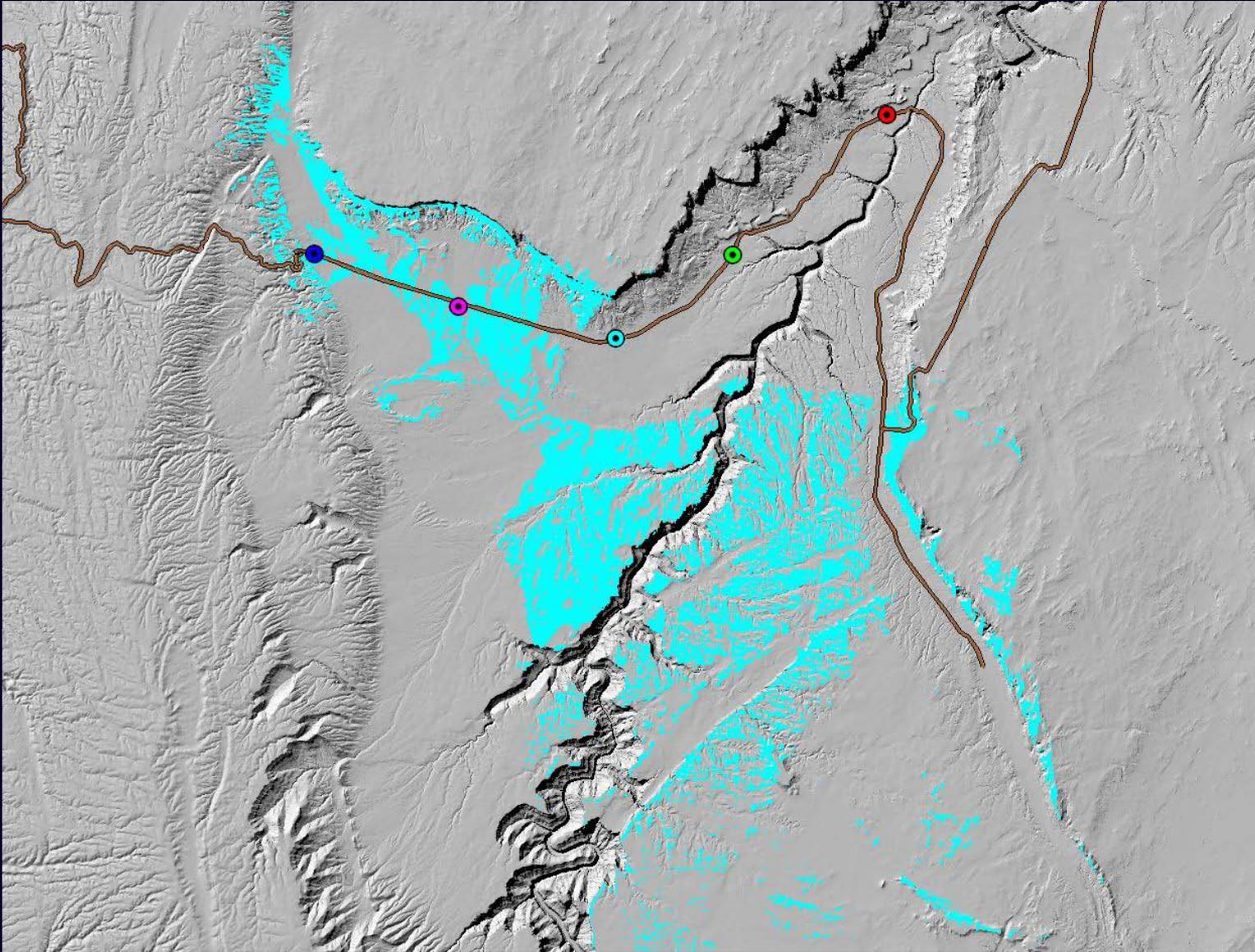
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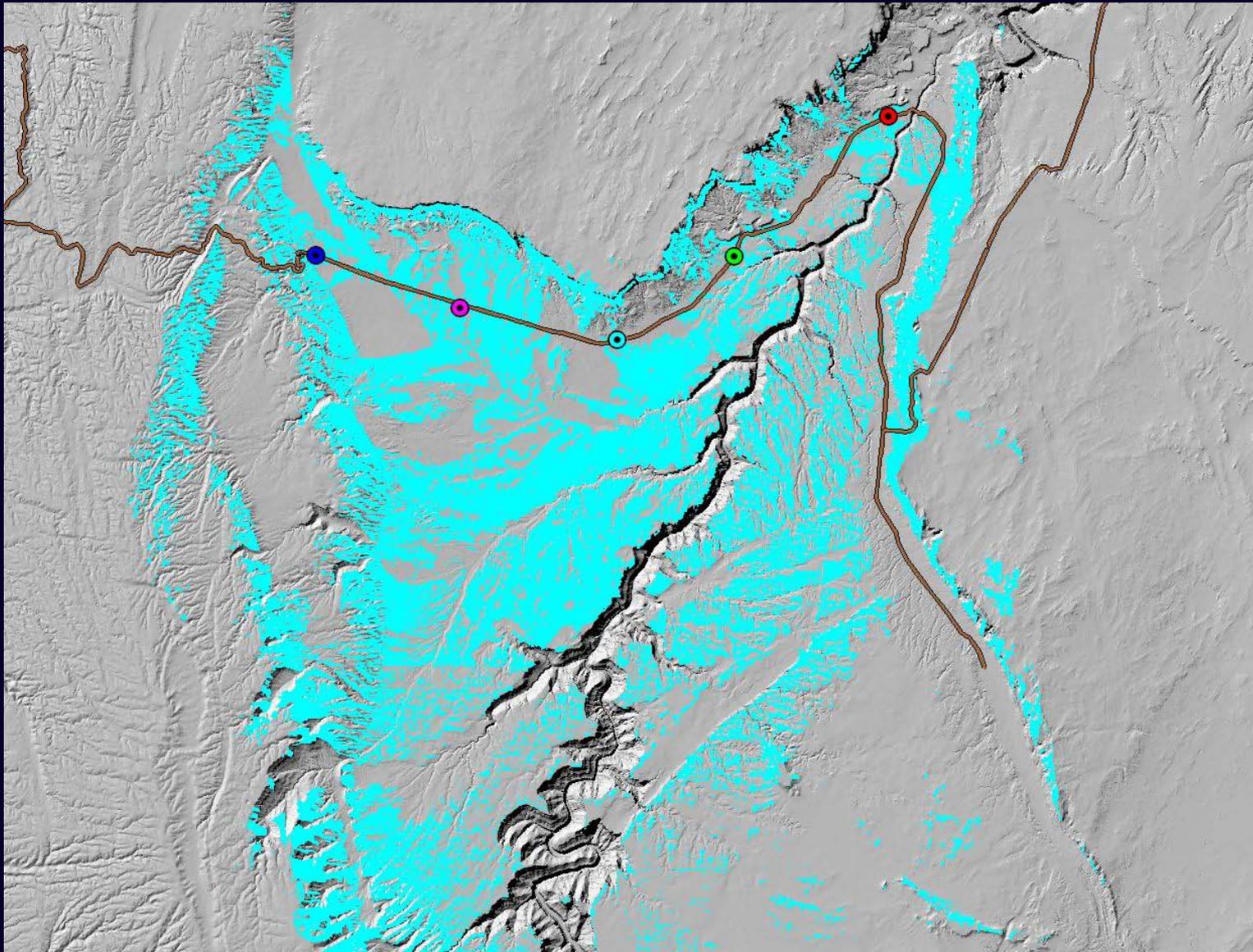
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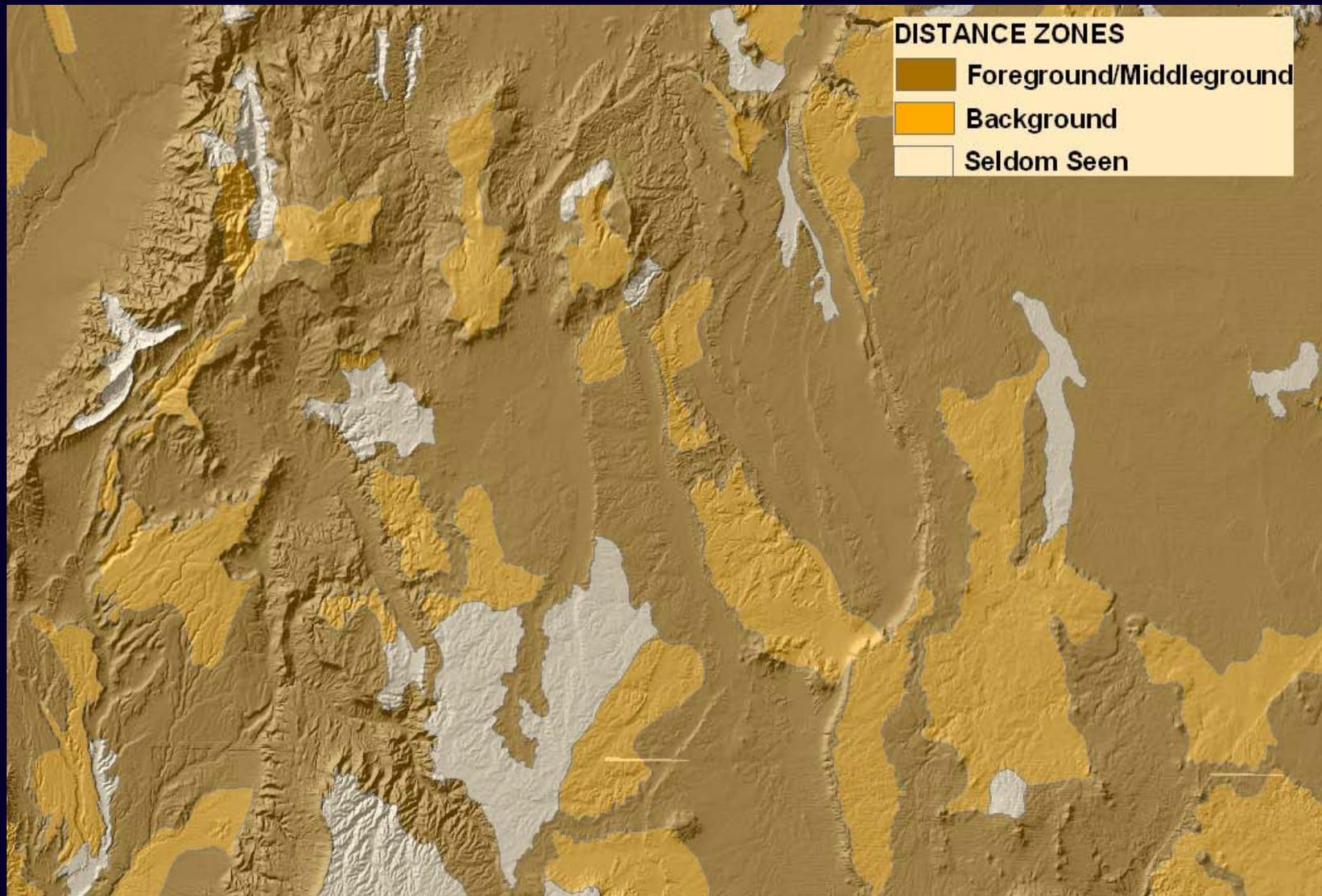
Viewsheds



Viewsheds



Distance Zones in GIS



Determining Inventory Classes

- Combine Overlays for:
 - **Scenic Quality**
 - **Sensitivity Levels**
 - **Distance Zones**
- Use Matrix (H-8410-1) to Determine Inventory Classes
- Use GIS to overlay data

Determining Inventory Classes

Class I – *Assigned to those areas in which a management decision has been made to maintain a natural landscape.*

Class II, III, & IV – Assigned based on combinations of Scenic Quality, Sensitivity Levels, and Distance Zones as shown in the following matrix.

Basis for Determining Visual Resource Inventory Classes

		Visual Sensitivity Levels					
		High		Medium		Low	
Special Areas		I	I	I	I	I	I
Scenic Quality	A	II	II	II	II	II	II
	B	II	III	III / IV *	III	IV	IV
	C	III	IV	IV	IV	IV	IV
		f/m	b	s/s	f/m	b	s/s
		Distance Zones					

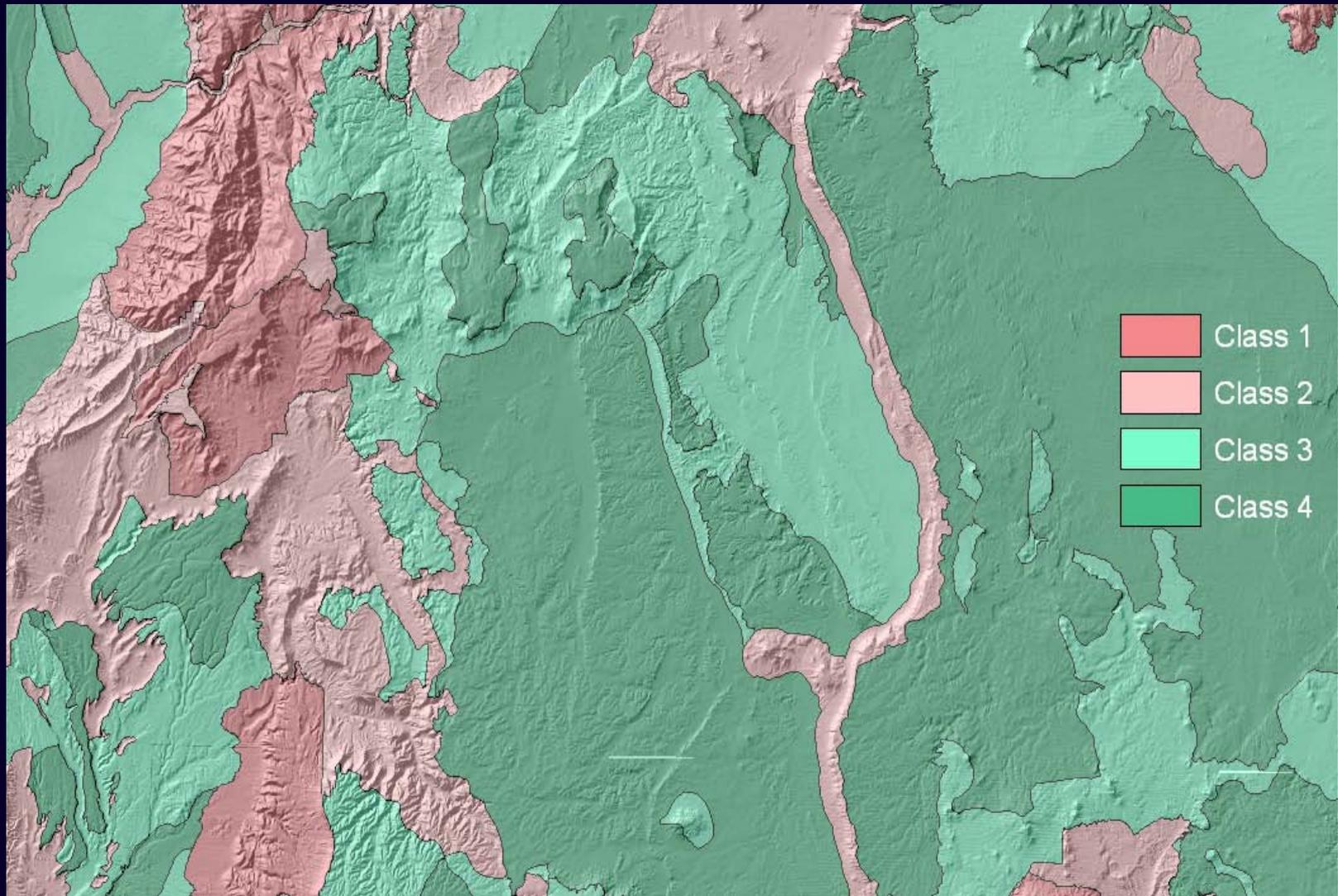
* if adjacent area is Class III or lower, (ie - Class II) assign Class III, if higher, (ie. Class IV) Class IV

Basis for Determining Visual Resource Inventory Classes

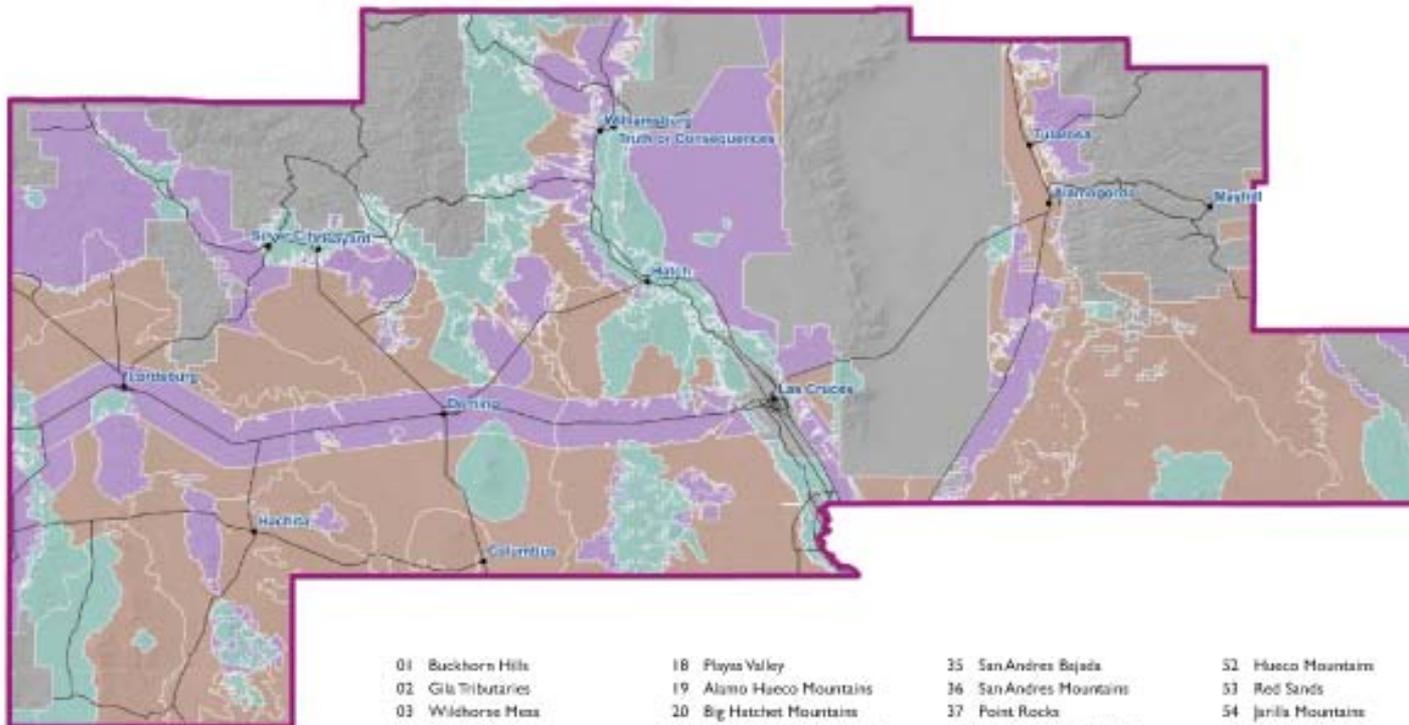
		Visual Sensitivity Levels					
		High		Medium		Low	
Special Areas		I	I	I	I	I	I
Scenic Quality	A	II	II	II	II	II	II
	B	II	III	III ^{IV*}	III	IV	IV
	C	III	IV	IV	IV	IV	IV
		f/m	b	s/s	f/m	b	s/s
		Distance Zones					

* if adjacent area is Class III or lower, (ie - Class II) assign Class III, if higher, (ie. Class IV) Class IV

Final VRM Inventory – GIS Data



Map 5-1 Visual Resource Inventory Classes



- Field Office Boundary
- VRI Class I (0 Acres)
- VRI Class II (2,282,892 Acres)
- VRI Class III (3,385,852 Acres)
- VRI Class IV (5,457,742 Acres)
- Not Rated (4,922,132 Acres)

- | | | | |
|-------------------------|-----------------------------|----------------------------|-------------------------|
| 01 Buckhorn Hills | 18 Playas Valley | 35 San Andres Bajada | 52 Hueco Mountains |
| 02 Gila Tributaries | 19 Alamo Hueco Mountains | 36 San Andres Mountains | 53 Red Sands |
| 03 Wildhorse Mesa | 20 Big Hatchet Mountains | 37 Point Rock | 54 Jarilla Mountains |
| 04 Redrock Mesa | 21 Little Hatchet Mountains | 38 South Rio Grande Valley | 55 Tularosa Basin |
| 05 Gila Valley | 22 Hachita Valley | 39 Good Sight Mountains | 56 Sacramento Mountains |
| 06 Gila Lower Box | 23 Sierra Rica Mountains | 40 Uvas Valley | 57 Otero Mesa |
| 07 Lordsburg Mesa | 24 Cedar Mountains | 41 Las Uvas Mountains | 58 Coronada Mountains |
| 08 Silver City | 25 Grandmother Victoria | 42 Selden Canyon | 59 Conchos Hills |
| 09 Whitehorse | 26 Red Mountain | 43 Robledo Mountains | 60 Crow Flats |
| 10 Mimbres River Valley | 27 Deming Valley | 44 Doña Ana Mountains | 61 Guadalupe Escarpment |
| 11 Lordsburg Valley | 28 Hermanas Mountains | 45 Alton | 62 Broke Off Mountains |
| 12 Langford Mountains | 29 Florida Mountains | 46 West Potrillo Mountains | |
| 13 San Simon Valley | 30 Cookes Range | 47 East Potrillo Mountains | |
| 14 Peloncillo Mountains | 31 Mimbres Mountains | 48 Organ Bajada | |
| 15 Pyramid Mountains | 32 Lake Valley | 49 Organ Mountains | |
| 16 Animas Valley | 33 Caballo Mountains | 50 Franklin Mountains | |
| 17 Animas Mountains | 34 North Rio Grande Valley | 51 Chaparral | |



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Visual Inventory

- Field & GIS Intensive
- **Data Standards- VRI Geodatabase**
- Using Contractors
 - Involve BLM staff- your DATA
 - Metadata for all GIS data
 - Administrative Record (photos and forms)
 - Statement (scope) of work

Land Use Planning and VRM

- **Updating VRM Inventories**

- Maintain an updated inventory for every acre
- Priorities for new inventory work (8410-1)
 - Issue Resolution/ Plan Amendments
 - Projects with no inventory
- Goal - **complete inventory with each RMP revision**
- During plan revision, consider;
 - areas that have experienced most change
 - population growth, recreation use
 - new land use status, trails, byways, corridors

Landform Vegetation Water Color Adjacent Scenery Scarcity Cultural Modifications



Kate

Conducting Visual Inventories



Conducting Visual Inventories

On-the-ground experience

- Inventoried over 50 million acres of BLM land
- Currently conducting field work for 25 million acres



Conducting Visual Inventories

Three major components

- Scenic Quality
- Sensitivity Levels
- Distance Zones

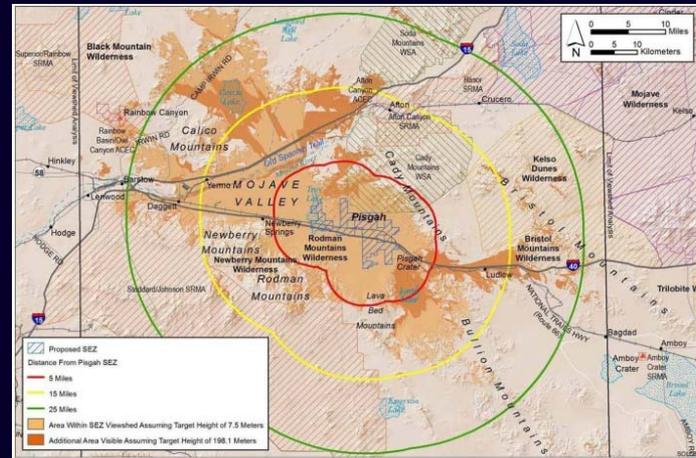
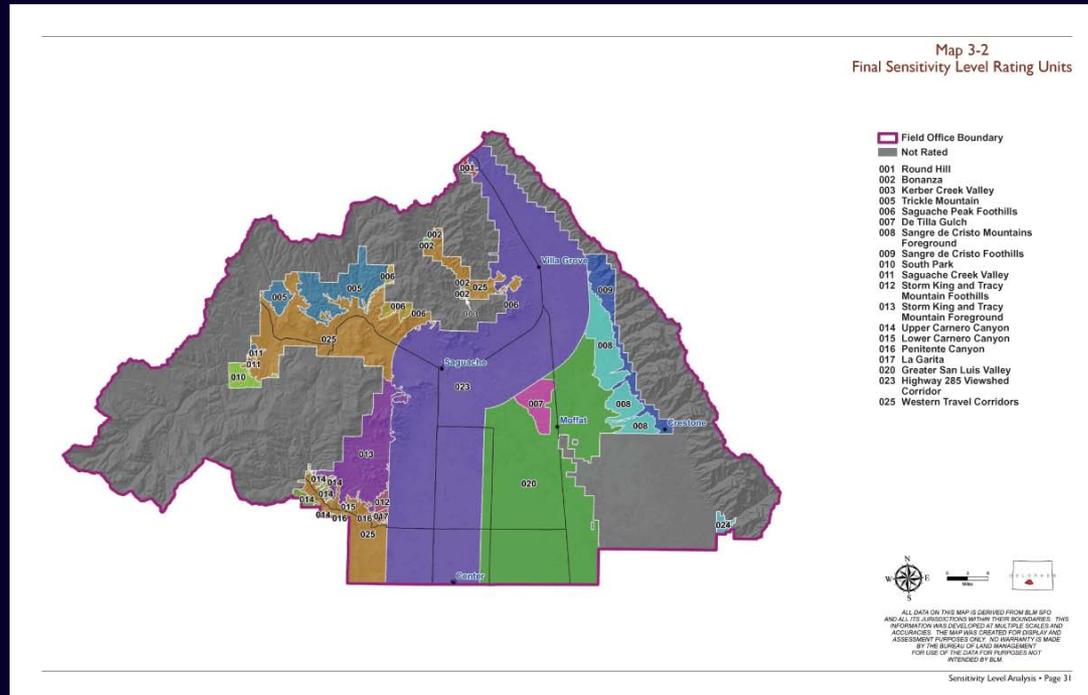


FIGURE 7.3.14.2-2 Overlay of Selected Sensitive Visual Resource Areas onto Combined 650-ft (197.1-m) and 24.6-ft (7.5-m) Viewsheds for the Proposed Pisgah SEZ.

Sensitivity Level Analysis

A measure of public concern for Scenic Quality

- Public Lands assigned:
 - High, Medium, Low Sensitivity

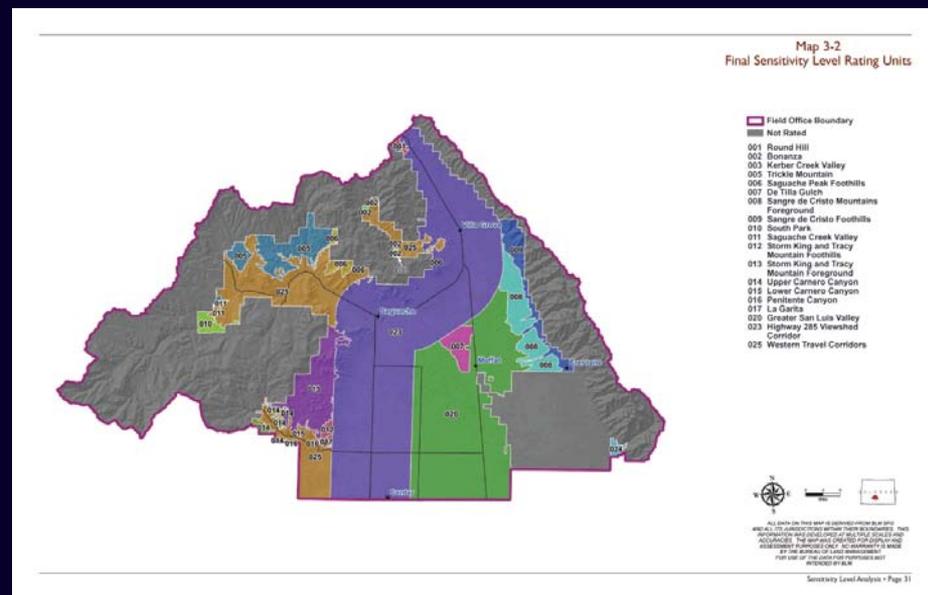
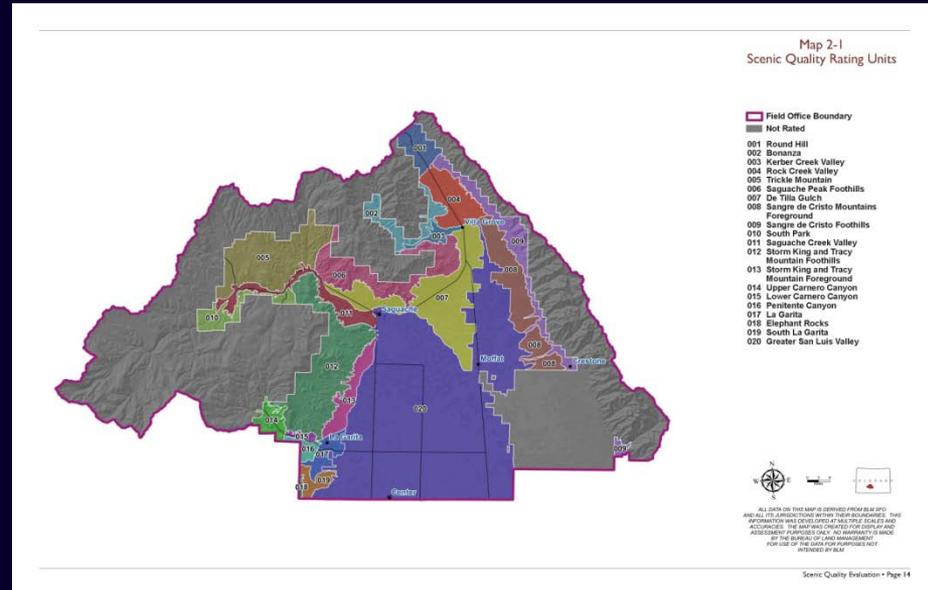


Sensitivity Level Analysis

- The most difficult factor
- Driven by emotional response
- Focus historically has been on scenic quality
- Growing awareness with public and BLM

Sensitivity Level Analysis

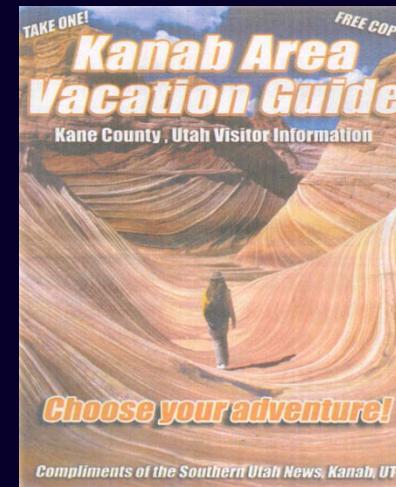
- Not tied to SQRU boundaries



Sensitivity Level Analysis

Tools for researching sensitivity

- Local publications, websites, historic records
- Contacting user groups, special interest groups, community leaders
- Engaging BLM field office staff in process
- Conducting public meetings



Sensitivity Level Analysis

Gathering input in the field

- Talking with people we meet
- Type and amount of use in area



Sensitivity Level Analysis

Gathering input in the field

- Elements in the landscape



Sensitivity Level Analysis

Locally Driven Considerations

- Recreational Settings
- Travel Corridors
- National Scenic Byways
- Backcountry Byways
- Local Community



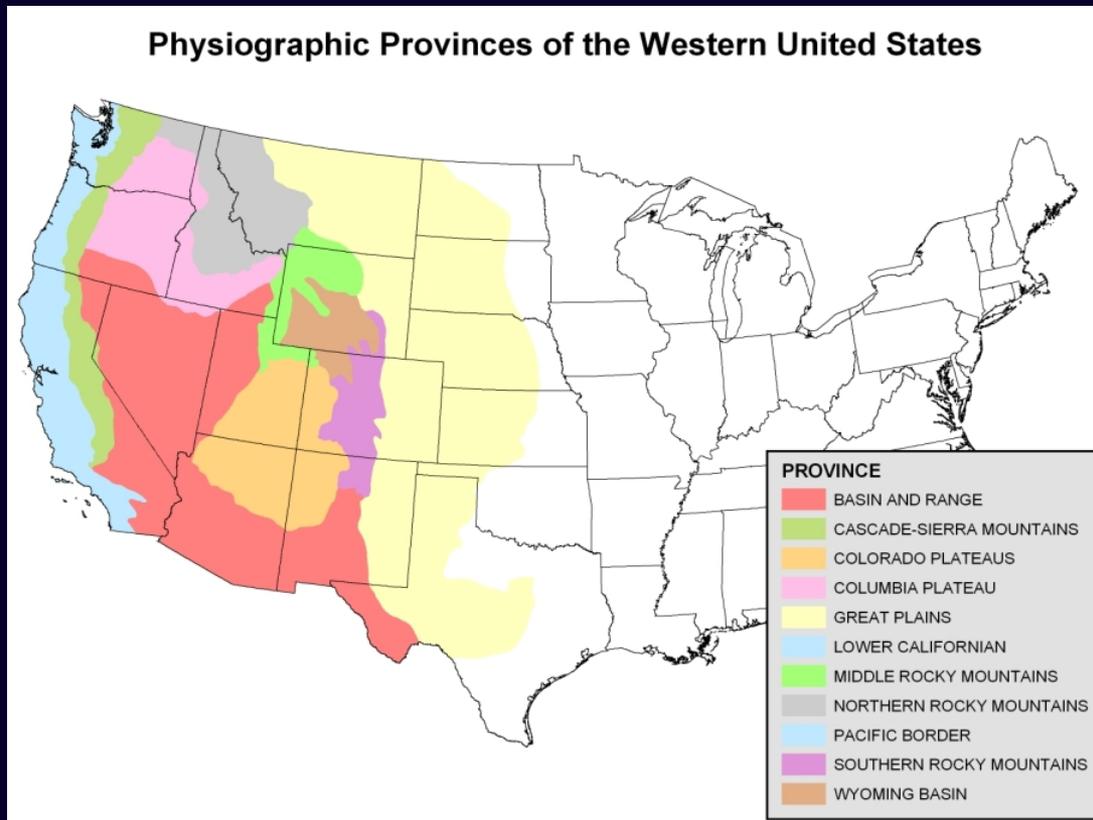
Legislated Protection

- Cultural Resources
- Wilderness
- Wild and Scenic Rivers
- Native American Religious Sites
- National Scenic and Historic Trails
- National Parks



Scenic Quality

Inventories compare lands within the same Physiographic Region



Scenic Quality

Creating preliminary units

- BLM maps
 - May not be the most current information
- GIS information
- Travel network
- GoogleEarth
- Aerials
- Good topographic maps
- USE PENCIL!
 - Need to adjust based on staff input and what you see on the ground

Scenic Quality

Common questions:

- How many units will there be?
 - Lumpers vs. splitters
 - Management of units
- How large are the units?
- How do I select an IOP?
- How many IOPs should there be?

Scenic Quality

Fieldwork considerations

- Forms and paperwork
 - Keeping track of data
- Equipment: cameras, GPS units, batteries
- Vehicles
- Weather



Scenic Quality

Fieldwork considerations

- Safety
 - Communication
 - Vehicles
 - Other factors
- Backup plans



Scenic Quality

Seven scenic quality factors



Landform



Vegetation



Water



Color



Adjacent Scenery



Scarcity



Cultural
Modifications

Scenic Quality

Seven scenic quality factors – things to keep in mind:

- Color – seasonal
- Water – intermittent
- Cultural Modifications – don't always detract



Scenic Quality

Seven scenic quality factors – things to keep in mind:

- Scarcity – keep in mind larger context
- Vegetation – unique communities



Scenic Quality

What about "other" factors?



Distance Zones

- Three distance zones
 - Foreground/middleground: 0 – 5 miles
 - Background: 5 – 15 miles
 - Seldom seen: beyond background or can see
- Largely a GIS exercise
- Very few lands outside of f/m
- Importance of viewshed analysis

Data Management

Keeping good records is imperative

- Be prepared for the amount of data
- Need to document decision process
- Keep all “interim” data

GIS plays an integral role

- New geodatabase standards
- Intense amount of data
- Important to keep good documentation in the field