

UNITED STATES  
 DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
 BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT  
**SCENIC QUALITY RATING SUMMARY**

Date:
District/ Field Office:
Resource Area:

1. Evaluators (*names*)

SCENIC QUALITY RATING UNITS (1)	(2)Landform	(3)Vegetation	(4)Water	(5)Color	(6)Adjacent Scenery	(7)Scarcity	(8)Cultural Modification	(9)Total Score	(10)Scenic Quality Rating	EXPLANATION  (11)

**INSTRUCTIONS**

Form is used in conjunction with the Scenic Quality, Inventory and Evaluation Chart.

## SCENIC QUALITY INVENTORY AND EVALUATION CHART

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

### INSTRUCTIONS

Purpose: To rate the visual quality of the scenic resource on all BLM managed lands.

How to Identify Scenic Value: All Bureau lands have scenic value.

How to Determine Minimum Suitability: All BLM lands are rated for scenic values. Also rate adjacent or intermingling non-BLM lands within the planning unit.

When to Evaluate Scenic Quality: Rate for scenery under the most critical conditions (i.e., the highest user period or season of use, sidelight, proper atmospheric conditions, etc.).

How to Delineate Rating Areas: Consider the following factors when delineating rating areas.

1. Like physiographic characteristics (i.e., landform, vegetation, etc.).

2. Similar visual patterns, texture, color, variety, etc.

3. Areas which have a similar impact from cultural modifications (i.e., roads, historical and other structures, mining operations, or other surface disturbances).

Explanation of Criteria:  
(See Illustration 1.)

NOTE: Values for each rating criteria are maximum and minimum scores only. It is also possible to assign scores within these ranges.

### SCENIC QUALITY

**A = 19 or more**

**B = 12-18**

**C = 11 or less**

\*\* A rating of greater than 5 can be given but must be supported by written justification.