TSPAC VISUAL RESOURCES (NOV 15, 2012)

Andy Lanier
Coastal Resources Specialist
Oregon Coastal Management Program | Oregon Dept. of Land Conservation and Development
635 Capitol Street NE, Suite 150 | Salem, OR 97301-2540
Office: (503) 373-0050 ext. 246
Andy.Lanier@state.or.us | www.oregon.gov/LCD

Draft Recommendation for TSP Amendment

Renewable Energy Exclusion Area (REEA)	Proprietary Use and Management Area (PUMA)	Resources and Uses Conservation Area (RUCA)	Resources and Uses Management Area (RUMA)	Resources and Uses Development Area (RUDA)	Renewable Energy Permit Area (REPA)
Special Management Areas designated by statute and OAR	**Areas with authorized uses and special management designations under Goal 19**	**Areas with important, sensitive, or unique Goal 19 Resources and Uses**	**Areas with important or significant Goal 19 Resources and Uses**	**Areas of least conflict with Goal 19 Resources and Uses**	**Areas of existing MREC permits**
MRE applications will not be accepted within these areas	MRE applications will not be accepted unless legally permissible, comply with the authorized use and area standards, and agreed to by the authorized users.	MRE applications must demonstrate **no reasonably foreseeable adverse effects** on inventoried marine resources and uses.*	MRE applications must demonstrate **no significant adverse effects** on inventoried marine resources and uses.	MRE applications must comply with **TSP Part Five Sections B and C**, general standards, and the applicable regulatory and proprietary requirements of state and federal agencies.*	Delineated sites with existing authorization for the development of MRE testing, research or facilities.

Visual Resource Area Overlay

Marine Recreation Area Overlay

Screening standards applied across all areas

Higher Permitting Difficulty Level Lower

Already permitted.

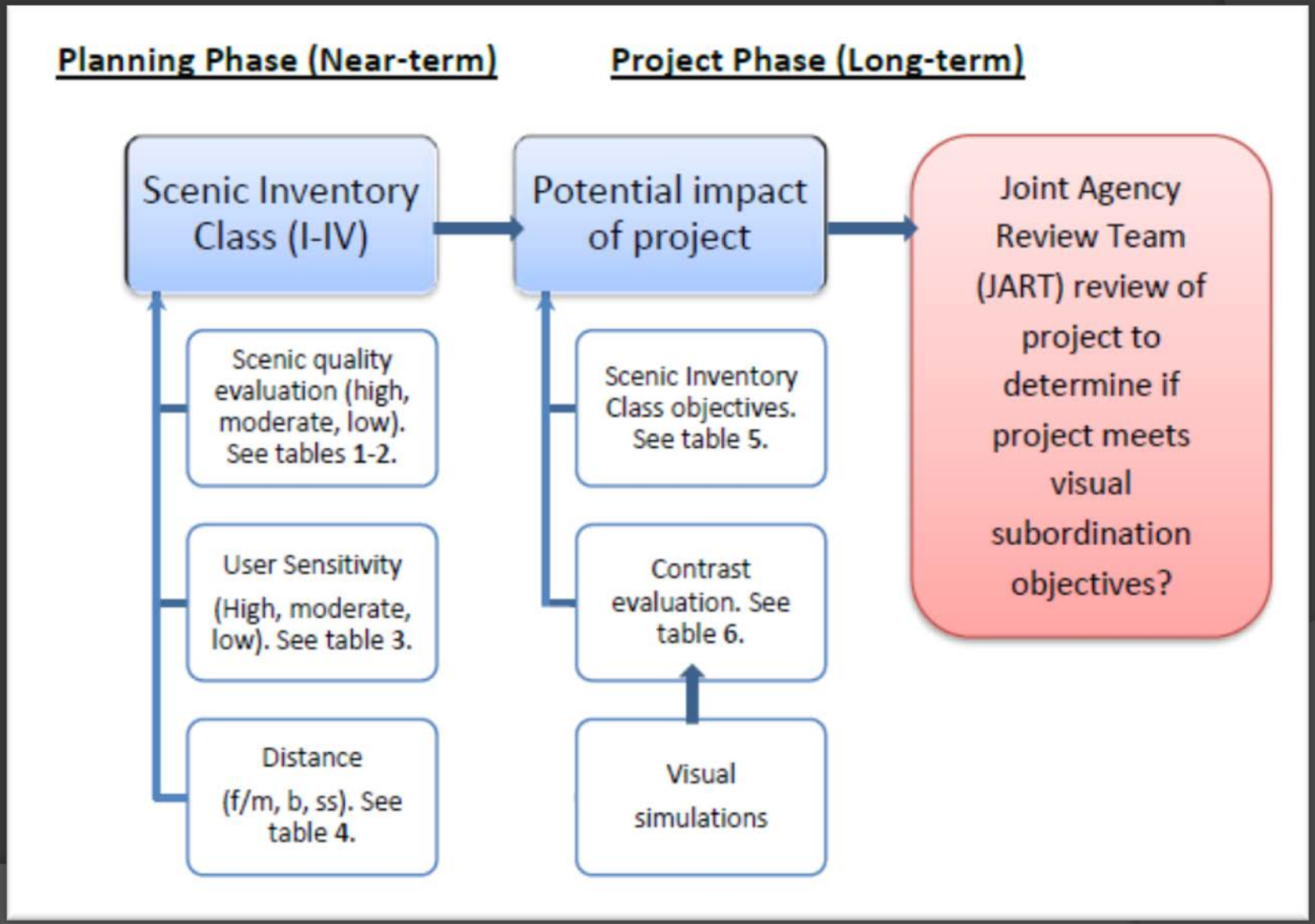
Visual Resource Overlay

Visual Resource Management in the Territorial Sea has 2 distinct phases:

- ***Planning phase:*** **inventoried sites are given a visual resource rating. The visual resource inventory assessment (VRIA) will be incorporated into the plan within the extent of the Territorial Sea.**

- ***Regulatory phase:*** **project applicant will be required to conduct an evaluation of potential impacts to visual resources, or a Visual Impact Analysis (VIA), which will be reviewed by the Joint Agency Review Team (JART).**

Visual Resources Management Diagram



Scenic Inventory Process

- **Summer/early fall visits to sites along coast**
- **Oregon State Parks: assessed viewpoints in coastal state parks**
- **DLCD and local officials: city and county sites outside state parks**
- **Results made available for public review and input**

Oregon Territorial Sea
Viewshed Inventory Survey Locations
Available to view in Oregon MarineMap
CURRY
COOS
DOUGLAS
LANE
LINCOLN
TILLAMOOK
CLATSOP
POLK
YAMHILL
WASHINGTON
COLUMBIA
MARION
LINN
CLACKAMAS
Visual Resources Inventory Assessment Locations
Source of Viewpoint
DLCD/Local Partner Surveys
OPRD State Park Surveys
Territorial Sea Boundary
Source: US National Park Service, Copyright:© 2012 ESRI, NAVTEQ, DeLorme, Sources: Esri, DeLorme, USGS, NPS, Sources: Esri, GEBCO, NOAA, CHS, CSUMB, National Geographic, DeLorme, and NAVTEQ

Scenic Assessment Process

1. **Determine viewpoint**
2. **Set view angles (extent of view)**
3. **Collect data in the field**
4. **Score the data**

Viewshed Assessment Parameters

- **Landforms**: Unique forms, rocks, beach types
- **Vegetation**: Level of variety and unique plants
- **Water Features**: Streams, waterfalls, crashing waves on rocks, tidepools
- **Color**: Diversity and uniqueness of colors in sand, soils, vegetation or ocean
- **Adjacent Scenery**: Context of site, including forest types or development
- **Scarcity**: How rare the view is along the Oregon coast
- **Cultural Modifications**: Developments in view, such as homes, jetties and other fixed structures such as lighthouses

Example: Cannon Beach, Haystack Rock

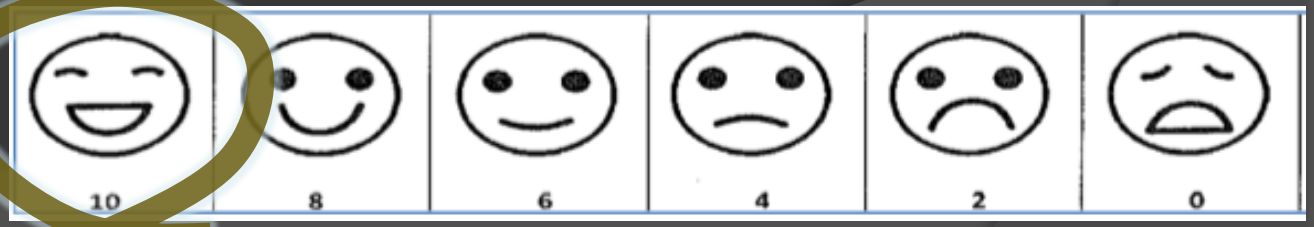
Example Site: Haystack Rock

- **Step 1: Select viewpoint**
  Contact local planning staff to help determine public view point outside state parks

- **Step 2: Set view angle**
  Adjust view for beach profile and unique landforms, encompass ocean views at site.

Example Site: Haystack Rock

- **Step 3: Document Conditions**
  Note sea state, weather, tides, and site conditions.
- **Step 4: Emotional Check**
  What is the emotional or immediate impact of the view?



Example Site: Haystack Rock

- **Step 5: Collect Attribute Data**
  Team discussion and notation of each attribute and feature, i.e.; vegetation, colors and other elements. Note any special attributes such as wildlife or human uses.

Landform	Haystack Rock and other sea stacks and off shore rocks Tillamook Head to north. Tillamook lighthouse Head and rocks to south.

Example Site: Haystack Rock

- **Landforms**: 5
  Haystack Rock, the headlands to both north and south, and offshore rocks and seastacks.
- **Vegetation**: 4
  Mix of grasses and shrubs in the nearground, vegetation on Haystack Rock, forest on heads.
- **Water Features**: 2
  Wave action and currents on the seastacks.

Example Site: Haystack Rock

- **Color**: 5
  Mix of colors on Haystack Rock, ocean colors from wave action, diverse soil and rock colors. Headlands offer contrasting color.
- **Adjacent Scenery**: 2.5
  Forested area, high relief to the east, development well screened and low intensity.

Example Site: Haystack Rock

- **Scarcity**: 5
  A defining coast view, very rare and unique.
- **Cultural Modifications**: 1.5
  Tillamook Rock lighthouse and lifeguard stand add to view.

Example Site: Haystack Rock

- **Step 6: Score Data**
  Each element scored on approximately 0-5 scale based on notes taken, comparison to other sites, and team discussion.

SCORING (circle)	High	Med	Low
a. Landform	5	3	1
b. Vegetation	5 4	3	1
c. Water	5	3 2	0
d. Color	5	3	1
e. Adjacent Scenery	5	3 2.5	0
f. Scarcity	5+	3	1
g. Cultural Mod.	2 1.5	0	-4

Example Site: Haystack Rock

- **Step 7: Total Scores**

Sum the element scores and determine the view inventory category (A-C).

	Landform	Vegetation	Water	Color	Adjacent	Scarcity	Cultural	Total
Haystack Rock	5	4	2	5	2.5	5	1.5	**25**

Baseline Report Available for all VRIA Sites

Site Name	Site ID:	County
Hug Point SRS	OPRD087	Clatsop

Description

This viewpoint is located on the beach adjacent to Hug Point State Recreation and affords views of a pocket cobble and sand beach surrounded by two small points of land (including Hug Pt to the north) and several offshore rocks.

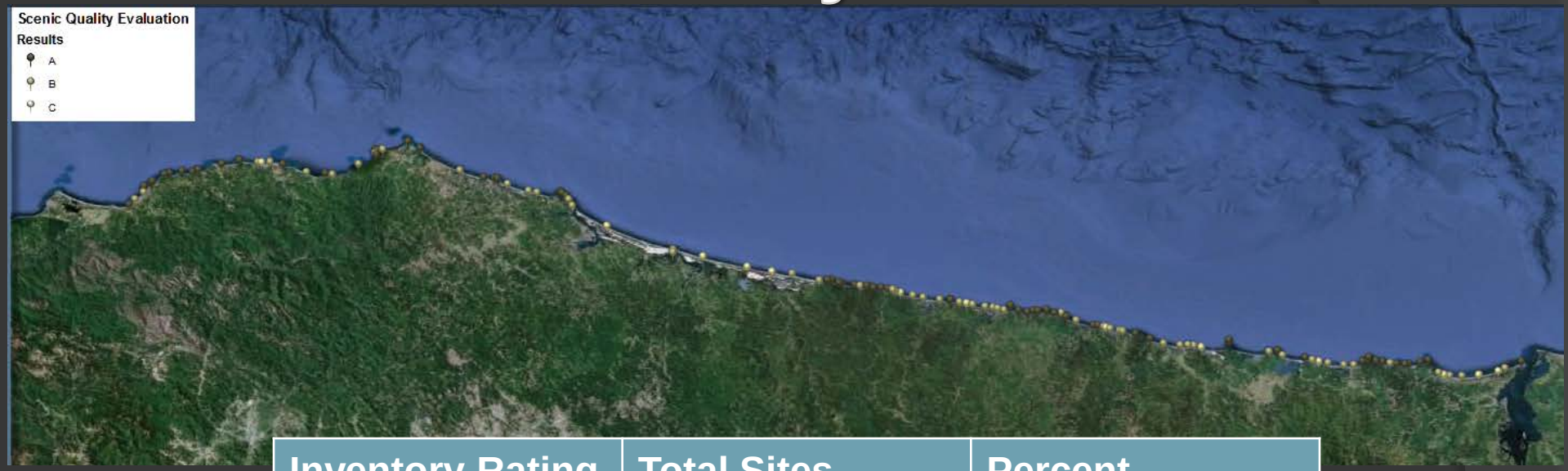
Panorama Photos

Scoring

Attribute	Score	Description
Landform	3	A wide cobble beach leading to sandy beach is surrounded by two small points of land (with low eroding coastal bluffs along the shoreline) to the north and south, with several large rocks on the beach and larger rocks offshore, including Castle Rock off Cape Falcon. Sea cave at Hug Point.
Vegetation	3	Primarily scrub shrub in the foreground with some grassland components and sitka spruce. Foreground species include salal, pacific silverweed, lilly of the valley, sedges, horsetail, beach pea, reedgrass, and willow. Sitka spruce provides some visual interest on Hug Point.
Water	3	Stream running down onto the beach through the cobbles, waves crashing on offshore rocks.
Color	4	Contrast of grey cobble to tan beach, grey/tan bluffs, dark green sitka and bright green shrubs, blue/grey ocean with white surf, green algae in the spray zone of the intertidal, dark grey basalt rocks offshore puctuate blue of ocean.
Adjacent	2	Forested park setting, including parking lot, eroding paved trail, wooden safety fence/guard rail along trail.
Scarcity	3	Pocket sandy/cobble beach provides some interest, not very common.
Cultural	-1	In the immediate foreground, there is a stairwell/gabion and a portion of the eroding/derelict trail that provides some discorant elements.
Total	**17**	**Class B View**

DRAFT

VRIA Survey Results



Inventory Rating	Total Sites	Percent
A	75	52%
B	54	38%
C	14	10%
Total Sites	143	

Survey Agency	Total Sites	Percent
DLCD	47	33%
OPRD	96	66%
Total Sites	143	

Original Class Determination Table

Visual Resource Classes

		Visual sensitivity						
		High			Medium			Low
Special Areas		I	I	I	I	I	I	I
Scenic Quality	A	I	I	I	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						

All inventory locations have a “high sensitivity” value for the state

- Justification:
  - OPRD properties are already a “high sensitivity” in the planning phase, based upon type and amount of use.
  - Should the state apply a “high sensitivity” to all points in the inventory?
  - The Oregon coast highway is a scenic highway
  - Sensitivity levels are (partially) a measure of public concern for scenic quality.

- The original table was modified to account for a “ratcheting effect” of distance away from highly rated sites in combination with the addition of a “special areas” category

Visual Resource Classes

Table 5. Visual Resource Classes

Special Areas		I	I	I
Scenic Quality	A	I	II	II
	B	II	III	III*
				IV*
	C	III	IV	IV
		f/m	b	s/s
		Distance zones		

Example: Class II is assigned to the background and seldom seen areas of a category A viewshed and the fore and mid-ground of a site designated “B” during the inventory phase.

Determining Visual Class

- Combine scenic quality and distance zone to determine visual resource classes (BLM, 1980b).
- Geographic Information Systems modeling was conducted to produce a Composite Viewshed Analysis Map.
  - **Class I.** Class I is assigned to all *special areas* and to the fore and mid-ground (0-5mi) of a sites inventoried as “A” for scenic quality.
  - **Classes II.** Class II is assigned to the background and seldom seen areas of an “A” viewshed and the fore and mid-ground of a scenic quality “B” sites.
  - **Class III.** Class III is assigned to the background and seldom seen areas of a inventoried “B” site and the fore and mid-ground of a scenic quality “C” site.
  - **Class IV**. Class IV areas are located in the background and seldom seen areas of scenic quality “C” viewsheds.
- **Special Areas Consideration**
  - Class I is applied within the view of a special area viewshed.

Distribution of Visual Classes

Class Value	Percent of TSP Area
Class I	69%
Class II	30%
Class III	1%
Class IV	<1%

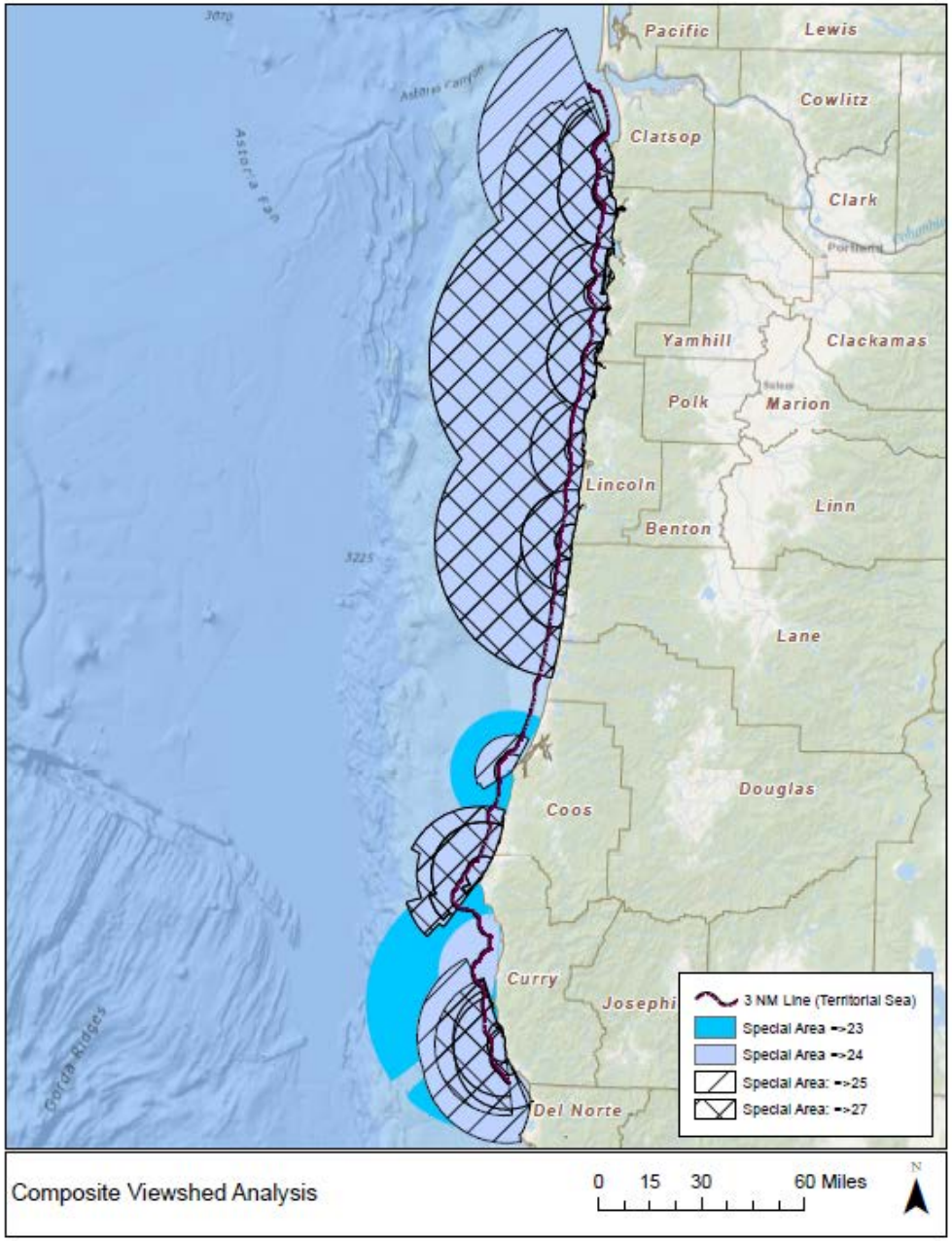
Class Value	Percent of Visible OCS Area
Class I	2%
Class II	93%
Class III	5%
Class IV	<1%

Special Areas Discussion:

Special Areas		I	I	I
Scenic Quality	A	I	II	II
	B	II	III	III*
				IV*
	C	III	IV	IV
		f/m	b	s/s
		Distance zones		

Proposal: To use scenic quality evaluation scores to designate these locations.

Class Value	Percent of TSP Area
Special area >= 24	77%
Special Area: >=25	68%



Visual Resource Class Standards (old)

VRM Class	Visual Resource Objective	Change Allowed (Relative)	Relationship to the "casual observer"
Class I	Preserve the existing character of the seascape. Manage for natural ecological changes.	Very Low	Activities should not be visible and **must not attract attention.**
Class II	Retain the existing character of the landscape	Low	Activities may be visible but **should not attract attention.**
Class III	Partially retain the existing character of the landscape	Moderate	Activities **may attract attention** but **should not dominate** the view.
Class IV	Provide for management activities which require major modification of the existing character of the landscape	High	Activities **may attract attention**, **may dominate** the view, but are still mitigated.

Visual Resource Class Standards (new)

VRM Class	Visual Resource Objective	Change Allowed (Relative)	Relationship to the "casual observer"
Class I	Preserve the existing character of the seascape. Manage for natural ecological changes.	Very Low	Activities should not be visible and **may not attract attention.**
Class II	Retain the existing character of the landscape	Low	Activities **may be seen**, and may attract minimal attention, but **may not dominate** the view.
Class III	Partially retain the existing character of the landscape	Moderate	Activities **may attract attention** but **may not dominate** the view.
Class IV	Provide for management activities which require major modification of the existing character of the landscape	High	Activities **may attract attention**, **may dominate** the view, but are still mitigated.

Visual Resource Overlay

Visual Resource Management has 2 distinct phases:

- *Planning phase:* inventoried sites are given a visual resource rating. The visual resource inventory assessment (VRIA) will be incorporated into the plan to the full extent of the Territorial Sea.

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Visual Resources Evaluation Process

Visual simulations

Contrast evaluation.

Scenic Inventory Class objectives.

Potential impact of project

- The JART will select Key Viewing Areas (KVAs) based on the viewsheds that would potentially be impacted.
- The project applicant conducts visual simulation(s) for the selected KVA's and the range of scenic quality class values and distances potentially affected.
- The applicant conducts a contrast evaluation of the proposed development and drafts a review of the impacts to the KVAs based on visual simulations.
- Factors to consider include: distance from viewpoint(s), angle(s) of observation, time factor(s), relative size or number, seasonality, lighting, spatial relationships, atmospheric conditions, motion/ lights/ color, shore-based facilities.
- The project applicant provides an evaluation of the potential impact of the proposed development, using the visual simulations, contrast evaluation, and objectives of the scenic inventory classes to make a recommendation to the JART and DSL.

Visual Resources Management System

Portfolio of products including:

- Updated Visual Resource Methods document
- Visual Resource Inventory Assessment Baseline Report (144 sites)
- Geospatial products – Visual Arcs displayed on Oregon MarineMap showing “highest” class value.
- Visual Resources Standards Language – in Part 5.
- Process framework for evaluating applications for MRE development

The “Handoff”

TSPAC left one unanswered question regarding the VRMS for the TSP.

- Special Areas Issue:
  - Cutoff Value?
    - To adopt the special areas designation at the score of 24.
    - To adopt a different special area cutoff score (25)

COMMENTS

- http://www.oregonocean.info
  Use Ocean Energy tab on main page
- Paul.Klarin@state.or.us
- TSP.Comments@state.or.us
- Mail to: 635 Capitol St. NE, Suite 150
  Salem 97301-2540