



# Oregon

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TO: TSPAC

FROM: Andy Lanier, Laurel Hillmann, Paul Manson

CC: File

RE: TSPAC Visual Resources Subcommittee Meeting Report 10.08.2012

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The 5<sup>th</sup> meeting of the TSPAC Visual Resources Subcommittee was held from 1:00PM – 4:30PM as an in-person and GotoMeeting online conference. The meeting was recorded and a digital audio file of the meeting is available from the department. The meeting included: **Members (7 of 8):** David Allen, Gus Gates, Peter Huhtala, Rick Williams, and David Yamamoto, Susan Allen.

**Absent for this meeting were members:** Bob Eder

**Members of the public:** Onno Husing, Dave Lacey, Jim Carlson, Walter Chuck

**Staff:** Laurel Hillmann, Andy Lanier, Paul Manson, Paul Klarin, Todd Hallenbeck

The meeting included detailed discussion of the following topics and issues:

1. Agency staff provided a summary of Visual Resource Inventory Assessment activities to-date. This includes a summary of the visual resource inventory sites completed to-date, and reported conclusion of the inventory (additional sites may be conducted after further public review of the results).
2. Agency presentation for designation of “special areas” as part of the scenic evaluation process. The proposal for determining special areas in the context of the Visual Resources Management system was based on the combination of high scenic quality and some minimum level of management as a public access location by a city, county, or state agency. Specifically the agency staff demonstrated an initial proposal of rating all VRIA locations that have a scenic quality evaluation score of 25 or higher, and are managed as a public access point for viewing the ocean, as special areas within the context of the VRM system (See table 5 below). The subcommittee reached broad consensus with the idea of using the scenic quality evaluation scores as a means for determining which viewsheds would be classified in the “Special Areas” category. The subcommittee asked agency staff to provide some additional context (scenarios where different scores would be used) to assist in making a decision about the specific scores required for classification in the Special Areas status.

**Table 5. Visual Resource Classes (modified from BLM, 1980a)—DRAFT**, as modified by the TSPAC visual resource subcommittee on Sept 6 2012.

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

\* If adjacent areas is Class III or lower assign Class III, if higher assign Class IV

**Note:** The only changes made to the original BLM visual resource classes table (BLM, 1980a) was to move high sensitivity/high scenic quality (A) sites to Class I that were originally noted as Class II, but only in the the foreground/midleground. This change was meant to accommodate highly sensitive and highly scenic sites that may not have a previous designation specifically geared toward scenic values. All sites on the Oregon coast have “high sensitivity” based on level of use and other factors, therefore that section of the table was removed.

3. The subcommittee discussed what a draft of the visual resources inventory “final product” package would contain when being incorporated into Part 5 chapter of the TSP.
  - a. A “ final” version of the methods document which describes the planning and regulatory process required for the approval of any MRE application, along with a description of the class standards being applied
  - b. A map of the Visual Resource Inventory Assessment locations
  - c. A summary report with all of the scenic evaluations included in the current template (site description, total score, panorama, listing of individual category scores).
  - d. A map showing the summary VRIA product (highest viewshed class values) within the territorial sea
  
4. The final item the group discussed was the outreach process for the review (at the state and local level) of the VRIA products. There was group consensus that there should be an announcement of a 30 day public comment process for review of the final VRIA products. That public comment period should coincide with the other public meetings to be held at the request of the TSPAC (3 coastal meetings). The agency staff also noted that presentations and discussion of the VRIA results at the county or city level would occur as asked for by the interested communities.