



Oregon

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TO: TSPAC

FROM: Andy Lanier, Laurel Hillmann

CC: File

RE: TSPAC Visual Resources Subcommittee Meeting Report 6/6/12

The 2nd meeting of the TSPAC Visual Resources Subcommittee was held from 1:00PM - 4:00PM in Newport, OR. The meeting had two parts, an in-person field visit to Yaquina Head and Nye Beach sites for demonstration of the visual assessment methods, and an in-person and GotoMeeting conference to follow-up on the site visit. The in-office portion of the meeting was recorded and a digital file of the meeting is available from the department's website.

Subcommittee Members: Andy Lanier, Laurel Hillmann, David Allen, Bob Eder, Peter Huhtala, Rick Williams, David Yamamoto, Gus Gates, and Susan Allen (9 of 10). Absent: Bob Lurie
Members of the public: Onno Husing, Stuart Cowie, Walter Chuck
Agency Staff: Tony Stein, Calum Stevenson

The Meeting included the following topics:

1. In the field - Presentation on the Visual Impact Assessment Methods (Laurel Hillmann, OPRD, Tony Stein).
2. In the field - The Group went through scoring methods for the two field sites visited (Yaquina Head, Nye Beach).
3. A discussion about the strengths and weaknesses of the adopted BLM Visual Resource Inventory Assessment methods was held to get feedback from the group.
 - a. Suggested additions to the survey methods included:
 - i. The addition of an emotional scoring factor to be collected prior to the completion of the other objective measures.
 - ii. The addition of a wildlife measure
 - iii. A method to capture some measure of the dynamic nature of the ocean.
4. The group reviewed the viewpoints in the inventory to be conducted by OPRD (Andy Lanier), along with a sample of additional points for consideration by local governments to "fill in the gaps" not in the viewsheds of OPRD selected inventory locations.

- a. Looked at a shared layer in Oregon MarineMap which had all of the proposed inventory point locations included.
5. The group also had a discussion about the requirements of the current planning framework for the generation of visual simulations. Visual simulations are an important component of the permit approval process (to be generated by an applicant, and reviewed during the JART), and the generation of accurate simulations to be completed for a suite of inventory locations was described as an important standard which needs to be developed.
6. Discussion of assistance to local governments for conducting the inventory
 - a. The group discussed the addition of staff at DLCD who will work with city and county offices to conduct the visual resource inventory assessments (VRIA).
7. Discussed review of inventory Assessment values. What kind of public input should occur? The group noted the necessity of local input to both the assessment values, and the evaluation of standards compliance associated with the JART review of a proposal.

There was one important point of agreement reached by the subcommittee, which was that it was comfortable moving forward with the OPAC approved VRIA methods (with some additional suggestions under consideration – see above – items under 3a.)

Several follow up actions were decided upon by the group:

1. DLCD's temporary employee to conduct training on the Visual Resource Inventory Assessment methods by accompanying the OPRD staff on the conduct of their sites.
2. DLCD staff will then start to work with local governments (cities and counties) to:
 - a. Initiate a review of draft visual resource inventory locations outside of State Parks
 - b. Form VRIA teams to participate in the assessment of their local sites.
 - c. Lead the VRIA teams in the conduct of assessments at the selected site locations.
3. DLCD and OPRD Agency staff will provide a presentation at the next OCZMA meeting to go over the use of VRIA procedures. The purpose of the presentation will be to brief the attendees on the methods and to acquire contacts in local governments interested in survey participation.