

Visual Contrast Rating Worksheet¹

Section A: Project Information

Date: 4/25/2003 **District:** Salem **Resource Area:** Cascades

Activity: Highway widening project

Location: T.2S., R.7 E Sect. 31 – AJ Dwyer Scenic Area

Location Sketch: See Attached Viewpoint Photos taken from the South Side of U.S. Highway 26 facing the AJ Dwyer Scenic Area.

Project Name: Wildwood to Wemme Highway Widening **VRM Class:** I

Key Observation Points: From south side of U. S. Highway 26 towards the project area

Weather: Clear and sunny.

Section B: Characteristic Landscape Description²

Land/Water

Form: Relatively flat in FG and larger mountains in the MG and BG.

Line: Horizontal lines in FG and undulating rounded lines in the MG and BG, following mountain shapes.

Color: Soils generally covered by vegetation, medium brown where exposed.

Texture: Unseen.

Vegetation

Form: Relatively homogenous form of trees in FG, MG and BG that follows land forms.

Line: Vertical lines of tree boles in FG and jagged tree line running horizontal and slanted, following the shape of the land form in MG and BG.

Color: Darker green where there are older conifer trees and medium green with younger conifer trees and a lighter green for hardwoods and grass in FG. Darker green with trees covering slopes in MG and BG.

Texture: Clumpy and courser in the FG and less course when looking at trees covering slopes in MG and BG.

¹ Information provided for Form 8400-4

² FG = Foreground, MG = Middle Ground, BG = Background

Structure

- Form:** Layers of horizontal/rectangular shapes in FG associated with highway, guard rails and utility lines. Glimpses of rectangular shaped houses can be seen through the trees in MG.
- Line:** Horizontal lines associated with highway, guardrails and utility lines in FG. Vertical lines associated with utility poles in FG. No identifiable lines for MG.
- Color:** Grayish-Black for highway, grey for guard rails in FG. Brown for the power line structure in FG. Glimpses of houses appear lighter colored in MG.
- Texture:** Smooth for highway, utilities and guardrails in FG and for glimpses of houses in MG.

Section C: Proposed Activity Description³

Proposed Activity: Thinning of Units B-4 and B-5

Land/Water

- Form:** No change expected in short term or long term.
- Line:** No change expected in short term or long term.
- Color:** Some soil may be exposed in short term during construction period, with vegetation returning to cover it in long term.
- Texture:** No change expected in short term or long term.

Vegetation

- Form:** Low change in short term, with the general area appearing more open but with a forested setting still maintained. Changes would decrease in long term as remaining trees mature.
- Line:** No change expected in the short or long term given that there would still be trees exhibiting vertical lines, just younger and smaller.
- Color:** Low change in short term, with much of the forested canopy would still be in place, however the darker green older trees would no long be observable. Changes would decrease in long term as remaining trees mature.
- Texture:** No change expected in short term or long term given that a forested setting would still be maintained.

Structure

- Form:** No change
- Line:** No change
- Color:** No change expected except an improvement because more visually sensitive weathering guard rails would be added to blend in with landscape.
- Texture:** No change

³ FG = Foreground, MG = Middle Ground, BG = Background

Section D: Contrast Rating - Both Short Term and Long Term

1. Degree of Contrast

Elements	Land/Water Body	Vegetation	Structures
Form	None	Low	None
Line	None	None	None
Color	None	Low	None
Texture	None	None	None

2. Does project meet visual resource management objectives (see comments): Yes

3. Additional Mitigation Measures Recommended (see mitigation measures): No

Comments from Item 2:

- A strip approximately 0.27-mile in length adjacent to U.S. Highway 26 would be cleared of trees and vegetation, which includes most of the larger trees in the parcel.
- The width of the strip would vary from 25 to 50 feet.
- Speed limit is 45 mph, so area is only in view for seconds in the peripheral view of drivers when traveling east or west along U.S. Highway 26.
- No houses appear to directly face the parcel given that it is across from Wildwood Recreation Site.
- Visual simulations completed by ODOT indicate that most of the larger trees would be removed, but that the area would still retain the appearance of a forested setting.

Additional Mitigating Measures from Item 3: None

Evaluator's Name: Laura Dowlan, Outdoor Recreation Planner

Date: 4/25/2006

Wildwood-Wemme Highway Project VRM Key Observation Area Photos



From south side of Highway 26 facing northwest towards AJ Dwyer Scenic Area



From south side of Highway 26 facing northwest towards AJ Dwyer Scenic Area

Wildwood-Wemme Highway Project VRM Key Observation Area Photos



From south side of Highway 26 facing northeast towards AJ Dwyer Scenic Area



From south side of Highway 26 facing northeast towards AJ Dwyer Scenic Area