

Appendix N
Visual Inventory Forms

White Pine Project

Visual Contrast Rating Worksheet: Proposed Action

EDAW/CH2M HILL

Project Name	White Pine		
Alternative	Proposed Action		
KOP	KOP 1: Cherry Creek		
VRM Class	The Proposed Action power plant site is located in an area of VRM Class III. KOP 1 is located in an area of VRM Class II.		
Distance From KOP	Approximately 12 miles		
Proposed Activity Description: Power Plant			
	Land/Water	Vegetation	Structures
Form	The cleared site would be visible in the distance from this location as would the evaporation ponds.	The rectangular shape of the partially cleared site and project facilities would contrast with adjacent and nearby vegetated areas.	The concave cylindrical shape of the cooling towers would be clearly seen when looking down into Steptoe Valley from this location. Other large facilities such as the stacks and coal storage areas along with the power plant would also be seen, but would not be as visible as the cooling towers.
Line			The cooling towers and stacks would be visible vertical elements.
Color	Brownish – gray earth colors. Cleared areas would be the color of the graded earth (browns).	Some existing vegetation would be removed and some would be left in place.	The concrete cooling towers would contrast in color with the adjacent landscape. Over time the color of the concrete would darken and the contrast would be less. Other facilities would be painted earth tones to reduce visual impacts. Coal storage areas would be black.
Texture			The texture of facilities would not be noticed much from this distance.
Degree of Contrast 1 = Strong; 2 = Moderate; 3 = Weak; 4 = None	Land/Water	Vegetation	Structures
Form	3	3	2
Line	4	4	3
Color	3	3	3
Texture	3	4	3

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Visual Contrast Rating Worksheet: Proposed Action

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Does design meet VRM Class management objectives? Yes for VRM Class III.

Explain: The view from this KOP into Steptoe Valley is very expansive. The Proposed Action would be a small part of that view. The cooling towers would be very visible from this location but would not be silhouetted against the sky, which would reduce their visual impact. Cherry Creek is far enough away from the site that most of the rest of the project facilities would not be visually distinct. Contrasts with the existing characteristic landscape would occur, but would generally be "weak" so VRM Class III objectives would be met.

Additional mitigation measures recommended. None.

White Pine Project

Visual Contrast Rating Worksheet: Proposed Action

EDAW/CH2M HILL

Project Name	White Pine		
Alternative	Proposed Action		
KOP	KOP 2: Pony Express Route & CR 18 (visual simulation prepared for this KOP)		
VRM Class	The Proposed Action power plant site is located in an areas of Class III. KOP 2 is located in an area of VRM Class II.		
Distance From KOP	Approximately 4.5 miles		
Proposed Activity Description: Power Plant			
	Land/Water	Vegetation	Structures
Form	The cleared site would not be seen from this viewing distance.	Vegetation that would be removed would be too far away to be seen in any detail from this location.	The concave cylindrical shape of the cooling towers and the cylindrical shape of the stacks would be very visible in front of mountains in the background from this location (but would not be silhouetted against the sky). A variety of large-scale block-like and angular forms of various project facilities associated with the power plant would also be visible from this KOP.
Line			Cooling towers and stacks would be visible as vertical elements from this location. Parts of some long horizontal facilities (coal storage areas and storage berms) would also be seen.
Color	Brownish – gray earth colors.	Sage green and grays.	The concrete cooling towers and stacks would be noticed and their color would contrast to some degree with the adjacent landscape and sky. Other smaller facilities that would be painted earth tones to reduce visual impacts would be less visible.
Texture			The smooth concrete of the cooling towers would be noticeable. The texture of other facilities would not be noticed as much from this distance.

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Visual Contrast Rating Worksheet: Proposed Action

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Degree of Contrast 1 = Strong; 2 = Moderate; 3 = Weak; 4 = None	Land/Water	Vegetation	Structures
Form	3	4	2
Line	3	4	2
Color	2	4	2
Texture	3	4	3

Does design meet VRM Class management objectives? Yes for VRM Class III objectives.

Explain: The distance (4.5 miles) between the KOP and the Proposed Action power plant site is great enough that changes to the existing land and vegetation would not be very (or at all) noticeable. Larger facilities such as the cooling towers and stacks, and the top of the power plant would be seen to the south by people driving east or west on this section of County Road 18. The cooling towers and stacks would be silhouetted against the sky, which would increase their visibility. Contrasts with the characteristic landscape would be “low to moderate” and would meet VRM Class III objectives.

Changes to the characteristic landscape as a result of the cleared water pipeline right-of-way would be noticed from this KOP, but only for a short time by people driving past the KOP location and looking to the immediate left or right (and up the cleared right-of-way). The VRM objectives for Classes II and III would be met.

Additional mitigation measures recommended. None.

White Pine Project

Visual Contrast Rating Worksheet: Proposed Action

EDAW/CH2M HILL

Project Name	White Pine		
Alternative	Proposed Action		
KOP	KOP 3: Lincoln Highway (visual simulation prepared for this KOP)		
VRM Class	The Proposed Action power plant site is located in an area of VRM Class III. KOP 3 is also located in an area of VRM Class III.		
Distance From KOP	Approximately 2.5 miles		
Proposed Activity Description: Power Plant			
	Land/Water	Vegetation	Structures
Form	Land cleared for site development would not be clearly seen from this KOP.		The three concave cylindrically shaped cooling towers and stacks would be visible from this location, but would not be silhouetted against the sky. In addition, other facilities such as the power block, coal storage areas, substation, and transmission lines would be seen from this KOP.
Line			Horizontal facilities (coal storage areas, storage berms, and transmission lines) and tall vertical facilities (cooling towers and stacks) would be noticeable from this KOP.
Color	Cleared site would be brown and gray.	Existing vegetation would be removed and some ornamental vegetation would be planted at the facility and seen from this KOP.	The concrete cooling towers would contrast with the background terrain. Other facilities would be painted with non-reflective paint to reduce visual impacts. Coal storage areas would be black and would contrast when not covered in snow.
Texture			The texture of facilities would contrast from the nearby landscape when viewed from this distance.

White Pine Project

Visual Contrast Rating Worksheet: Proposed Action

EDAW/CH2M HILL

Degree of Contrast 1 = Strong; 2 = Moderate; 3 = Weak; 4 = None	Land/Water	Vegetation	Structures
Form	3	3	2
Line	3	3	2
Color	3	3	2
Texture	3	3	3

Does design meet VRM Class management objectives? Yes for VRM Class III.

Explain: This location is far enough away so that although some of the larger facilities would be noticeable, they would lie low on the horizon. Changes to the characteristic landscape would be “low” and as a result, objectives for VRM Class III would be met.

Additional mitigation measures recommended. No.

White Pine Project

Visual Contrast Rating Worksheet: Proposed Action

EDAW/CH2M HILL

Project Name	White Pine		
Alternative	Proposed Action		
KOP	KOP 4: Highway 93 (at a turn off)		
VRM Class	The Proposed Action power plant site is located in an area of VRM Class III. KOP 4 is also located in an area of VRM Class III.		
Distance From KOP	Approximately 12 miles		
Proposed Activity Description: Power Plant			
	Land/Water	Vegetation	Structures
Form	Relatively flat land would be cleared, but would require relatively little grading. The site would be rectangular in shape and could be partially seen from this KOP.	Existing vegetation would be retained where possible, but extensive areas would be cleared to accommodate project facilities. Cleared areas would be seen from this KOP.	The tops of the tallest facilities (primarily the cooling towers and the stacks) could be seen and would be partially silhouetted against the sky.
Line			Horizontal facilities (coal storage areas, storage berms, and transmission lines) and tall vertical facilities (cooling towers and stacks) would be noticeable from this KOP
Color			The cooling towers would contrast in color with the adjacent landscape and sky. Other facilities would be painted with non-reflective paints to reduce visual impacts. Coal storage areas would be black and would contrast when not covered in snow.
Texture			Texture of facilities would somewhat contrast with nearby landscape.

White Pine Project

Visual Contrast Rating Worksheet: Proposed Action

EDAW/CH2M HILL

Degree of Contrast 1 = Strong; 2 = Moderate; 3 = Weak; 4 = None	Land/Water	Vegetation	Structures
Form	4	4	1
Line	4	4	1
Color	4	4	2
Texture	4	4	3

Does design meet VRM Class management objectives? Yes for both VRM Class III.

Explain: The Proposed Action site and facilities would be noticeable from this KOP. The cooling towers and stacks would be silhouetted against the background mountains from this location. The level of contrast with the landscape seen from this KOP would be “weak to “moderate” (form would be “strong”) which would meet VRM Class III objectives.

Additional mitigation measures recommended. No.

White Pine Project

Visual Contrast Rating Worksheet: Proposed Action

EDAW/CH2M HILL

Project Name	White Pine		
Alternative	Proposed Action		
KOP	KOP 5: McGill		
VRM Class	The Proposed Action power plant site is located in an area of VRM Class III. KOP 5 is also located in an area of VRM Class III.		
Distance From KOP	Approximately 21 miles		
Proposed Activity Description: Power Plant			
	Land/Water	Vegetation	Structures
Form			This KOP is within the seen area of the Proposed Action site. Viewers could see the tops of some of the taller structures such as the cooling towers and the stacks in the distance. The tops of these structures might be silhouetted against the sky or background mountains, but due to the distance, would be barely noticed.
Line			Tops of structures could be seen silhouetted against the sky.
Color			May see a slight contrast in the concrete color of the cooling towers.
Texture			Not seen.
Degree of Contrast 1 = Strong; 2 = Moderate; 3 = Weak; 4 = None	Land/Water	Vegetation	Structures
Form	4	4	3
Line	4	4	3
Color	4	4	4
Texture	4	4	4
Does design meet VRM Class management objectives? Yes for VRM Class III.			
Explain: Changes to the characteristic landscape from this KOP would be very low, which would meet the objectives of VRM Class III.			
Additional mitigation measures recommended. No.			

White Pine Project

Visual Contrast Rating Worksheet: Proposed Action

EDAW/CH2M HILL

Project Name	White Pine		
Alternative	Proposed Action		
KOP	KOP 6: Highway 50		
VRM Class	VRM Class III		
Distance From KOP	Within 1/4 mile		
Proposed Activity Description: Transmission Line and Substation			
	Land/Water	Vegetation	Structures
Form	Cleared right-of-way would introduce rectilinear forms where seen.		The tower structures would introduce geometric forms to the landscape.
Line	300-foot wide right-of-way cleared of large vegetation would introduce rectilinear forms where seen.	300-foot wide right-of-way cleared of large vegetation will follow the transmission line.	Transmission line conduit would cross over the highway.
Color		Cleared right-of-way would change type and color of existing vegetation.	
Texture			
Degree of Contrast 1 = Strong; 2 = Moderate; 3 = Weak; 4 = None	Land/Water	Vegetation	Structures
Form	2	2	2
Line	2	2	3
Color	3	3	3
Texture	3	3	3
Does design meet VRM Class management objectives? Yes, the objectives of VRM Class III would be met.			
Explain: Only part of the cleared right-of-way would be seen. The most visible elements would be the tower structures. Changes to the characteristic landscape from this KOP would be low to moderate, which would meet or exceed the objectives of VRM Class III. The substation would be screened from view from the highway by a small hill.			
Additional mitigation measures recommended. None.			

White Pine Project

Visual Contrast Rating Worksheet: Alternative 1

EDAW/CH2M HILL

Project Name	White Pine		
Alternative	Alternative 1		
KOP	KOP 1: Cherry Creek		
VRM Class	VRM Class III		
Distance From KOP	Approximately 23 miles		
Proposed Activity Description: Power Plant			
	Land/Water	Vegetation	Structures
Form	Not seen.	Not seen.	Tops of three cooling towers in seen area, may see tops in distance.
Line	Not seen.	Not seen.	Tops of three cooling towers in seen area, may see tops in distance.
Color	Not seen.	Not seen.	Tops of three cooling towers in seen area, may see tops in distance.
Texture	Not seen.	Not seen.	NA
Degree of Contrast 1 = Strong; 2 = Moderate; 3 = Weak; 4 = None	Land/Water	Vegetation	Structures
Form	NA	NA	4
Line	NA	NA	4
Color	NA	NA	4
Texture	NA	NA	NA
Does design meet VRM Class management objectives? Yes for Class III (not seen).			
Explain: Other than the tops of the three cooling towers and stacks (which would be 23 miles away), none of the Alternative 1 site would be seen from KOP 1.			
Additional mitigation measures recommended. None.			

White Pine Project

Visual Contrast Rating Worksheet: Alternative 1

EDAW/CH2M HILL

Project Name	White Pine		
Alternative	Alternative 1		
KOP	KOP 2: Pony Express Route (County Road 18)		
VRM Class	VRM Class III		
Distance From KOP	Approximately 15 miles		
Proposed Activity Description: Power Plant			
	Land/Water	Vegetation	Structures
Form	Not seen.	Not seen.	The tops of three cooling towers and stacks could be visible in distance silhouetted against the sky.
Line	Not seen.	Not seen.	The tops of three cooling towers and stacks could be visible in distance silhouetted against the sky.
Color	Not seen.	Not seen.	Would blend in fairly well, although stacks could be visible in the distance.
Texture	Not seen.	Not seen.	Too far to see texture.
Degree of Contrast 1 = Strong; 2 = Moderate; 3 = Weak; 4 = None	Land/Water	Vegetation	Structures
Form	4	4	3
Line	4	4	3
Color	4	4	3
Texture	4	4	4
Does design meet VRM Class management objectives? Yes for VRM Class III.			
Explain: Other than the tops of the three cooling towers and stacks (which would be 15 miles away), none of the Alternative 1 site would be seen from KOP 2.			
Additional mitigation measures recommended. None.			

White Pine Project

Visual Contrast Rating Worksheet: Alternative 1

EDAW/CH2M HILL

Project Name	White Pine		
Alternative	Alternative 1		
KOP	KOP 3: Lincoln Highway		
VRM Class	VRM Class III		
Distance From KOP	Approximately 7 miles away		
Proposed Activity Description: Power Plant			
	Land/Water	Vegetation	Structures
Form	KOP too far away to notice changes to site.	KOP too far away to be able to see disturbed vegetation.	Inverted cylindrical shape of the cooling towers would be visible as would some long horizontal facilities (coal storage areas and storage berms) and some long vertical facilities (stacks).
Line			Inverted cylindrical shape of the cooling towers would be visible as would stacks and some long horizontal facilities (coal storage areas and storage berms).
Color	Brownish – gray earth colors.	Sage green and grays.	The untreated concrete of the three cooling towers would be noticed and would contrast to some degree with the adjacent landscape and sky. Other facilities that would be painted earth tones to reduce visual impacts would be less visible.
Texture			The smooth concrete of the cooling towers might be noticeable. The texture of facilities would not be noticed much from this distance.
Degree of Contrast 1 = Strong; 2 = Moderate; 3 = Weak; 4 = None	Land/Water	Vegetation	Structures
Form	4	4	3
Line	4	4	3
Color	4	4	3
Texture	4	4	3
Does design meet VRM Class management objectives? Yes for Class III.			
Explain: Changes to the viewed landscape from this KOP would be low, which would exceed the objectives of VRM Class III.			
Additional mitigation measures recommended. No.			

White Pine Project

Visual Contrast Rating Worksheet: Alternative 1

EDAW/CH2M HILL

Project Name	White Pine		
Alternative	Alternative 1		
KOP	KOP 4: Highway 93 (at a turnoff) [Simulation developed for this KOP]		
VRM Class	VRM Class III		
Distance From KOP	Approximately 1 mile		
Proposed Activity Description: Power Plant			
	Land/Water	Vegetation	Structures
Form	Alternative 1 facilities would visually interrupt the extensive flat plane of the valley floor (as does the highway).	Vegetation would be removed and replaced with facilities and cleared areas.	The facility structures would be very apparent from this location and would introduce new geometric forms into the seen landscape.
Line	The coal storage and berms for the evaporation pond and waste storage areas would introduce long horizontal shapes to the landscape.		The cooling towers and stacks would add large vertical “lines” to the landscape that would be silhouetted against the sky from this location.
Color	The dark color of the coal being stored would contrast with the surrounding landscape.		The untreated concrete of the three cooling towers and the colors of other project facilities would contrast with the adjacent landscape and sky and would be very noticeable.
Texture			The texture of the facilities would be courser than that of the nearby landscape.
Degree of Contrast 1 = Strong; 2 = Moderate; 3 = Weak; 4 = None	Land/Water	Vegetation	Structures
Form	1	2	1
Line	1	3	2
Color	2	3	2
Texture	3	3	3

White Pine Project

Visual Contrast Rating Worksheet: Alternative 1

EDAW/CH2M HILL

Does design meet VRM Class management objectives? Yes.

Explain: Objectives for Class III lands include partially retaining the existing character of the landscape and keeping the level of change to a characteristic landscape moderate. Although the scale of the proposed project's facilities would make them quite visible from U.S. 93, the facilities would be located west of the highway and would not block north, east, or west views of Steptoe Valley from the highway. VRM Class III objectives would be met from this location.

Additional mitigation measures recommended. None.

White Pine Project

Visual Contrast Rating Worksheet: Alternative 1

EDAW/CH2M HILL

Project Name	White Pine		
Alternative	Alternative 1		
KOP	KOP 5: McGill		
VRM Class	VRM Class III		
Distance From KOP	Approximately 10.5 miles north		
Proposed Activity Description: Power Plant			
	Land/Water	Vegetation	Structures
Form	Flat land would be cleared, but would require relatively little grading. Area would be rectangular in shape. KOP too far away to notice.	Site vegetated with sage brush community plants would be cleared. KOP too far away to be able to see disturbed vegetation.	The tops of the three cooling towers (and stacks) could be seen silhouetted above the mountains surrounding Steptoe Valley from this location. A variety of large-scale block-like and angular forms of project various facilities would be visible from this KOP.
Line			Inverted cylindrical shape of the cooling towers would be visible.
Color	Brownish – gray earth colors.	Sage green and grays.	The untreated concrete of the three cooling towers would be noticed and would contrast to some degree with the adjacent landscape and sky. Other facilities that would be painted earth tones to reduce visual impacts would be less visible.
Texture			The smooth concrete of the cooling towers might be noticeable. The texture of facilities would not be noticed much from this distance.
Degree of Contrast 1 = Strong; 2 = Moderate; 3 = Weak; 4 = None	Land/Water	Vegetation	Structures
Form	4	4	2
Line	4	4	3
Color	4	4	3
Texture	4	4	4
Does design meet VRM Class management objectives? Yes.			
Explain: Changes to the viewed landscape from this KOP would be low, which would exceed the objectives of VRM Class III.			
Additional mitigation measures recommended. No.			

White Pine Project

Visual Contrast Rating Worksheet: Alternative 1

EDAW/CH2M HILL

Project Name	White Pine		
Alternative	Alternative 1		
KOP	KOP 6: Highway 50		
VRM Class	VRM Class III		
Distance From KOP	Within ¼ mile		
Proposed Activity Description: Transmission line			
	Land/Water	Vegetation	Structures
Form	Same as Proposed Action	Same as Proposed Action	Same as Proposed Action
Line	Same as Proposed Action	Same as Proposed Action	Same as Proposed Action
Color	Same as Proposed Action	Same as Proposed Action	Same as Proposed Action
Texture	Same as Proposed Action	Same as Proposed Action	Same as Proposed Action
Degree of Contrast 1 = Strong; 2 = Moderate; 3 = Weak; 4 = None	Land/Water	Vegetation	Structures
Form	Same as Proposed Action	Same as Proposed Action	Same as Proposed Action
Line	Same as Proposed Action	Same as Proposed Action	Same as Proposed Action
Color	Same as Proposed Action	Same as Proposed Action	Same as Proposed Action
Texture	Same as Proposed Action	Same as Proposed Action	Same as Proposed Action
Does design meet VRM Class management objectives? Same as Proposed Action.			
Explain: Same as Proposed Action.			
Additional mitigation measures recommended. None.			