

Appendix P

Visual Resource Inventory and Classification Process

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Canyon of the Ancients National Monument Visual Resource Management Inventory

The inventory followed the process outlined in BLM Handbook 8410-1, Visual Resource Inventory. All maps are located in the project file.

The CANM RMP planning team conducted field observations and developed a Scenic Quality Rating Unit Map (SQRU).

1. Key Observation Points (KOP) identified by the team and listed in the Draft Plan were identified on a map. These included travelways and stationary locations. Viewsheds for each travelway and viewer location were mapped in two distance zones, Foreground/Midground (FG/MG) and Background. A map was created for each travelway and viewer location.
2. Sensitivity levels were assigned to each KOP. In general, viewer sensitivity for the Monument is considered to be high in all locations. This is due to the special designation as a National Monument, the RMP/EIS scoping comments and the nature of the landscape itself where visitors are allowed to explore both mesas and canyons. In addition, it is recognized that much of the viewshed of several NPS units is located on BLM Monument lands.
3. The viewshed maps were integrated with the Scenic Quality Rating Unit Map and Visual Resource Inventory Classes were mapped with the aid of the matrix shown in the BLM Inventory Manual. This created the Visual Resource Inventory map. The Monument has Visual Inventory Class I in the WSAs, and II and III in most other areas except for some areas of IV in the far southwest Monument due to the underlying Scenic Quality Rating.

Creation of Alternative VI VRM Map

Visual resource management under the Monument RMP/EIS will be guided by a map, RMP standards and guidelines text, including stipulations and Best Management Practices (BMPs) for energy activities. The following bullets generally describe how the VRM map was created.

1. The WSAs were assigned a VRM Class I to maintain a non-impairment condition per H8550-1. RNAs were also assigned a VRM Class I consistent with maintenance of natural conditions.
2. Due to its visual and cultural sensitivity, the Sand Canyon SRMA was assigned a VRM Class I and II.
3. Areas with intensive existing energy development and high potential future energy development were assigned a VRM Class IV. This includes the immediate FG of Mockingbird Mesa and the far southwest part of the Monument.
4. Areas with less intensive existing energy development and moderate to high potential for additional development were assigned a VRM Class III. This includes County Roads N and P.
5. Areas with little current resource activity and moderate to low potential were assigned a VRM Class II.

Insert Map

