

VISUAL RESOURCES MANAGEMENT

Visual Resources Management (VRM) Classes provide specific management for a given area that are intended to maintain a given visual preference. There are four VRM Classes designated within the planning area:

- **Class I:** Maintain landscape setting to appear unaltered by humans. It is applied where management activities are to be restricted (i.e., wilderness areas, natural areas, wild sections of Wild and Scenic Rivers).
- **Class II:** Design proposed alterations in a manner that retains the existing character of the landscape. Level of change should be low. Any alteration to the landscape may be seen but should not attract attention of the casual observer.
- **Class III:** Design proposed alterations in a manner that partially retains the existing character of the landscape. Contrasts to the landscape may be evident and begin to attract attention; however, the changes should remain subordinate to the existing characteristic landscape.
- **Class IV:** Provide for management activities that require major modification of the existing character of the landscape. Contrast may attract attention and be a dominant feature of the landscape; however, the change should repeat the basic elements inherent in the characteristic landscape.

During the MLP process, no VRM Classes will be changed.

In 2011, a visual resource inventory was conducted by the BLM Moab Field Office to assess the current visual character of the entire Field Office area. The visual resource inventory provides up to date information regarding the visual values of an area.

A visual inventory involves evaluation of three factors: scenic quality, sensitivity level, and delineation of distance zones. Based on these three factors, lands are placed into one of four visual resource inventory classes. These inventory classes represent the relative value of the visual resources. Classes I and II are those that are the most valued for visual quality, Class III represents a moderate value, and Class IV is the lowest value. The results of the 2011 inventory have been utilized to identify sensitive viewsheds.