

Standard Environmental Colors

Selecting a Color

Observe the color scheme of the overall landscape. Lighter colors visually advance toward the viewer, and darker colors recede into the landscape regardless of the actual distance. Choose a color that repeats the darker, more recessive color scheme of the surrounding soils and/or vegetation. Re-evaluate from a distance to select a color that is slightly darker than the undisturbed landscape.

Color Choices

Carlsbad Canyon: Use where herbaceous vegetation is dominant in a grassland or other light colored landscape.

Covert Green: Use in a mixed shrub/grass steppe where the shrub component is dominant.

Shadow Gray: Use in heavy shrublands, deciduous forests, or open pine or juniper woodlands where dark gray trunks and branches darken the landscape color.

Juniper Green: Use in mixed coniferous/deciduous or deciduous forests.

Shale Green: Use in dense shrublands, coniferous or deciduous forests, and mixed shrub woodlands.

Sudan Brown: Use where dark soils give the landscape a brownish color or in forests where dark brown trunks and branches are dominant.

Beetle: Use in spruce/fir or other dark coniferous forests having a bluish hue.

Yuma Green: Use in dense coniferous or deciduous forests. Use when viewing from a distance or in areas that are typically in shadow.

Carob Brown: Use when exposed red soil and rock clearly dominate color in the landscape. Use another dark color if the dominance of red tones is diminished by vegetation.

Design Solutions

Proper color selection can dramatically mitigate adverse visual impacts. However, the design solution is more effective if used in combination with other mitigation such as: repeating the elements of form, line, and texture; proper siting and location; minimizing scale; and reducing unnecessary surface disturbance.



Observe the color scheme of the overall landscape



Narrow color choices and re-evaluate at a distance to select the best one



photo courtesy of Invisible Towers

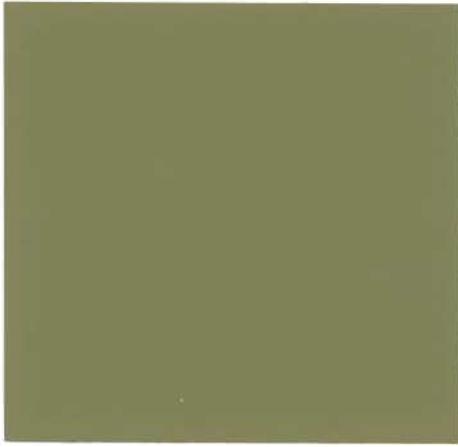
Consider season of use and critical view points



Select from the colors in the undisturbed landscape



Standard Environmental Colors



Carlsbad Canyon



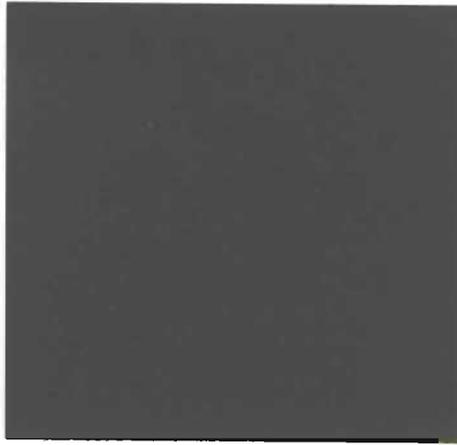
Covert Green



Shadow Gray



Juniper Green



Shale Green



Sudan Brown



Beetle



Yuma Green



Carob Brown

The **Standard Environmental Colors** chart was developed to assist with color selection to minimize the visual contrast of a facility in the landscape.

In order to ensure color accuracy, use an original color chart to match paint. When matching the color chip, request the paint company to have their computer scan set on “natural light.” Compare the new paint sample to the color chip under indirect natural sunlight. Use semi-gloss paint, where appropriate, to enhance durability yet reduce reflectivity. Select colors a shade or two darker than the surrounding landscape to account for natural shadows, normal fading, and weathering.

Order **Standard Environmental Colors** charts by emailing your request to: Printed Material Distribution System (PMDS), BLM_NOC_PMDS@blm.gov or fax to 303-236-0845. Provide the quantity requested along with a contact name, physical address (no P.O. Boxes), and telephone number. For more information or questions, please call 202-785-6574.