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## Appendix C. Visual Absorption Capacity

Visual Absorption Capability (VAC) is the land's ability to absorb change as projects are developed without alteration of the landscape's overall character. VAC analysis is a tool that was widely used by the U.S. Forest Service.

While it is no longer directly a part of the Forest Service's Landscape Management process the analysis of VAC continues to be a useful tool to help public land managers determine the ease (or difficulty) of meeting VRM objectives in the face of on-going resource development projects.

The VAC is not a part of the BLM's VRI process or policy. This was a case study that was conducted for the Rawlins and Rock Springs Field Offices to help determine if it is a useful planning tool.

The following factors are included in VAC analysis:

- Vegetation
- Soil Contrast
- Visual Variety
- Topographical Diversity
- Recovery Time

The degree to which these five factors are exhibited in a given landscape affect its relative ability to absorb visual impacts without adversely affecting the visual quality of that landscape.

For example, low, sparse vegetation provides minimal screening. Projects located in such areas would be much more visible than ones located in a mixed conifer/juniper woodland, a vegetative type that can provide screening of surface disturbance and structures such as oil and gas production facilities. In addition, areas where the clearing of vegetation reveals soils that are much lighter in color than the surrounding vegetation would exhibit a great deal of contrast. Landscapes with a high degree of natural

diversity not only tend to be higher in scenic quality but often have the inherent ability to absorb visual impacts without significant degradation of visual quality. Areas with greater topographical diversity offer more opportunity to screen facilities through proper placement than areas with little or no topographical diversity. Finally, the relative recovery time, the time it takes to restore soil and vegetation to pre-project conditions, significantly affects the ability to meet visual resource objectives, particularly in the short term.

The five factors were analyzed for each scenic quality rating unit while conducting field work for the visual resource inventory. Each of the factors was given a numeric score of one, two or three. These numbers were then added together and the overall score indicated the final evaluation of low (5-6 points), medium (8-11 points) or high (12-15 points).

Table C-1. Visual Absorption Capacity Rating Summary

No.	VAC Rating Unit Name	Vegetation	Soil Contrast	Visual Variety	Topographical Diversity	Recovery Time	Overall Score	Overall Rating
001	Sand Dunes	1	1	2	2	1	7	L
002	Luman Butte	1	2	2	2	1	8	M
003	Stratton Draw	1	1	1	1	1	5	L
004	Bull Springs Rim	1	2	2	2	1	8	M
005	Bairoil	1	2	2	1	1	7	L
006	Shamrock Hills	1	2	2	2	1	8	M
007	West Separation Flats	1	2	1	1	2	7	L
008	Great Divide Basin	1	2	1	1	1	6	L
009	Red Desert Basin	1	1	1	1	1	5	L
010	Continental Divide	1	1	1	1	1	5	L
011	Delaney Rim	1	1	2	2	1	7	L
012	Overland Trail	1	1	1	1	1	5	L
013	Creston	1	2	1	1	1	6	L
014	Red Rim	1	2	2	2	1	8	M
015	Atlantic Rim	2	1	2	2	1	8	M
016	Miller Hill	1	2	1	1	2	7	L
017	Grizzly Management Area	2	2	2	2	2	10	M
018	The Sand Hills	1	1	1	1	1	5	L
019	Doty Mountain	2	1	2	2	1	8	M
020	Muddy Creek	1	2	1	1	1	6	L
021	Adobe Town	2	3	2	3	2	12	H
022	Shell Creek Basin	1	1	1	1	2	6	L
023	The Rims	2	1	2	1	1	7	L
024	Chicken Springs Basin	1	2	1	1	1	6	L
025	Powder Rim	2	1	2	2	1	8	M
026	Sage Flats	1	1	1	1	1	5	L
027	Cedar Breaks	2	2	2	1	1	8	M
028	Sand Creek	1	3	1	2	2	9	M
029	Flat Tops	1	1	3	2	1	8	M
030	Robbers Gulch	1	1	2	2	1	7	M
031	Little Snake Valley	3	2	2	1	2	10	M
032	Chalk Bluff	1	1	1	1	1	5	L
033	Deep Creek	2	1	2	2	1	8	M
034	Horse Mountain	2	2	2	2	2	10	M
035	Savery Canyon	2	1	2	3	2	10	M
036	Browns Hill	1	1	1	1	2	6	L

Table C-1. Visual Absorption Capacity Rating Summary, continued

No.	VAC Rating Unit Name	Vegetation	Soil Contrast	Visual Variety	Topographical Diversity	Recovery Time	Overall Score	Overall Rating
037	Upper Savery Drainage	1	2	2	1	2	8	M
038	Middlewood Hill	1	1	2	2	1	7	L
039	Sage Creek	1	3	1	1	1	7	L
040	Bolton Ranch	1	1	2	2	1	7	L
041	Rawlins Uplift	1	1	2	2	1	7	L
042	Rawlins North	1	1	1	1	1	5	L
043	Rendle Hill	1	1	2	2	1	7	L
044	Separation Flats	1	3	1	1	1	7	L
045	Haystack Mountains	1	2	2	2	1	8	M
046	Platte Dugway	2	1	3	3	1	11	M
047	Seminole West	1	1	2	1	1	6	L
048	Cheyenne Ridge	1	2	2	2	2	9	M
049	Seminole Sand Dunes	1	1	2	2	2	8	M
050	Ferris Mountain Foothills	1	2	2	2	1	8	M
051	Ferris Mountain	3	1	3	3	1	11	M
052	Arkansas Flats	1	2	1	1	1	6	L
053	Sentinel Rocks	3	2	2	3	1	11	M
054	Sunday Morning Creek	1	2	1	1	1	6	L
055	Seminole Mountains	3	1	3	3	1	11	M
056	Miracle Mile	2	2	2	2	2	10	M
057	Little Basin	1	2	1	1	1	6	L
058	Pedro Mountains	3	1	3	3	1	11	M
059	Canyon Creek	1	1	1	1	1	5	L
060	Dry Creek	1	2	1	1	1	6	L
061	Shirley Mountains	3	2	3	3	2	13	H
062	Horseshoe Ridge	1	2	2	3	1	9	M
063	Medicine Bow River	2	2	2	1	3	10	M
064	Cottonwood Draw	1	2	2	2	1	8	M
065	Hanna Uplift	2	1	2	2	1	8	M
066	Dana Meadows	1	2	2	2	1	8	M
067	Parallel Ridges	1	1	2	2	1	7	L
068	Sheephead Mountain	2	2	3	3	2	12	H
069	Pass Creek Agricultural Lands	1	2	1	1	3	8	M
070	Walcott	1	1	1	1	1	5	L
071	Platte North	3	1	2	1	2	9	M
072	Jack Creek Valley	1	1	1	1	2	6	L

Table C-1. Visual Absorption Capacity Rating Summary, continued

No.	VAC Rating Unit Name	Vegetation	Soil Contrast	Visual Variety	Topographical Diversity	Recovery Time	Overall Score	Overall Rating
073	Sierra Madre Foothills	2	2	2	2	1	9	M
074	Saratoga Valley	1	1	1	1	2	6	L
075	Saratoga Valley Agricultural Lands	2	2	1	1	3	9	M
076	Upper Platte Valley	1	2	2	2	2	9	M
077	Prospect Mountain	3	2	3	3	2	13	H
078	Bennett Peak	3	2	3	3	2	13	H
079	Cedar Ridge	2	1	2	2	1	8	M
080	Upper Platte River	2	2	2	1	2	9	M
081	Encampment River WSA	2	2	2	2	1	9	M
082	Medicine Bow Foothills	3	1	3	2	2	11	M
083	Coad Mountain	2	1	3	3	2	11	M
084	Elk Mountain	3	1	3	3	2	12	H
085	Upper Medicine Bow Basin	1	2	1	1	3	8	M
086	Sand Creek Hills	2	1	2	2	1	8	M
087	Spade Flats	1	2	1	1	1	6	L
088	Slate Ridge	2	2	2	2	1	8	M
089	Freezeout Mountains	2	2	3	3	1	11	M
090	Muddy Creek Flats	1	1	1	1	1	5	L
091	Shirley Basin	1	2	1	1	1	6	L
092	Bates Hole	2	1	2	2	1	8	M
093	North of Moss Agate Ridge	1	2	1	1	1	6	L
094	Mines	1	2	1	1	2	7	L
095	Little Medicine Bow River	1	2	1	1	1	6	L
096	Cameron Pass	2	2	2	3	2	11	M
097	North Laramie River	2	2	2	2	3	11	M
098	North Laramie Canyon	1	2	1	2	2	8	M
099	Transitional Foothills	3	2	2	3	1	11	M
100	Davidson Flats	1	2	1	1	3	8	M
101	Habitat Management Area	2	2	3	3	1	11	M
102	Laramie River	2	2	3	3	1	11	M
103	Halleck Canyon	3	1	2	3	2	11	M
104	Poe Mountain	1	2	2	3	1	9	M
105	Sybillle Canyon	2	1	2	2	1	8	M
106	Middle Sybillle Creek	1	2	1	2	2	8	M
107	Foote Creek Basin	1	2	1	1	1	6	L
108	Foote Creek Rim	1	2	1	2	2	8	M
109	Rock Creek	2	3	2	1	3	11	M

Table C-1. Visual Absorption Capacity Rating Summary, continued

No.	VAC Rating Unit Name	Vegetation	Soil Contrast	Visual Variety	Topographical Diversity	Recovery Time	Overall Score	Overall Rating
110	Pine Ridge	2	2	2	2	1	9	M
111	Laramie Plains	1	2	1	1	1	6	L
112	Laramie Irrigated Agricultural Lands	1	2	1	1	3	8	M
113	Big Laramie River	3	2	2	1	3	11	M
114	Jelm Mountain	3	2	3	3	1	12	H
115	Boulder Ridge	3	1	2	3	1	10	M
116	Laramie Mountain Front	2	2	2	3	1	10	M
117	Laramie Mountain Range	1	2	2	2	2	9	M
118	Iron Mountain	1	1	2	2	1	7	L
119	Horse Creek	2	2	2	1	3	10	M
120	Lodgepole Creeks	3	2	2	2	2	11	M
121	North Laramie County	1	2	1	2	2	8	M
122	Laramie County	1	2	1	1	2	7	L
123	Pine Bluffs	3	2	2	2	2	11	M

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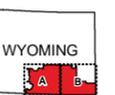
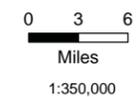
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# Map C-1a. Visual Absorption Capacity

-  Field Office Boundary
-  Not Rated
-  VAC Rating of High
-  VAC Rating of Medium
-  VAC Rating of Low

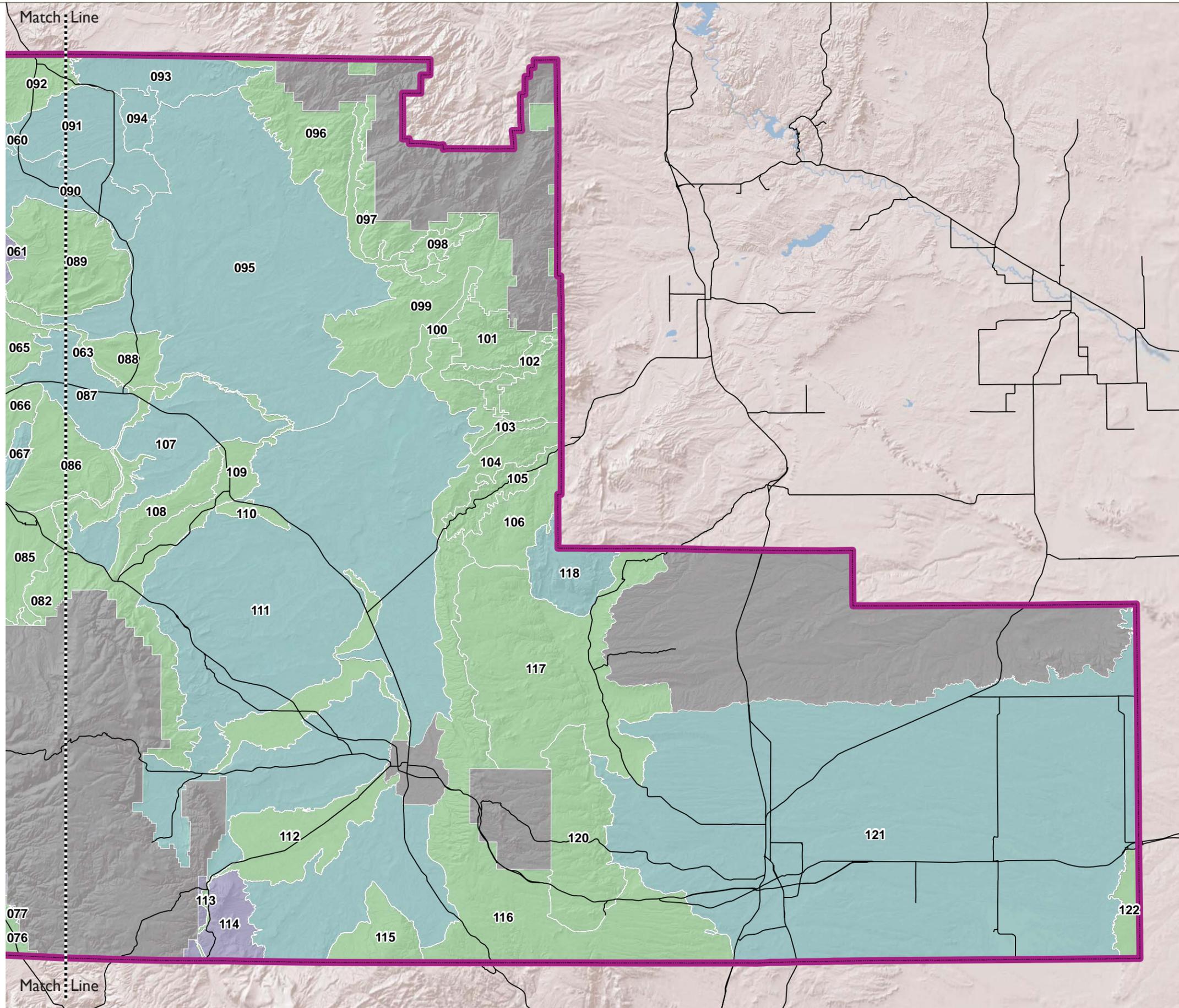
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|-----------------------------|--|
| 001 Sand Dunes              | 050 Ferris Mountain Foothills          |
| 002 Luman Butte             | 051 Ferris Mountain                    |
| 003 Stratton Draw           | 052 Arkansas Flats                     |
| 004 Bull Springs Rim        | 053 Sentinel Rocks                     |
| 005 Bairoil                 | 054 Sunday Morning Creek               |
| 006 Shamrock Hills          | 055 Seminole Mountains                 |
| 007 West Separation Flats   | 056 Miracle Mile                       |
| 008 Great Divide Basin      | 057 Little Basin                       |
| 009 Red Desert Basin        | 058 Pedro Mountains                    |
| 010 Continental Divide      | 059 Canyon Creek                       |
| 011 Delaney Rim             | 060 Dry Creek                          |
| 012 Overland Trail          | 061 Shirley Mountains                  |
| 013 Creston                 | 062 Horseshoe Ridge                    |
| 014 Red Rim                 | 063 Medicine Bow River                 |
| 015 Atlantic Rim            | 064 Cottonwood Draw                    |
| 016 Miller Hill             | 065 Hanna Uplift                       |
| 017 Grizzly Management Area | 066 Dana Meadows                       |
| 018 The Sand Hills          | 067 Parallel Ridges                    |
| 019 Doty Mountain           | 068 Sheephead Mountain                 |
| 020 Muddy Creek             | 069 Pass Creek Agricultural Lands*     |
| 021 Adobe Town              | 070 Walcott                            |
| 022 Shell Creek Basin       | 071 Platte North                       |
| 023 The Rims                | 072 Jack Creek Valley                  |
| 024 Chicken Springs Basin   | 073 Sierra Madre Foothills             |
| 025 Powder Rim              | 074 Saratoga Valley                    |
| 026 Sage Flats              | 075 Saratoga Valley Agricultural Lands |
| 027 Cedar Breaks            | 076 Upper Platte Valley                |
| 028 Sand Creek              | 077 Prospect Mountain                  |
| 029 Flat Tops               | 078 Bennett Peak                       |
| 030 Robbers Gulch           | 079 Cedar Ridge                        |
| 031 Little Snake Valley     | 080 Upper Platte River                 |
| 032 Chalk Bluff             | 081 Encampment River WSA               |
| 033 Deep Creek              | 082 Medicine Bow Foothills             |
| 034 Horse Mountain          | 083 Coad Mountain                      |
| 035 Savery Canyon           | 084 Elk Mountain                       |
| 036 Browns Hill             | 085 Upper Medicine Bow Basin           |
| 037 Upper Savery Drainage   | 086 Sand Creek Hills                   |
| 038 Middlewood Hill         | 087 Spade Flats                        |
| 039 Sage Creek              | 088 Slate Ridge                        |
| 040 Bolton Ranch            | 089 Freezeout Mountains                |
| 041 Rawlins Uplift          | 090 Muddy Creek Flats                  |
| 042 Rawlins North           | 091 Shirley Basin                      |
| 043 Rendle Hill             | 092 Bates Hole                         |
| 044 Separation Flats        | 093 North of Moss Agate Ridge          |
| 045 Haystack Mountains      | 095 Little Medicine Bow River          |
| 046 Platte Dugway           | 107 Foote Creek Basin                  |
| 047 Seminole West           | 108 Foote Creek Rim                    |
| 048 Cheyenne Ridge          |  |
| 049 Seminole Sand Dunes     |  |

\*Merged with 070 Walcott



All data on this map is derived from BLM Rawlins FO and all its jurisdictions within their boundaries. This information was developed at multiple scales and accuracies. The map was created for display and assessment purposes only. No warranty is made by the Bureau of Land Management for use of the data for purposes not intended by BLM.

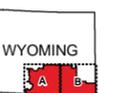
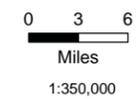
# Map C-1b. Visual Absorption Capacity



-  Field Office Boundary
-  Not Rated
-  VAC Rating of High
-  VAC Rating of Medium
-  VAC Rating of Low

- 060 Dry Creek
- 061 Shirley Mountains
- 063 Medicine Bow River
- 065 Hanna Uplift
- 066 Dana Meadows
- 067 Parallel Ridges
- 076 Upper Platte Valley
- 077 Prospect Mountain
- 082 Medicine Bow Foothills
- 085 Upper Medicine Bow Basin
- 086 Sand Creek Hills
- 087 Spade Flats
- 088 Slate Ridge
- 089 Freezeout Mountains
- 090 Muddy Creek Flats
- 091 Shirley Basin
- 092 Bates Hole
- 093 North of Moss Agate Ridge
- 094 Mines
- 095 Little Medicine Bow River
- 096 Cameron Pass
- 097 North Laramie River
- 098 North Laramie Canyon
- 099 Transitional Foothills
- 100 Davidson Flats
- 101 Habitat Management Area
- 102 Laramie River
- 103 Halleck Canyon
- 104 Poe Mountain
- 105 Sybille Canyon
- 106 Middle Sybille Creek
- 107 Foote Creek Basin
- 108 Foote Creek Rim
- 109 Rock Creek
- 110 Pine Ridge
- 111 Laramie Plains
- 112 Laramie Irrigated Agricultural Lands
- 113 Big Laramie River
- 114 Jelm Mountain
- 115 Boulder Ridge
- 116 Laramie Mountain Front
- 117 Laramie Mountain Range
- 118 Iron Mountain
- 119 Horse Creek\*
- 120 Lodgepole Creeks
- 121 Laramie County
- 122 Pine Bluffs

\*Merged with 117 Laramie Mountain Range



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## Visual Absorption Capacity Rating Units

No.	VAC Unit Name	Page	No.	VAC Unit Name	Page
001	Sand Dunes	C-11	041	Rawlins Uplift	C-91
002	Luman Butte	C-13	042	Rawlins North	C-93
003	Stratton Draw	C-15	043	Rendle Hill	C-95
004	Bull Springs Rim	C-17	044	Separation Flats	C-97
005	Bairoil	C-19	045	Haystack Mountains	C-99
006	Shamrock Hills	C-21	046	Platte Dugway	C-101
007	West Separation Flats	C-23	047	Seminole West	C-103
008	Great Divide Basin	C-25	048	Cheyenne Ridge	C-105
009	Red Desert Basin	C-27	049	Seminole Sand Dunes	C-107
010	Continental Divide	C-29	050	Ferris Mountain Foothills	C-109
011	Delaney Rim	C-31	051	Ferris Mountain	C-111
012	Overland Trail	C-33	052	Arkansas Flats	C-113
013	Creston	C-35	053	Sentinel Rocks	C-115
014	Red Rim	C-37	054	Sunday Morning Creek	C-117
015	Atlantic Rim	C-39	055	Seminole Mountains	C-119
016	Miller Hill	C-41	056	Miracle Mile	C-121
017	Grizzly Management Area	C-43	057	Little Basin	C-123
018	The Sand Hills	C-45	058	Pedro Mountains	C-125
019	Doty Mountain	C-47	059	Canyon Creek	C-127
020	Muddy Creek	C-49	060	Dry Creek	C-129
021	Adobe Town	C-51	061	Shirley Mountains	C-131
022	Shell Creek Basin	C-53	062	Horseshoe Ridge	C-133
023	The Rims	C-55	063	Medicine Bow River	C-135
024	Chicken Springs Basin	C-57	064	Cottonwood Draw	C-137
025	Powder Rim	C-59	065	Hanna Uplift	C-139
026	Sage Flats	C-61	066	Dana Meadows	C-141
027	Cedar Breaks	C-63	067	Parallel Ridges	C-143
028	Sand Creek	C-65	068	Sheephead Mountain	C-145
029	Flat Tops	C-67	069	Pass Creek Agricultural Lands	C-147
030	Robbers Gulch	C-69	070	Walcott	C-149
031	Little Snake Valley	C-71	071	Platte North	C-151
032	Chalk Bluff	C-73	072	Jack Creek Valley	C-153
033	Deep Creek	C-75	073	Sierra Madre Foothills	C-155
034	Horse Mountain	C-77	074	Saratoga Valley	C-157
035	Savery Canyon	C-79	075	Saratoga Valley Agricultural Lands	C-159
036	Browns Hill	C-81	076	Upper Platte Valley	C-161
037	Upper Savery Drainage	C-83	077	Prospect Mountain	C-163
038	Middlewood Hill	C-85	078	Bennett Peak	C-165
039	Sage Creek	C-87	079	Cedar Ridge	C-167
040	Bolton Ranch	C-89	080	Upper Platte River	C-169

## Visual Absorption Capacity Rating Units, continued

No.	VAC Unit Name	Page	No.	VAC Unit Name	Page
081	Encampment River WSA	C-171	120	Lodgepole Creeks	C-249
082	Medicine Bow Foothills	C-173	121	North Laramie County	C-251
083	Coad Mountain	C-175	122	Laramie County	C-253
084	Elk Mountain	C-177	123	Pine Bluffs	C-255
085	Upper Medicine Bow Basin	C-179			
086	Sand Creek Hills	C-181			
087	Spade Flats	C-183			
088	Slate Ridge	C-185			
089	Freezeout Mountains	C-187			
090	Muddy Creek Flats	C-189			
091	Shirley Basin	C-191			
092	Bates Hole	C-193			
093	North of Moss Agate Ridge	C-195			
094	Mines	C-197			
095	Little Medicine Bow River	C-199			
096	Cameron Pass	C-201			
097	North Laramie River	C-203			
098	North Laramie Canyon	C-205			
099	Transitional Foothills	C-207			
100	Davidson Flats	C-209			
101	Habitat Management Area	C-211			
102	Laramie River	C-213			
103	Halleck Canyon	C-215			
104	Poe Mountain	C-217			
105	Sybillie Canyon	C-219			
106	Middle Sybillie Creek	C-221			
107	Foot Creek Basin	C-223			
108	Foot Creek Rim	C-225			
109	Rock Creek	C-227			
110	Pine Ridge	C-229			
111	Laramie Plains	C-231			
112	Laramie Irrigated Agricultural Lands	C-233			
113	Big Laramie River	C-235			
114	Jelm Mountain	C-237			
115	Boulder Ridge	C-239			
116	Laramie Mountain Front	C-241			
117	Laramie Mountain Range	C-243			
118	Iron Mountain	C-245			
119	Horse Creek	C-247			

UNITED STATES  
DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT

RAWLINS FIELD OFFICE

VISUAL ABSORPTION CAPACITY RATING SHEET

Scenic Quality Rating Unit: Sand Dunes

Date 7/28/2010

Unit Number: 1

Evaluators: CBrandt JLieen GLong

	SCORE
<p><b>Vegetation</b></p> <p>1 = Low, uniform vegetation or sparse vegetative cover; typically less than 3' in height; lacking in variety; uniform color; minimal screening capability; typically sagebrush, sagebrush/grass, or grass type vegetation.</p> <p>2 = Vegetation of moderate height (3–6'), some species variety (2 to 3 types), some variation in color, mostly continuous vegetative cover, effectively screens low-profile projects such as low-profile surface disturbance, sagebrush/grass, and intermingled shrubs.</p> <p>3 = Higher vegetation (&gt;6' height); lush, continuous vegetative cover; some variety of vegetative types is typical but not mandatory; provides significant screening capability of projects up to 15–20 feet in height; juniper woodlands, aspen, conifers.</p>	<p>1</p>
<p><b>Soil Contrast</b></p> <p>1 = Surface disturbance would expose a high degree of contrast in color with surrounding soil, rock, and vegetation.</p> <p>2 = Surface disturbance would expose a medium degree of contrast in color with surrounding soil, rock, and vegetation.</p> <p>3 = Surface disturbance would expose only a low degree of contrast in color with surrounding soil, rock, and vegetation.</p>	<p>1</p>
<p><b>Visual Variety</b></p> <p>1 = Rating unit exhibits a low degree of visual variety in terms of the landscape character elements of form, line, and texture; may also exhibit minimal variety in landforms, vegetation, or color.</p> <p>2 = Rating unit exhibits a medium degree of visual variety in terms of the landscape character elements of form, line, and texture; may also exhibit medium variety in landforms, vegetation, or color.</p> <p>3 = Rating unit exhibits a high degree of visual variety in terms of the landscape character elements of form, line, and texture; may also exhibit high degree of variety in landforms, vegetation, or color.</p>	<p>2</p>

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**RAWLINS FIELD OFFICE**

**VISUAL ABSORPTION CAPACITY RATING SHEET**

**SCORE**

**Topographical Diversity**

- 1 = Landform has low amount of topographic diversity and variety.  
2 = Landform has moderate amount of topographic diversity and variety.  
3 = Landform has high amount of topographic diversity and variety.

**2**

**Recovery Time**

- 1 = Long-term recovery time (greater than 5 years)  
2 = Medium recovery time (3 to 5 years)  
3 = High (rapid) recovery time (1 to 2 years)

**1**

**Overall Score**

**7**

**5 - 7 = Low**  
**8 - 11 = Medium**  
**12 - 15 = High**

**Visual Absorption Capacity**  
**(Low, Medium, High)**

**Low**

**Rationale and Conclusion**

Some topographic variation and from some views would screen projects such as oil & gas. however, soil/vegetation contrast is high, recovery time long-term, and vegetation generally low (less than 3' in height).

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RAWLINS FIELD OFFICE

VISUAL ABSORPTION CAPACITY RATING SHEET

Scenic Quality Rating Unit: Luman Butte

Date 7/28/2010

Unit Number: 2

Evaluators: CBrandt JLieen GLong

	SCORE
<p><b>Vegetation</b></p> <p>1 = Low, uniform vegetation or sparse vegetative cover; typically less than 3' in height; lacking in variety; uniform color; minimal screening capability; typically sagebrush, sagebrush/grass, or grass type vegetation.</p> <p>2 = Vegetation of moderate height (3–6'), some species variety (2 to 3 types), some variation in color, mostly continuous vegetative cover, effectively screens low-profile projects such as low-profile surface disturbance, sagebrush/grass, and intermingled shrubs.</p> <p>3 = Higher vegetation (&gt;6' height); lush, continuous vegetative cover; some variety of vegetative types is typical but not mandatory; provides significant screening capability of projects up to 15–20 feet in height; juniper woodlands, aspen, conifers.</p>	<div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 5px; width: 40px; margin: 0 auto;">1</div>
<p><b>Soil Contrast</b></p> <p>1 = Surface disturbance would expose a high degree of contrast in color with surrounding soil, rock, and vegetation.</p> <p>2 = Surface disturbance would expose a medium degree of contrast in color with surrounding soil, rock, and vegetation.</p> <p>3 = Surface disturbance would expose only a low degree of contrast in color with surrounding soil, rock, and vegetation.</p>	<div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 5px; width: 40px; margin: 0 auto;">2</div>
<p><b>Visual Variety</b></p> <p>1 = Rating unit exhibits a low degree of visual variety in terms of the landscape character elements of form, line, and texture; may also exhibit minimal variety in landforms, vegetation, or color.</p> <p>2 = Rating unit exhibits a medium degree of visual variety in terms of the landscape character elements of form, line, and texture; may also exhibit medium variety in landforms, vegetation, or color.</p> <p>3 = Rating unit exhibits a high degree of visual variety in terms of the landscape character elements of form, line, and texture; may also exhibit high degree of variety in landforms, vegetation, or color.</p>	<div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 5px; width: 40px; margin: 0 auto;">2</div>

UNITED STATES  
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**RAWLINS FIELD OFFICE**

**VISUAL ABSORPTION CAPACITY RATING SHEET**

**SCORE**

**Topographical Diversity**

- 1 = Landform has low amount of topographic diversity and variety.  
2 = Landform has moderate amount of topographic diversity and variety.  
3 = Landform has high amount of topographic diversity and variety.

**2**

**Recovery Time**

- 1 = Long-term recovery time (greater than 5 years)  
2 = Medium recovery time (3 to 5 years)  
3 = High (rapid) recovery time (1 to 2 years)

**1**

**Overall Score**

**8**

**5 - 7 = Low**  
**8 - 11 = Medium**  
**12 - 15 = High**

**Visual Absorption Capacity**  
**(Low, Medium, High)**

**Medium**

**Rationale and Conclusion**

The variable terrain affords opportunities to screen projects from view. However, low vegetation limits screening of structures such as oil and gas facilities that are not screened by topographic features.

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VISUAL ABSORPTION CAPACITY RATING SHEET

Scenic Quality Rating Unit: Stratton Draw

Date 7/28/2010

Unit Number: 3

Evaluators: CBrandt JLieen GLong

	SCORE
<p><b>Vegetation</b></p> <p>1 = Low, uniform vegetation or sparse vegetative cover; typically less than 3' in height; lacking in variety; uniform color; minimal screening capability; typically sagebrush, sagebrush/grass, or grass type vegetation.</p> <p>2 = Vegetation of moderate height (3–6'), some species variety (2 to 3 types), some variation in color, mostly continuous vegetative cover, effectively screens low-profile projects such as low-profile surface disturbance, sagebrush/grass, and intermingled shrubs.</p> <p>3 = Higher vegetation (&gt;6' height); lush, continuous vegetative cover; some variety of vegetative types is typical but not mandatory; provides significant screening capability of projects up to 15–20 feet in height; juniper woodlands, aspen, conifers.</p>	<p>1</p>
<p><b>Soil Contrast</b></p> <p>1 = Surface disturbance would expose a high degree of contrast in color with surrounding soil, rock, and vegetation.</p> <p>2 = Surface disturbance would expose a medium degree of contrast in color with surrounding soil, rock, and vegetation.</p> <p>3 = Surface disturbance would expose only a low degree of contrast in color with surrounding soil, rock, and vegetation.</p>	<p>1</p>
<p><b>Visual Variety</b></p> <p>1 = Rating unit exhibits a low degree of visual variety in terms of the landscape character elements of form, line, and texture; may also exhibit minimal variety in landforms, vegetation, or color.</p> <p>2 = Rating unit exhibits a medium degree of visual variety in terms of the landscape character elements of form, line, and texture; may also exhibit medium variety in landforms, vegetation, or color.</p> <p>3 = Rating unit exhibits a high degree of visual variety in terms of the landscape character elements of form, line, and texture; may also exhibit high degree of variety in landforms, vegetation, or color.</p>	<p>1</p>

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**VISUAL ABSORPTION CAPACITY RATING SHEET**

**SCORE**

**Topographical Diversity**

- 1 = Landform has low amount of topographic diversity and variety.  
2 = Landform has moderate amount of topographic diversity and variety.  
3 = Landform has high amount of topographic diversity and variety.

**1**

**Recovery Time**

- 1 = Long-term recovery time (greater than 5 years)  
2 = Medium recovery time (3 to 5 years)  
3 = High (rapid) recovery time (1 to 2 years)

**1**

**Overall Score**

**5**

**5 - 7 = Low**

**8 - 11 = Medium**

**12 - 15 = High**

**Visual Absorption Capacity  
(Low, Medium, High)**

**Low**

**Rationale and Conclusion**

Very low vegetation, little topographic diversity, long recovery time and fairly high contrast between soils, vegetation. Most structures would be seen at considerable distances.

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VISUAL ABSORPTION CAPACITY RATING SHEET

Scenic Quality Rating Unit: Bull Springs Rim

Date 7/28/2010

Unit Number: 4

Evaluators: CBrandt JLieen GLong

	SCORE
<p><b>Vegetation</b></p> <p>1 = Low, uniform vegetation or sparse vegetative cover; typically less than 3' in height; lacking in variety; uniform color; minimal screening capability; typically sagebrush, sagebrush/grass, or grass type vegetation.</p> <p>2 = Vegetation of moderate height (3–6'), some species variety (2 to 3 types), some variation in color, mostly continuous vegetative cover, effectively screens low-profile projects such as low-profile surface disturbance, sagebrush/grass, and intermingled shrubs.</p> <p>3 = Higher vegetation (&gt;6' height); lush, continuous vegetative cover; some variety of vegetative types is typical but not mandatory; provides significant screening capability of projects up to 15–20 feet in height; juniper woodlands, aspen, conifers.</p>	<p>1</p>
<p><b>Soil Contrast</b></p> <p>1 = Surface disturbance would expose a high degree of contrast in color with surrounding soil, rock, and vegetation.</p> <p>2 = Surface disturbance would expose a medium degree of contrast in color with surrounding soil, rock, and vegetation.</p> <p>3 = Surface disturbance would expose only a low degree of contrast in color with surrounding soil, rock, and vegetation.</p>	<p>2</p>
<p><b>Visual Variety</b></p> <p>1 = Rating unit exhibits a low degree of visual variety in terms of the landscape character elements of form, line, and texture; may also exhibit minimal variety in landforms, vegetation, or color.</p> <p>2 = Rating unit exhibits a medium degree of visual variety in terms of the landscape character elements of form, line, and texture; may also exhibit medium variety in landforms, vegetation, or color.</p> <p>3 = Rating unit exhibits a high degree of visual variety in terms of the landscape character elements of form, line, and texture; may also exhibit high degree of variety in landforms, vegetation, or color.</p>	<p>2</p>

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**VISUAL ABSORPTION CAPACITY RATING SHEET**

**SCORE**

**Topographical Diversity**

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3 = Landform has high amount of topographic diversity and variety.

**2**

**Recovery Time**

- 1 = Long-term recovery time (greater than 5 years)  
2 = Medium recovery time (3 to 5 years)  
3 = High (rapid) recovery time (1 to 2 years)

**1**

**Overall Score**

**8**

**5 - 7 = Low**  
**8 - 11 = Medium**  
**12 - 15 = High**

**Visual Absorption Capacity**  
**(Low, Medium, High)**

**Medium**

**Rationale and Conclusion**

The variable terrain affords opportunities to screen projects from view. However, low vegetation limits screening of projects such as oil & gas or buildings.

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VISUAL ABSORPTION CAPACITY RATING SHEET

Scenic Quality Rating Unit: Bairoil

Date 7/27/2010

Unit Number: 5

Evaluators: CBrandt JLieen GLong

	SCORE
<p><b>Vegetation</b></p> <p>1 = Low, uniform vegetation or sparse vegetative cover; typically less than 3' in height; lacking in variety; uniform color; minimal screening capability; typically sagebrush, sagebrush/grass, or grass type vegetation.</p> <p>2 = Vegetation of moderate height (3–6'), some species variety (2 to 3 types), some variation in color, mostly continuous vegetative cover, effectively screens low-profile projects such as low-profile surface disturbance, sagebrush/grass, and intermingled shrubs.</p> <p>3 = Higher vegetation (&gt;6' height); lush, continuous vegetative cover; some variety of vegetative types is typical but not mandatory; provides significant screening capability of projects up to 15–20 feet in height; juniper woodlands, aspen, conifers.</p>	<p>1</p>
<p><b>Soil Contrast</b></p> <p>1 = Surface disturbance would expose a high degree of contrast in color with surrounding soil, rock, and vegetation.</p> <p>2 = Surface disturbance would expose a medium degree of contrast in color with surrounding soil, rock, and vegetation.</p> <p>3 = Surface disturbance would expose only a low degree of contrast in color with surrounding soil, rock, and vegetation.</p>	<p>2</p>
<p><b>Visual Variety</b></p> <p>1 = Rating unit exhibits a low degree of visual variety in terms of the landscape character elements of form, line, and texture; may also exhibit minimal variety in landforms, vegetation, or color.</p> <p>2 = Rating unit exhibits a medium degree of visual variety in terms of the landscape character elements of form, line, and texture; may also exhibit medium variety in landforms, vegetation, or color.</p> <p>3 = Rating unit exhibits a high degree of visual variety in terms of the landscape character elements of form, line, and texture; may also exhibit high degree of variety in landforms, vegetation, or color.</p>	<p>2</p>

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VISUAL ABSORPTION CAPACITY RATING SHEET

SCORE

**Topographical Diversity**

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2 = Landform has moderate amount of topographic diversity and variety.  
3 = Landform has high amount of topographic diversity and variety.

1

**Recovery Time**

- 1 = Long-term recovery time (greater than 5 years)  
2 = Medium recovery time (3 to 5 years)  
3 = High (rapid) recovery time (1 to 2 years)

1

**Overall Score**

7

5 - 7 = Low  
8 - 11 = Medium  
12 - 15 = High

**Visual Absorption Capacity**  
(Low, Medium, High)

Low

**Rationale and Conclusion**

Fairly variable terrain. VAC low in core area where most oil & gas is located, but in much of unit, topography is variable enough to provide some screening. Most existing development is readily visible.

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VISUAL ABSORPTION CAPACITY RATING SHEET

Scenic Quality Rating Unit: Shamrock Hills

Date 8/4/2010

Unit Number: 6

Evaluators: CBrandt JLieen GLong

	SCORE
<p><b>Vegetation</b></p> <p>1 = Low, uniform vegetation or sparse vegetative cover; typically less than 3' in height; lacking in variety; uniform color; minimal screening capability; typically sagebrush, sagebrush/grass, or grass type vegetation.</p> <p>2 = Vegetation of moderate height (3–6'), some species variety (2 to 3 types), some variation in color, mostly continuous vegetative cover, effectively screens low-profile projects such as low-profile surface disturbance, sagebrush/grass, and intermingled shrubs.</p> <p>3 = Higher vegetation (&gt;6' height); lush, continuous vegetative cover; some variety of vegetative types is typical but not mandatory; provides significant screening capability of projects up to 15–20 feet in height; juniper woodlands, aspen, conifers.</p>	<p>1</p>
<p><b>Soil Contrast</b></p> <p>1 = Surface disturbance would expose a high degree of contrast in color with surrounding soil, rock, and vegetation.</p> <p>2 = Surface disturbance would expose a medium degree of contrast in color with surrounding soil, rock, and vegetation.</p> <p>3 = Surface disturbance would expose only a low degree of contrast in color with surrounding soil, rock, and vegetation.</p>	<p>2</p>
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**VISUAL ABSORPTION CAPACITY RATING SHEET**

**SCORE**

**Topographical Diversity**

- 1 = Landform has low amount of topographic diversity and variety.  
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**2**

**Recovery Time**

- 1 = Long-term recovery time (greater than 5 years)  
2 = Medium recovery time (3 to 5 years)  
3 = High (rapid) recovery time (1 to 2 years)

**1**

**Overall Score**

**8**

**5 - 7 = Low**  
**8 - 11 = Medium**  
**12 - 15 = High**

**Visual Absorption Capacity**  
**(Low, Medium, High)**

**Medium**

**Rationale and Conclusion**

Low hills with sagebrush, shrubs, and grasses. Topographic variability and visual variety contribute to VAC.

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VISUAL ABSORPTION CAPACITY RATING SHEET

Scenic Quality Rating Unit: West Separation Flats

Date 7/30/2010

Unit Number: 7

Evaluators: CBrandt JLieen GLong

	SCORE
<p><b>Vegetation</b></p> <p>1 = Low, uniform vegetation or sparse vegetative cover; typically less than 3' in height; lacking in variety; uniform color; minimal screening capability; typically sagebrush, sagebrush/grass, or grass type vegetation.</p> <p>2 = Vegetation of moderate height (3–6'), some species variety (2 to 3 types), some variation in color, mostly continuous vegetative cover, effectively screens low-profile projects such as low-profile surface disturbance, sagebrush/grass, and intermingled shrubs.</p> <p>3 = Higher vegetation (&gt;6' height); lush, continuous vegetative cover; some variety of vegetative types is typical but not mandatory; provides significant screening capability of projects up to 15–20 feet in height; juniper woodlands, aspen, conifers.</p>	<p>1</p>
<p><b>Soil Contrast</b></p> <p>1 = Surface disturbance would expose a high degree of contrast in color with surrounding soil, rock, and vegetation.</p> <p>2 = Surface disturbance would expose a medium degree of contrast in color with surrounding soil, rock, and vegetation.</p> <p>3 = Surface disturbance would expose only a low degree of contrast in color with surrounding soil, rock, and vegetation.</p>	<p>2</p>
<p><b>Visual Variety</b></p> <p>1 = Rating unit exhibits a low degree of visual variety in terms of the landscape character elements of form, line, and texture; may also exhibit minimal variety in landforms, vegetation, or color.</p> <p>2 = Rating unit exhibits a medium degree of visual variety in terms of the landscape character elements of form, line, and texture; may also exhibit medium variety in landforms, vegetation, or color.</p> <p>3 = Rating unit exhibits a high degree of visual variety in terms of the landscape character elements of form, line, and texture; may also exhibit high degree of variety in landforms, vegetation, or color.</p>	<p>1</p>

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**VISUAL ABSORPTION CAPACITY RATING SHEET**

**SCORE**

**Topographical Diversity**

- 1 = Landform has low amount of topographic diversity and variety.  
2 = Landform has moderate amount of topographic diversity and variety.  
3 = Landform has high amount of topographic diversity and variety.

**1**

**Recovery Time**

- 1 = Long-term recovery time (greater than 5 years)  
2 = Medium recovery time (3 to 5 years)  
3 = High (rapid) recovery time (1 to 2 years)

**2**

**Overall Score**

**7**

**5 - 7 = Low**  
**8 - 11 = Medium**  
**12 - 15 = High**

**Visual Absorption Capacity**  
**(Low, Medium, High)**

**Low**

**Rationale and Conclusion**

Recovery time medium based on observed reclamation activities related to right-of-way rehabilitation. Low vegetation, lack of topographic variation severely limits screening of projects such as oil & gas or other structures.

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VISUAL ABSORPTION CAPACITY RATING SHEET

Scenic Quality Rating Unit: Great Divide Basin

Date 8/4/2010

Unit Number: 8

Evaluators: CBrandt JLie GLong

	SCORE
<p><b>Vegetation</b></p> <p>1 = Low, uniform vegetation or sparse vegetative cover; typically less than 3' in height; lacking in variety; uniform color; minimal screening capability; typically sagebrush, sagebrush/grass, or grass type vegetation.</p> <p>2 = Vegetation of moderate height (3–6'), some species variety (2 to 3 types), some variation in color, mostly continuous vegetative cover, effectively screens low-profile projects such as low-profile surface disturbance, sagebrush/grass, and intermingled shrubs.</p> <p>3 = Higher vegetation (&gt;6' height); lush, continuous vegetative cover; some variety of vegetative types is typical but not mandatory; provides significant screening capability of projects up to 15–20 feet in height; juniper woodlands, aspen, conifers.</p>	<p>1</p>
<p><b>Soil Contrast</b></p> <p>1 = Surface disturbance would expose a high degree of contrast in color with surrounding soil, rock, and vegetation.</p> <p>2 = Surface disturbance would expose a medium degree of contrast in color with surrounding soil, rock, and vegetation.</p> <p>3 = Surface disturbance would expose only a low degree of contrast in color with surrounding soil, rock, and vegetation.</p>	<p>2</p>
<p><b>Visual Variety</b></p> <p>1 = Rating unit exhibits a low degree of visual variety in terms of the landscape character elements of form, line, and texture; may also exhibit minimal variety in landforms, vegetation, or color.</p> <p>2 = Rating unit exhibits a medium degree of visual variety in terms of the landscape character elements of form, line, and texture; may also exhibit medium variety in landforms, vegetation, or color.</p> <p>3 = Rating unit exhibits a high degree of visual variety in terms of the landscape character elements of form, line, and texture; may also exhibit high degree of variety in landforms, vegetation, or color.</p>	<p>1</p>

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**VISUAL ABSORPTION CAPACITY RATING SHEET**

**SCORE**

**Topographical Diversity**

- 1 = Landform has low amount of topographic diversity and variety.  
2 = Landform has moderate amount of topographic diversity and variety.  
3 = Landform has high amount of topographic diversity and variety.

**1**

**Recovery Time**

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2 = Medium recovery time (3 to 5 years)  
3 = High (rapid) recovery time (1 to 2 years)

**1**

**Overall Score**

**6**

**5 - 7 = Low**  
**8 - 11 = Medium**  
**12 - 15 = High**

**Visual Absorption Capacity**  
**(Low, Medium, High)**

**Low**

**Rationale and Conclusion**

Low, uniform vegetation combined with minimal topographic variability and low visual variety produces low VAC.

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VISUAL ABSORPTION CAPACITY RATING SHEET

Scenic Quality Rating Unit: Red Desert Basin

Date 7/28/2010

Unit Number: 9

Evaluators: CBrandt JLieen GLong

	SCORE
<p><b>Vegetation</b></p> <p>1 = Low, uniform vegetation or sparse vegetative cover; typically less than 3' in height; lacking in variety; uniform color; minimal screening capability; typically sagebrush, sagebrush/grass, or grass type vegetation.</p> <p>2 = Vegetation of moderate height (3–6'), some species variety (2 to 3 types), some variation in color, mostly continuous vegetative cover, effectively screens low-profile projects such as low-profile surface disturbance, sagebrush/grass, and intermingled shrubs.</p> <p>3 = Higher vegetation (&gt;6' height); lush, continuous vegetative cover; some variety of vegetative types is typical but not mandatory; provides significant screening capability of projects up to 15–20 feet in height; juniper woodlands, aspen, conifers.</p>	<div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 5px; width: 40px; margin: 0 auto;">1</div>
<p><b>Soil Contrast</b></p> <p>1 = Surface disturbance would expose a high degree of contrast in color with surrounding soil, rock, and vegetation.</p> <p>2 = Surface disturbance would expose a medium degree of contrast in color with surrounding soil, rock, and vegetation.</p> <p>3 = Surface disturbance would expose only a low degree of contrast in color with surrounding soil, rock, and vegetation.</p>	<div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 5px; width: 40px; margin: 0 auto;">1</div>
<p><b>Visual Variety</b></p> <p>1 = Rating unit exhibits a low degree of visual variety in terms of the landscape character elements of form, line, and texture; may also exhibit minimal variety in landforms, vegetation, or color.</p> <p>2 = Rating unit exhibits a medium degree of visual variety in terms of the landscape character elements of form, line, and texture; may also exhibit medium variety in landforms, vegetation, or color.</p> <p>3 = Rating unit exhibits a high degree of visual variety in terms of the landscape character elements of form, line, and texture; may also exhibit high degree of variety in landforms, vegetation, or color.</p>	<div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 5px; width: 40px; margin: 0 auto;">1</div>

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**VISUAL ABSORPTION CAPACITY RATING SHEET**

**SCORE**

**Topographical Diversity**

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2 = Landform has moderate amount of topographic diversity and variety.  
3 = Landform has high amount of topographic diversity and variety.

**1**

**Recovery Time**

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2 = Medium recovery time (3 to 5 years)  
3 = High (rapid) recovery time (1 to 2 years)

**1**

**Overall Score**

**5**

**5 - 7 = Low**  
**8 - 11 = Medium**  
**12 - 15 = High**

**Visual Absorption Capacity**  
**(Low, Medium, High)**

**Low**

**Rationale and Conclusion**

Nature of landforms and vegetation would make it almost impossible to locate a project where it would not be visible to casual observers Terrain is flat, vegetation low and uniform, and soil/vegetation contrast high.

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VISUAL ABSORPTION CAPACITY RATING SHEET

**Scenic Quality Rating Unit:** Continental Divide

**Date** 9/1/2010

**Unit Number:** 10

**Evaluators:** GBrady JOffer KSchwarzler

	<b>SCORE</b>
<p><b>Vegetation</b></p> <p>1 = Low, uniform vegetation or sparse vegetative cover; typically less than 3' in height; lacking in variety; uniform color; minimal screening capability; typically sagebrush, sagebrush/grass, or grass type vegetation.</p> <p>2 = Vegetation of moderate height (3–6'), some species variety (2 to 3 types), some variation in color, mostly continuous vegetative cover, effectively screens low-profile projects such as low-profile surface disturbance, sagebrush/grass, and intermingled shrubs.</p> <p>3 = Higher vegetation (&gt;6' height); lush, continuous vegetative cover; some variety of vegetative types is typical but not mandatory; provides significant screening capability of projects up to 15–20 feet in height; juniper woodlands, aspen, conifers.</p>	<b>1</b>
<p><b>Soil Contrast</b></p> <p>1 = Surface disturbance would expose a high degree of contrast in color with surrounding soil, rock, and vegetation.</p> <p>2 = Surface disturbance would expose a medium degree of contrast in color with surrounding soil, rock, and vegetation.</p> <p>3 = Surface disturbance would expose only a low degree of contrast in color with surrounding soil, rock, and vegetation.</p>	<b>1</b>
<p><b>Visual Variety</b></p> <p>1 = Rating unit exhibits a low degree of visual variety in terms of the landscape character elements of form, line, and texture; may also exhibit minimal variety in landforms, vegetation, or color.</p> <p>2 = Rating unit exhibits a medium degree of visual variety in terms of the landscape character elements of form, line, and texture; may also exhibit medium variety in landforms, vegetation, or color.</p> <p>3 = Rating unit exhibits a high degree of visual variety in terms of the landscape character elements of form, line, and texture; may also exhibit high degree of variety in landforms, vegetation, or color.</p>	<b>1</b>

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VISUAL ABSORPTION CAPACITY RATING SHEET

SCORE

**Topographical Diversity**

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3 = Landform has high amount of topographic diversity and variety.

1

**Recovery Time**

- 1 = Long-term recovery time (greater than 5 years)  
2 = Medium recovery time (3 to 5 years)  
3 = High (rapid) recovery time (1 to 2 years)

1

**Overall Score**

5

5 - 7 = Low  
8 - 11 = Medium  
12 - 15 = High

**Visual Absorption Capacity**  
(Low, Medium, High)

Low

**Rationale and Conclusion**

Low vegetation and little visual variety do not provide screening opportunities.

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VISUAL ABSORPTION CAPACITY RATING SHEET

Scenic Quality Rating Unit: Delaney Rim

Date 8/4/2010

Unit Number: 11

Evaluators: CBrandt JLieen GLong

	SCORE
<p><b>Vegetation</b></p> <p>1 = Low, uniform vegetation or sparse vegetative cover; typically less than 3' in height; lacking in variety; uniform color; minimal screening capability; typically sagebrush, sagebrush/grass, or grass type vegetation.</p> <p>2 = Vegetation of moderate height (3–6'), some species variety (2 to 3 types), some variation in color, mostly continuous vegetative cover, effectively screens low-profile projects such as low-profile surface disturbance, sagebrush/grass, and intermingled shrubs.</p> <p>3 = Higher vegetation (&gt;6' height); lush, continuous vegetative cover; some variety of vegetative types is typical but not mandatory; provides significant screening capability of projects up to 15–20 feet in height; juniper woodlands, aspen, conifers.</p>	<p>1</p>
<p><b>Soil Contrast</b></p> <p>1 = Surface disturbance would expose a high degree of contrast in color with surrounding soil, rock, and vegetation.</p> <p>2 = Surface disturbance would expose a medium degree of contrast in color with surrounding soil, rock, and vegetation.</p> <p>3 = Surface disturbance would expose only a low degree of contrast in color with surrounding soil, rock, and vegetation.</p>	<p>1</p>
<p><b>Visual Variety</b></p> <p>1 = Rating unit exhibits a low degree of visual variety in terms of the landscape character elements of form, line, and texture; may also exhibit minimal variety in landforms, vegetation, or color.</p> <p>2 = Rating unit exhibits a medium degree of visual variety in terms of the landscape character elements of form, line, and texture; may also exhibit medium variety in landforms, vegetation, or color.</p> <p>3 = Rating unit exhibits a high degree of visual variety in terms of the landscape character elements of form, line, and texture; may also exhibit high degree of variety in landforms, vegetation, or color.</p>	<p>2</p>

UNITED STATES  
DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT

**RAWLINS FIELD OFFICE**

**VISUAL ABSORPTION CAPACITY RATING SHEET**

**SCORE**

**Topographical Diversity**

- 1 = Landform has low amount of topographic diversity and variety.  
2 = Landform has moderate amount of topographic diversity and variety.  
3 = Landform has high amount of topographic diversity and variety.

2

**Recovery Time**

- 1 = Long-term recovery time (greater than 5 years)  
2 = Medium recovery time (3 to 5 years)  
3 = High (rapid) recovery time (1 to 2 years)

1

**Overall Score**

7

**5 - 7 = Low**  
**8 - 11 = Medium**  
**12 - 15 = High**

**Visual Absorption Capacity**  
**(Low, Medium, High)**

**Low**

**Rationale and Conclusion**

Distinct, exposed rim creates the equivalent of a superior angle of observation from the surrounding area. Neither the topography nor vegetation provide effective screening or existing or potential projects. This limits VAC.

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VISUAL ABSORPTION CAPACITY RATING SHEET

Scenic Quality Rating Unit: Overland Trail

Date 8/3/2010

Unit Number: 12

Evaluators: CBrandt JLieen GLong

	SCORE
<p><b>Vegetation</b></p> <p>1 = Low, uniform vegetation or sparse vegetative cover; typically less than 3' in height; lacking in variety; uniform color; minimal screening capability; typically sagebrush, sagebrush/grass, or grass type vegetation.</p> <p>2 = Vegetation of moderate height (3–6'), some species variety (2 to 3 types), some variation in color, mostly continuous vegetative cover, effectively screens low-profile projects such as low-profile surface disturbance, sagebrush/grass, and intermingled shrubs.</p> <p>3 = Higher vegetation (&gt;6' height); lush, continuous vegetative cover; some variety of vegetative types is typical but not mandatory; provides significant screening capability of projects up to 15–20 feet in height; juniper woodlands, aspen, conifers.</p>	<p>1</p>
<p><b>Soil Contrast</b></p> <p>1 = Surface disturbance would expose a high degree of contrast in color with surrounding soil, rock, and vegetation.</p> <p>2 = Surface disturbance would expose a medium degree of contrast in color with surrounding soil, rock, and vegetation.</p> <p>3 = Surface disturbance would expose only a low degree of contrast in color with surrounding soil, rock, and vegetation.</p>	<p>1</p>
<p><b>Visual Variety</b></p> <p>1 = Rating unit exhibits a low degree of visual variety in terms of the landscape character elements of form, line, and texture; may also exhibit minimal variety in landforms, vegetation, or color.</p> <p>2 = Rating unit exhibits a medium degree of visual variety in terms of the landscape character elements of form, line, and texture; may also exhibit medium variety in landforms, vegetation, or color.</p> <p>3 = Rating unit exhibits a high degree of visual variety in terms of the landscape character elements of form, line, and texture; may also exhibit high degree of variety in landforms, vegetation, or color.</p>	<p>1</p>

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**RAWLINS FIELD OFFICE**

**VISUAL ABSORPTION CAPACITY RATING SHEET**

**SCORE**

**Topographical Diversity**

- 1 = Landform has low amount of topographic diversity and variety.  
2 = Landform has moderate amount of topographic diversity and variety.  
3 = Landform has high amount of topographic diversity and variety.

**1**

**Recovery Time**

- 1 = Long-term recovery time (greater than 5 years)  
2 = Medium recovery time (3 to 5 years)  
3 = High (rapid) recovery time (1 to 2 years)

**1**

**Overall Score**

**5**

**5 - 7 = Low**  
**8 - 11 = Medium**  
**12 - 15 = High**

**Visual Absorption Capacity**  
**(Low, Medium, High)**

**Low**

**Rationale and Conclusion**

Some vegetation taller than 3' but the vast majority of the area has low sage/shrub vegetation. Low, uniform vegetation in most of the area, combined with open rolling terrain, limits VAC.

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VISUAL ABSORPTION CAPACITY RATING SHEET

Scenic Quality Rating Unit: Creston

Date 8/1/2010

Unit Number: 13

Evaluators: CBrandt JLieen GLong

	SCORE
<p><b>Vegetation</b></p> <p>1 = Low, uniform vegetation or sparse vegetative cover; typically less than 3' in height; lacking in variety; uniform color; minimal screening capability; typically sagebrush, sagebrush/grass, or grass type vegetation.</p> <p>2 = Vegetation of moderate height (3–6'), some species variety (2 to 3 types), some variation in color, mostly continuous vegetative cover, effectively screens low-profile projects such as low-profile surface disturbance, sagebrush/grass, and intermingled shrubs.</p> <p>3 = Higher vegetation (&gt;6' height); lush, continuous vegetative cover; some variety of vegetative types is typical but not mandatory; provides significant screening capability of projects up to 15–20 feet in height; juniper woodlands, aspen, conifers.</p>	<p>1</p>
<p><b>Soil Contrast</b></p> <p>1 = Surface disturbance would expose a high degree of contrast in color with surrounding soil, rock, and vegetation.</p> <p>2 = Surface disturbance would expose a medium degree of contrast in color with surrounding soil, rock, and vegetation.</p> <p>3 = Surface disturbance would expose only a low degree of contrast in color with surrounding soil, rock, and vegetation.</p>	<p>2</p>
<p><b>Visual Variety</b></p> <p>1 = Rating unit exhibits a low degree of visual variety in terms of the landscape character elements of form, line, and texture; may also exhibit minimal variety in landforms, vegetation, or color.</p> <p>2 = Rating unit exhibits a medium degree of visual variety in terms of the landscape character elements of form, line, and texture; may also exhibit medium variety in landforms, vegetation, or color.</p> <p>3 = Rating unit exhibits a high degree of visual variety in terms of the landscape character elements of form, line, and texture; may also exhibit high degree of variety in landforms, vegetation, or color.</p>	<p>1</p>

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**VISUAL ABSORPTION CAPACITY RATING SHEET**

**SCORE**

**Topographical Diversity**

- 1 = Landform has low amount of topographic diversity and variety.  
2 = Landform has moderate amount of topographic diversity and variety.  
3 = Landform has high amount of topographic diversity and variety.

**1**

**Recovery Time**

- 1 = Long-term recovery time (greater than 5 years)  
2 = Medium recovery time (3 to 5 years)  
3 = High (rapid) recovery time (1 to 2 years)

**1**

**Overall Score**

**6**

**5 - 7 = Low**  
**8 - 11 = Medium**  
**12 - 15 = High**

**Visual Absorption Capacity**  
**(Low, Medium, High)**

**Low**

**Rationale and Conclusion**

Vast, open landscape with limited visual variety. Low, uniform vegetation and low rolling hills provide for low VAC.

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VISUAL ABSORPTION CAPACITY RATING SHEET

Scenic Quality Rating Unit: Red Rim

Date 8/1/2010

Unit Number: 14

Evaluators: CBrandt JLieen GLong

	SCORE
<p><b>Vegetation</b></p> <p>1 = Low, uniform vegetation or sparse vegetative cover; typically less than 3' in height; lacking in variety; uniform color; minimal screening capability; typically sagebrush, sagebrush/grass, or grass type vegetation.</p> <p>2 = Vegetation of moderate height (3–6'), some species variety (2 to 3 types), some variation in color, mostly continuous vegetative cover, effectively screens low-profile projects such as low-profile surface disturbance, sagebrush/grass, and intermingled shrubs.</p> <p>3 = Higher vegetation (&gt;6' height); lush, continuous vegetative cover; some variety of vegetative types is typical but not mandatory; provides significant screening capability of projects up to 15–20 feet in height; juniper woodlands, aspen, conifers.</p>	<p>1</p>
<p><b>Soil Contrast</b></p> <p>1 = Surface disturbance would expose a high degree of contrast in color with surrounding soil, rock, and vegetation.</p> <p>2 = Surface disturbance would expose a medium degree of contrast in color with surrounding soil, rock, and vegetation.</p> <p>3 = Surface disturbance would expose only a low degree of contrast in color with surrounding soil, rock, and vegetation.</p>	<p>2</p>
<p><b>Visual Variety</b></p> <p>1 = Rating unit exhibits a low degree of visual variety in terms of the landscape character elements of form, line, and texture; may also exhibit minimal variety in landforms, vegetation, or color.</p> <p>2 = Rating unit exhibits a medium degree of visual variety in terms of the landscape character elements of form, line, and texture; may also exhibit medium variety in landforms, vegetation, or color.</p> <p>3 = Rating unit exhibits a high degree of visual variety in terms of the landscape character elements of form, line, and texture; may also exhibit high degree of variety in landforms, vegetation, or color.</p>	<p>2</p>

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**VISUAL ABSORPTION CAPACITY RATING SHEET**

**SCORE**

**Topographical Diversity**

- 1 = Landform has low amount of topographic diversity and variety.  
2 = Landform has moderate amount of topographic diversity and variety.  
3 = Landform has high amount of topographic diversity and variety.

**2**

**Recovery Time**

- 1 = Long-term recovery time (greater than 5 years)  
2 = Medium recovery time (3 to 5 years)  
3 = High (rapid) recovery time (1 to 2 years)

**1**

**Overall Score**

**8**

**5 - 7 = Low**  
**8 - 11 = Medium**  
**12 - 15 = High**

**Visual Absorption Capacity**  
**(Low, Medium, High)**

**Medium**

**Rationale and Conclusion**

Rim and hills with heavy shrub community and moderate contrast in soil/rock/vegetation color provides medium VAC.

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VISUAL ABSORPTION CAPACITY RATING SHEET

Scenic Quality Rating Unit: Atlantic Rim

Date 7/31/2010

Unit Number: 15

Evaluators: CBrandt JLieen GLong

	SCORE
<p><b>Vegetation</b></p> <p>1 = Low, uniform vegetation or sparse vegetative cover; typically less than 3' in height; lacking in variety; uniform color; minimal screening capability; typically sagebrush, sagebrush/grass, or grass type vegetation.</p> <p>2 = Vegetation of moderate height (3–6'), some species variety (2 to 3 types), some variation in color, mostly continuous vegetative cover, effectively screens low-profile projects such as low-profile surface disturbance, sagebrush/grass, and intermingled shrubs.</p> <p>3 = Higher vegetation (&gt;6' height); lush, continuous vegetative cover; some variety of vegetative types is typical but not mandatory; provides significant screening capability of projects up to 15–20 feet in height; juniper woodlands, aspen, conifers.</p>	<p>2</p>
<p><b>Soil Contrast</b></p> <p>1 = Surface disturbance would expose a high degree of contrast in color with surrounding soil, rock, and vegetation.</p> <p>2 = Surface disturbance would expose a medium degree of contrast in color with surrounding soil, rock, and vegetation.</p> <p>3 = Surface disturbance would expose only a low degree of contrast in color with surrounding soil, rock, and vegetation.</p>	<p>1</p>
<p><b>Visual Variety</b></p> <p>1 = Rating unit exhibits a low degree of visual variety in terms of the landscape character elements of form, line, and texture; may also exhibit minimal variety in landforms, vegetation, or color.</p> <p>2 = Rating unit exhibits a medium degree of visual variety in terms of the landscape character elements of form, line, and texture; may also exhibit medium variety in landforms, vegetation, or color.</p> <p>3 = Rating unit exhibits a high degree of visual variety in terms of the landscape character elements of form, line, and texture; may also exhibit high degree of variety in landforms, vegetation, or color.</p>	<p>2</p>

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VISUAL ABSORPTION CAPACITY RATING SHEET

SCORE

**Topographical Diversity**

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3 = Landform has high amount of topographic diversity and variety.

2

**Recovery Time**

- 1 = Long-term recovery time (greater than 5 years)  
2 = Medium recovery time (3 to 5 years)  
3 = High (rapid) recovery time (1 to 2 years)

1

**Overall Score**

8

5 - 7 = Low  
8 - 11 = Medium  
12 - 15 = High

**Visual Absorption Capacity**  
(Low, Medium, High)

Medium

**Rationale and Conclusion**

Step slopes, deep drainages and varied shrubs with isolated patches of aspen provide moderate ability to screen projects.

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VISUAL ABSORPTION CAPACITY RATING SHEET

Scenic Quality Rating Unit: Miller Hill

Date 7/30/2010

Unit Number: 16

Evaluators: CBrandt JLieen GLong

	SCORE
<p><b>Vegetation</b></p> <p>1 = Low, uniform vegetation or sparse vegetative cover; typically less than 3' in height; lacking in variety; uniform color; minimal screening capability; typically sagebrush, sagebrush/grass, or grass type vegetation.</p> <p>2 = Vegetation of moderate height (3–6'), some species variety (2 to 3 types), some variation in color, mostly continuous vegetative cover, effectively screens low-profile projects such as low-profile surface disturbance, sagebrush/grass, and intermingled shrubs.</p> <p>3 = Higher vegetation (&gt;6' height); lush, continuous vegetative cover; some variety of vegetative types is typical but not mandatory; provides significant screening capability of projects up to 15–20 feet in height; juniper woodlands, aspen, conifers.</p>	<div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 5px; width: 40px; margin: 0 auto;">1</div>
<p><b>Soil Contrast</b></p> <p>1 = Surface disturbance would expose a high degree of contrast in color with surrounding soil, rock, and vegetation.</p> <p>2 = Surface disturbance would expose a medium degree of contrast in color with surrounding soil, rock, and vegetation.</p> <p>3 = Surface disturbance would expose only a low degree of contrast in color with surrounding soil, rock, and vegetation.</p>	<div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 5px; width: 40px; margin: 0 auto;">2</div>
<p><b>Visual Variety</b></p> <p>1 = Rating unit exhibits a low degree of visual variety in terms of the landscape character elements of form, line, and texture; may also exhibit minimal variety in landforms, vegetation, or color.</p> <p>2 = Rating unit exhibits a medium degree of visual variety in terms of the landscape character elements of form, line, and texture; may also exhibit medium variety in landforms, vegetation, or color.</p> <p>3 = Rating unit exhibits a high degree of visual variety in terms of the landscape character elements of form, line, and texture; may also exhibit high degree of variety in landforms, vegetation, or color.</p>	<div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 5px; width: 40px; margin: 0 auto;">1</div>

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**VISUAL ABSORPTION CAPACITY RATING SHEET**

**SCORE**

**Topographical Diversity**

- 1 = Landform has low amount of topographic diversity and variety.  
2 = Landform has moderate amount of topographic diversity and variety.  
3 = Landform has high amount of topographic diversity and variety.

**1**

**Recovery Time**

- 1 = Long-term recovery time (greater than 5 years)  
2 = Medium recovery time (3 to 5 years)  
3 = High (rapid) recovery time (1 to 2 years)

**2**

**Overall Score**

**7**

**5 - 7 = Low**  
**8 - 11 = Medium**  
**12 - 15 = High**

**Visual Absorption Capacity**  
**(Low, Medium, High)**

**Low**

**Rationale and Conclusion**

High rolling hills, sage meadows and narrow riparian zones provide little ability to screen projects.

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VISUAL ABSORPTION CAPACITY RATING SHEET

**Scenic Quality Rating Unit:** Grizzly Management Area

**Date** 7/31/2010

**Unit Number:** 17

**Evaluators:** CBrandt JLieen GLong

	<b>SCORE</b>
<p><b>Vegetation</b></p> <p>1 = Low, uniform vegetation or sparse vegetative cover; typically less than 3' in height; lacking in variety; uniform color; minimal screening capability; typically sagebrush, sagebrush/grass, or grass type vegetation.</p> <p>2 = Vegetation of moderate height (3–6'), some species variety (2 to 3 types), some variation in color, mostly continuous vegetative cover, effectively screens low-profile projects such as low-profile surface disturbance, sagebrush/grass, and intermingled shrubs.</p> <p>3 = Higher vegetation (&gt;6' height); lush, continuous vegetative cover; some variety of vegetative types is typical but not mandatory; provides significant screening capability of projects up to 15–20 feet in height; juniper woodlands, aspen, conifers.</p>	<div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 5px; width: 40px; margin: 0 auto;">2</div>
<p><b>Soil Contrast</b></p> <p>1 = Surface disturbance would expose a high degree of contrast in color with surrounding soil, rock, and vegetation.</p> <p>2 = Surface disturbance would expose a medium degree of contrast in color with surrounding soil, rock, and vegetation.</p> <p>3 = Surface disturbance would expose only a low degree of contrast in color with surrounding soil, rock, and vegetation.</p>	<div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 5px; width: 40px; margin: 0 auto;">2</div>
<p><b>Visual Variety</b></p> <p>1 = Rating unit exhibits a low degree of visual variety in terms of the landscape character elements of form, line, and texture; may also exhibit minimal variety in landforms, vegetation, or color.</p> <p>2 = Rating unit exhibits a medium degree of visual variety in terms of the landscape character elements of form, line, and texture; may also exhibit medium variety in landforms, vegetation, or color.</p> <p>3 = Rating unit exhibits a high degree of visual variety in terms of the landscape character elements of form, line, and texture; may also exhibit high degree of variety in landforms, vegetation, or color.</p>	<div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 5px; width: 40px; margin: 0 auto;">2</div>

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VISUAL ABSORPTION CAPACITY RATING SHEET

SCORE

**Topographical Diversity**

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3 = Landform has high amount of topographic diversity and variety.

2

**Recovery Time**

- 1 = Long-term recovery time (greater than 5 years)  
2 = Medium recovery time (3 to 5 years)  
3 = High (rapid) recovery time (1 to 2 years)

2

**Overall Score**

10

5 - 7 = Low  
8 - 11 = Medium  
12 - 15 = High

**Visual Absorption Capacity**  
(Low, Medium, High)

Medium

**Rationale and Conclusion**

Deeper soils, higher precipitation promote more rapid recovery time. Exposed slopes would make projects more visible; lush, deep sagebrush combined with variable topography would help conceal surface disturbance.

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VISUAL ABSORPTION CAPACITY RATING SHEET

Scenic Quality Rating Unit: The Sand Hills

Date 8/1/2010

Unit Number: 18

Evaluators: CBrandt JLieen GLong

	SCORE
<p><b>Vegetation</b></p> <p>1 = Low, uniform vegetation or sparse vegetative cover; typically less than 3' in height; lacking in variety; uniform color; minimal screening capability; typically sagebrush, sagebrush/grass, or grass type vegetation.</p> <p>2 = Vegetation of moderate height (3–6'), some species variety (2 to 3 types), some variation in color, mostly continuous vegetative cover, effectively screens low-profile projects such as low-profile surface disturbance, sagebrush/grass, and intermingled shrubs.</p> <p>3 = Higher vegetation (&gt;6' height); lush, continuous vegetative cover; some variety of vegetative types is typical but not mandatory; provides significant screening capability of projects up to 15–20 feet in height; juniper woodlands, aspen, conifers.</p>	<p>1</p>
<p><b>Soil Contrast</b></p> <p>1 = Surface disturbance would expose a high degree of contrast in color with surrounding soil, rock, and vegetation.</p> <p>2 = Surface disturbance would expose a medium degree of contrast in color with surrounding soil, rock, and vegetation.</p> <p>3 = Surface disturbance would expose only a low degree of contrast in color with surrounding soil, rock, and vegetation.</p>	<p>1</p>
<p><b>Visual Variety</b></p> <p>1 = Rating unit exhibits a low degree of visual variety in terms of the landscape character elements of form, line, and texture; may also exhibit minimal variety in landforms, vegetation, or color.</p> <p>2 = Rating unit exhibits a medium degree of visual variety in terms of the landscape character elements of form, line, and texture; may also exhibit medium variety in landforms, vegetation, or color.</p> <p>3 = Rating unit exhibits a high degree of visual variety in terms of the landscape character elements of form, line, and texture; may also exhibit high degree of variety in landforms, vegetation, or color.</p>	<p>1</p>

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**VISUAL ABSORPTION CAPACITY RATING SHEET**

**SCORE**

**Topographical Diversity**

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3 = Landform has high amount of topographic diversity and variety.

**1**

**Recovery Time**

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2 = Medium recovery time (3 to 5 years)  
3 = High (rapid) recovery time (1 to 2 years)

**1**

**Overall Score**

**5**

**5 - 7 = Low**  
**8 - 11 = Medium**  
**12 - 15 = High**

**Visual Absorption Capacity**  
**(Low, Medium, High)**

**Low**

**Rationale and Conclusion**

Combination of topography and vegetation does not conceal oil & gas activity.

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VISUAL ABSORPTION CAPACITY RATING SHEET

Scenic Quality Rating Unit: Doty Mountain

Date 8/1/2010

Unit Number: 19

Evaluators: CBrandt JLieen GLong

	SCORE
<p><b>Vegetation</b></p> <p>1 = Low, uniform vegetation or sparse vegetative cover; typically less than 3' in height; lacking in variety; uniform color; minimal screening capability; typically sagebrush, sagebrush/grass, or grass type vegetation.</p> <p>2 = Vegetation of moderate height (3–6'), some species variety (2 to 3 types), some variation in color, mostly continuous vegetative cover, effectively screens low-profile projects such as low-profile surface disturbance, sagebrush/grass, and intermingled shrubs.</p> <p>3 = Higher vegetation (&gt;6' height); lush, continuous vegetative cover; some variety of vegetative types is typical but not mandatory; provides significant screening capability of projects up to 15–20 feet in height; juniper woodlands, aspen, conifers.</p>	<p>2</p>
<p><b>Soil Contrast</b></p> <p>1 = Surface disturbance would expose a high degree of contrast in color with surrounding soil, rock, and vegetation.</p> <p>2 = Surface disturbance would expose a medium degree of contrast in color with surrounding soil, rock, and vegetation.</p> <p>3 = Surface disturbance would expose only a low degree of contrast in color with surrounding soil, rock, and vegetation.</p>	<p>1</p>
<p><b>Visual Variety</b></p> <p>1 = Rating unit exhibits a low degree of visual variety in terms of the landscape character elements of form, line, and texture; may also exhibit minimal variety in landforms, vegetation, or color.</p> <p>2 = Rating unit exhibits a medium degree of visual variety in terms of the landscape character elements of form, line, and texture; may also exhibit medium variety in landforms, vegetation, or color.</p> <p>3 = Rating unit exhibits a high degree of visual variety in terms of the landscape character elements of form, line, and texture; may also exhibit high degree of variety in landforms, vegetation, or color.</p>	<p>2</p>

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**VISUAL ABSORPTION CAPACITY RATING SHEET**

**SCORE**

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2 = Landform has moderate amount of topographic diversity and variety.  
3 = Landform has high amount of topographic diversity and variety.

2

**Recovery Time**

- 1 = Long-term recovery time (greater than 5 years)  
2 = Medium recovery time (3 to 5 years)  
3 = High (rapid) recovery time (1 to 2 years)

1

**Overall Score**

8

**5 - 7 = Low**  
**8 - 11 = Medium**  
**12 - 15 = High**

**Visual Absorption Capacity**  
**(Low, Medium, High)**

**Medium**

**Rationale and Conclusion**

Rugged topography with considerable surface variation and contrast between soil, rock, vegetation color all combine to provide medium VAC.

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VISUAL ABSORPTION CAPACITY RATING SHEET

Scenic Quality Rating Unit: Muddy Creek

Date 8/18/2010

Unit Number: 20

Evaluators: CBrandt JLieen GLong

	SCORE
<p><b>Vegetation</b></p> <p>1 = Low, uniform vegetation or sparse vegetative cover; typically less than 3' in height; lacking in variety; uniform color; minimal screening capability; typically sagebrush, sagebrush/grass, or grass type vegetation.</p> <p>2 = Vegetation of moderate height (3–6'), some species variety (2 to 3 types), some variation in color, mostly continuous vegetative cover, effectively screens low-profile projects such as low-profile surface disturbance, sagebrush/grass, and intermingled shrubs.</p> <p>3 = Higher vegetation (&gt;6' height); lush, continuous vegetative cover; some variety of vegetative types is typical but not mandatory; provides significant screening capability of projects up to 15–20 feet in height; juniper woodlands, aspen, conifers.</p>	<p>1</p>
<p><b>Soil Contrast</b></p> <p>1 = Surface disturbance would expose a high degree of contrast in color with surrounding soil, rock, and vegetation.</p> <p>2 = Surface disturbance would expose a medium degree of contrast in color with surrounding soil, rock, and vegetation.</p> <p>3 = Surface disturbance would expose only a low degree of contrast in color with surrounding soil, rock, and vegetation.</p>	<p>2</p>
<p><b>Visual Variety</b></p> <p>1 = Rating unit exhibits a low degree of visual variety in terms of the landscape character elements of form, line, and texture; may also exhibit minimal variety in landforms, vegetation, or color.</p> <p>2 = Rating unit exhibits a medium degree of visual variety in terms of the landscape character elements of form, line, and texture; may also exhibit medium variety in landforms, vegetation, or color.</p> <p>3 = Rating unit exhibits a high degree of visual variety in terms of the landscape character elements of form, line, and texture; may also exhibit high degree of variety in landforms, vegetation, or color.</p>	<p>1</p>

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BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT

**RAWLINS FIELD OFFICE**

**VISUAL ABSORPTION CAPACITY RATING SHEET**

**SCORE**

**Topographical Diversity**

- 1 = Landform has low amount of topographic diversity and variety.  
2 = Landform has moderate amount of topographic diversity and variety.  
3 = Landform has high amount of topographic diversity and variety.

**1**

**Recovery Time**

- 1 = Long-term recovery time (greater than 5 years)  
2 = Medium recovery time (3 to 5 years)  
3 = High (rapid) recovery time (1 to 2 years)

**1**

**Overall Score**

**6**

**5 - 7 = Low**  
**8 - 11 = Medium**  
**12 - 15 = High**

**Visual Absorption Capacity**  
**(Low, Medium, High)**

**Low**

**Rationale and Conclusion**

The soil contrast factor was rated as medium due to light-colored vegetation. Otherwise all factors are rated as low.

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RAWLINS FIELD OFFICE

VISUAL ABSORPTION CAPACITY RATING SHEET

Scenic Quality Rating Unit: Adobe Town

Date 8/3/2010

Unit Number: 21

Evaluators: CBrandt JLieen GLong

	SCORE
<p><b>Vegetation</b></p> <p>1 = Low, uniform vegetation or sparse vegetative cover; typically less than 3' in height; lacking in variety; uniform color; minimal screening capability; typically sagebrush, sagebrush/grass, or grass type vegetation.</p> <p>2 = Vegetation of moderate height (3–6'), some species variety (2 to 3 types), some variation in color, mostly continuous vegetative cover, effectively screens low-profile projects such as low-profile surface disturbance, sagebrush/grass, and intermingled shrubs.</p> <p>3 = Higher vegetation (&gt;6' height); lush, continuous vegetative cover; some variety of vegetative types is typical but not mandatory; provides significant screening capability of projects up to 15–20 feet in height; juniper woodlands, aspen, conifers.</p>	<p>2</p>
<p><b>Soil Contrast</b></p> <p>1 = Surface disturbance would expose a high degree of contrast in color with surrounding soil, rock, and vegetation.</p> <p>2 = Surface disturbance would expose a medium degree of contrast in color with surrounding soil, rock, and vegetation.</p> <p>3 = Surface disturbance would expose only a low degree of contrast in color with surrounding soil, rock, and vegetation.</p>	<p>3</p>
<p><b>Visual Variety</b></p> <p>1 = Rating unit exhibits a low degree of visual variety in terms of the landscape character elements of form, line, and texture; may also exhibit minimal variety in landforms, vegetation, or color.</p> <p>2 = Rating unit exhibits a medium degree of visual variety in terms of the landscape character elements of form, line, and texture; may also exhibit medium variety in landforms, vegetation, or color.</p> <p>3 = Rating unit exhibits a high degree of visual variety in terms of the landscape character elements of form, line, and texture; may also exhibit high degree of variety in landforms, vegetation, or color.</p>	<p>2</p>

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**RAWLINS FIELD OFFICE**

**VISUAL ABSORPTION CAPACITY RATING SHEET**

**SCORE**

**Topographical Diversity**

- 1 = Landform has low amount of topographic diversity and variety.  
2 = Landform has moderate amount of topographic diversity and variety.  
3 = Landform has high amount of topographic diversity and variety.

**3**

**Recovery Time**

- 1 = Long-term recovery time (greater than 5 years)  
2 = Medium recovery time (3 to 5 years)  
3 = High (rapid) recovery time (1 to 2 years)

**2**

**Overall Score**

**12**

**5 - 7 = Low**  
**8 - 11 = Medium**  
**12 - 15 = High**

**Visual Absorption Capacity**  
**(Low, Medium, High)**

**High**

**Rationale and Conclusion**

A large expanse of hummocky shrublands and colorful, eroded badlands. Variable badland terrain, hummocky surface, combined with low soil/vegetation contrast result in high VAC.

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VISUAL ABSORPTION CAPACITY RATING SHEET

Scenic Quality Rating Unit: Shell Creek Basin

Date 8/3/2010

Unit Number: 22

Evaluators: CBrandt JLieen GLong

	SCORE
<p><b>Vegetation</b></p> <p>1 = Low, uniform vegetation or sparse vegetative cover; typically less than 3' in height; lacking in variety; uniform color; minimal screening capability; typically sagebrush, sagebrush/grass, or grass type vegetation.</p> <p>2 = Vegetation of moderate height (3–6'), some species variety (2 to 3 types), some variation in color, mostly continuous vegetative cover, effectively screens low-profile projects such as low-profile surface disturbance, sagebrush/grass, and intermingled shrubs.</p> <p>3 = Higher vegetation (&gt;6' height); lush, continuous vegetative cover; some variety of vegetative types is typical but not mandatory; provides significant screening capability of projects up to 15–20 feet in height; juniper woodlands, aspen, conifers.</p>	<p>1</p>
<p><b>Soil Contrast</b></p> <p>1 = Surface disturbance would expose a high degree of contrast in color with surrounding soil, rock, and vegetation.</p> <p>2 = Surface disturbance would expose a medium degree of contrast in color with surrounding soil, rock, and vegetation.</p> <p>3 = Surface disturbance would expose only a low degree of contrast in color with surrounding soil, rock, and vegetation.</p>	<p>1</p>
<p><b>Visual Variety</b></p> <p>1 = Rating unit exhibits a low degree of visual variety in terms of the landscape character elements of form, line, and texture; may also exhibit minimal variety in landforms, vegetation, or color.</p> <p>2 = Rating unit exhibits a medium degree of visual variety in terms of the landscape character elements of form, line, and texture; may also exhibit medium variety in landforms, vegetation, or color.</p> <p>3 = Rating unit exhibits a high degree of visual variety in terms of the landscape character elements of form, line, and texture; may also exhibit high degree of variety in landforms, vegetation, or color.</p>	<p>1</p>

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**RAWLINS FIELD OFFICE**

**VISUAL ABSORPTION CAPACITY RATING SHEET**

**SCORE**

**Topographical Diversity**

- 1 = Landform has low amount of topographic diversity and variety.  
2 = Landform has moderate amount of topographic diversity and variety.  
3 = Landform has high amount of topographic diversity and variety.

**1**

**Recovery Time**

- 1 = Long-term recovery time (greater than 5 years)  
2 = Medium recovery time (3 to 5 years)  
3 = High (rapid) recovery time (1 to 2 years)

**2**

**Overall Score**

**6**

**5 - 7 = Low**

**8 - 11 = Medium**

**12 - 15 = High**

**Visual Absorption Capacity  
(Low, Medium, High)**

**Low**

**Rationale and Conclusion**

Vast, natural landscape with stabilized sand dunes and overall low vegetation. Vast, open landscape with low, relatively uniform vegetation, combined with minimal topographic variation produces low VAC.

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VISUAL ABSORPTION CAPACITY RATING SHEET

Scenic Quality Rating Unit: The Rims

Date 9/2/2010

Unit Number: 23

Evaluators: GBrady KSchwarzler

	SCORE
<p><b>Vegetation</b></p> <p>1 = Low, uniform vegetation or sparse vegetative cover; typically less than 3' in height; lacking in variety; uniform color; minimal screening capability; typically sagebrush, sagebrush/grass, or grass type vegetation.</p> <p>2 = Vegetation of moderate height (3–6'), some species variety (2 to 3 types), some variation in color, mostly continuous vegetative cover, effectively screens low-profile projects such as low-profile surface disturbance, sagebrush/grass, and intermingled shrubs.</p> <p>3 = Higher vegetation (&gt;6' height); lush, continuous vegetative cover; some variety of vegetative types is typical but not mandatory; provides significant screening capability of projects up to 15–20 feet in height; juniper woodlands, aspen, conifers.</p>	<p>2</p>
<p><b>Soil Contrast</b></p> <p>1 = Surface disturbance would expose a high degree of contrast in color with surrounding soil, rock, and vegetation.</p> <p>2 = Surface disturbance would expose a medium degree of contrast in color with surrounding soil, rock, and vegetation.</p> <p>3 = Surface disturbance would expose only a low degree of contrast in color with surrounding soil, rock, and vegetation.</p>	<p>1</p>
<p><b>Visual Variety</b></p> <p>1 = Rating unit exhibits a low degree of visual variety in terms of the landscape character elements of form, line, and texture; may also exhibit minimal variety in landforms, vegetation, or color.</p> <p>2 = Rating unit exhibits a medium degree of visual variety in terms of the landscape character elements of form, line, and texture; may also exhibit medium variety in landforms, vegetation, or color.</p> <p>3 = Rating unit exhibits a high degree of visual variety in terms of the landscape character elements of form, line, and texture; may also exhibit high degree of variety in landforms, vegetation, or color.</p>	<p>2</p>

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VISUAL ABSORPTION CAPACITY RATING SHEET

SCORE

**Topographical Diversity**

- 1 = Landform has low amount of topographic diversity and variety.  
2 = Landform has moderate amount of topographic diversity and variety.  
3 = Landform has high amount of topographic diversity and variety.

1

**Recovery Time**

- 1 = Long-term recovery time (greater than 5 years)  
2 = Medium recovery time (3 to 5 years)  
3 = High (rapid) recovery time (1 to 2 years)

1

**Overall Score**

7

5 - 7 = Low  
8 - 11 = Medium  
12 - 15 = High

**Visual Absorption Capacity**  
(Low, Medium, High)

Low

**Rationale and Conclusion**

Rims are distinct but their vertical nature does not provide much screening potential. There is a moderate amount of variety in the vegetation but overall it is still low.

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VISUAL ABSORPTION CAPACITY RATING SHEET

Scenic Quality Rating Unit: Chicken Springs Basin

Date 7/31/2010

Unit Number: 24

Evaluators: GBrady JOffer KSchwarzler

	SCORE
<p><b>Vegetation</b></p> <p>1 = Low, uniform vegetation or sparse vegetative cover; typically less than 3' in height; lacking in variety; uniform color; minimal screening capability; typically sagebrush, sagebrush/grass, or grass type vegetation.</p> <p>2 = Vegetation of moderate height (3–6'), some species variety (2 to 3 types), some variation in color, mostly continuous vegetative cover, effectively screens low-profile projects such as low-profile surface disturbance, sagebrush/grass, and intermingled shrubs.</p> <p>3 = Higher vegetation (&gt;6' height); lush, continuous vegetative cover; some variety of vegetative types is typical but not mandatory; provides significant screening capability of projects up to 15–20 feet in height; juniper woodlands, aspen, conifers.</p>	<p>1</p>
<p><b>Soil Contrast</b></p> <p>1 = Surface disturbance would expose a high degree of contrast in color with surrounding soil, rock, and vegetation.</p> <p>2 = Surface disturbance would expose a medium degree of contrast in color with surrounding soil, rock, and vegetation.</p> <p>3 = Surface disturbance would expose only a low degree of contrast in color with surrounding soil, rock, and vegetation.</p>	<p>2</p>
<p><b>Visual Variety</b></p> <p>1 = Rating unit exhibits a low degree of visual variety in terms of the landscape character elements of form, line, and texture; may also exhibit minimal variety in landforms, vegetation, or color.</p> <p>2 = Rating unit exhibits a medium degree of visual variety in terms of the landscape character elements of form, line, and texture; may also exhibit medium variety in landforms, vegetation, or color.</p> <p>3 = Rating unit exhibits a high degree of visual variety in terms of the landscape character elements of form, line, and texture; may also exhibit high degree of variety in landforms, vegetation, or color.</p>	<p>1</p>

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**VISUAL ABSORPTION CAPACITY RATING SHEET**

**SCORE**

**Topographical Diversity**

- 1 = Landform has low amount of topographic diversity and variety.  
2 = Landform has moderate amount of topographic diversity and variety.  
3 = Landform has high amount of topographic diversity and variety.

**1**

**Recovery Time**

- 1 = Long-term recovery time (greater than 5 years)  
2 = Medium recovery time (3 to 5 years)  
3 = High (rapid) recovery time (1 to 2 years)

**1**

**Overall Score**

**6**

**5 - 7 = Low**  
**8 - 11 = Medium**  
**12 - 15 = High**

**Visual Absorption Capacity**  
**(Low, Medium, High)**

**Low**

**Rationale and Conclusion**

The incised features provide some topographical diversity but lack of variety and low vegetation don't provide much screening opportunity.

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VISUAL ABSORPTION CAPACITY RATING SHEET

Scenic Quality Rating Unit: Powder Rim

Date 8/2/2010

Unit Number: 25

Evaluators: CBrandt JLieen GLong

	SCORE
<p><b>Vegetation</b></p> <p>1 = Low, uniform vegetation or sparse vegetative cover; typically less than 3' in height; lacking in variety; uniform color; minimal screening capability; typically sagebrush, sagebrush/grass, or grass type vegetation.</p> <p>2 = Vegetation of moderate height (3–6'), some species variety (2 to 3 types), some variation in color, mostly continuous vegetative cover, effectively screens low-profile projects such as low-profile surface disturbance, sagebrush/grass, and intermingled shrubs.</p> <p>3 = Higher vegetation (&gt;6' height); lush, continuous vegetative cover; some variety of vegetative types is typical but not mandatory; provides significant screening capability of projects up to 15–20 feet in height; juniper woodlands, aspen, conifers.</p>	<p>2</p>
<p><b>Soil Contrast</b></p> <p>1 = Surface disturbance would expose a high degree of contrast in color with surrounding soil, rock, and vegetation.</p> <p>2 = Surface disturbance would expose a medium degree of contrast in color with surrounding soil, rock, and vegetation.</p> <p>3 = Surface disturbance would expose only a low degree of contrast in color with surrounding soil, rock, and vegetation.</p>	<p>1</p>
<p><b>Visual Variety</b></p> <p>1 = Rating unit exhibits a low degree of visual variety in terms of the landscape character elements of form, line, and texture; may also exhibit minimal variety in landforms, vegetation, or color.</p> <p>2 = Rating unit exhibits a medium degree of visual variety in terms of the landscape character elements of form, line, and texture; may also exhibit medium variety in landforms, vegetation, or color.</p> <p>3 = Rating unit exhibits a high degree of visual variety in terms of the landscape character elements of form, line, and texture; may also exhibit high degree of variety in landforms, vegetation, or color.</p>	<p>2</p>

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VISUAL ABSORPTION CAPACITY RATING SHEET

SCORE

**Topographical Diversity**

- 1 = Landform has low amount of topographic diversity and variety.  
2 = Landform has moderate amount of topographic diversity and variety.  
3 = Landform has high amount of topographic diversity and variety.

2

**Recovery Time**

- 1 = Long-term recovery time (greater than 5 years)  
2 = Medium recovery time (3 to 5 years)  
3 = High (rapid) recovery time (1 to 2 years)

1

**Overall Score**

8

5 - 7 = Low  
8 - 11 = Medium  
12 - 15 = High

**Visual Absorption Capacity**  
(Low, Medium, High)

Medium

**Rationale and Conclusion**

Diverse landforms and juniper/sage cover with moderate contrast in soil, rock, and vegetation color. Medium VAC mostly results from topographic variability and vegetation.

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VISUAL ABSORPTION CAPACITY RATING SHEET

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**Scenic Quality Rating Unit:** Sage Flats **Date** 8/2/2010

**Unit Number:** 26

**Evaluators:** CBrandt JLieen GLong

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**Vegetation** **SCORE**

1 = Low, uniform vegetation or sparse vegetative cover; typically less than 3' in height; lacking in variety; uniform color; minimal screening capability; typically sagebrush, sagebrush/grass, or grass type vegetation. **1**

2 = Vegetation of moderate height (3–6'), some species variety (2 to 3 types), some variation in color, mostly continuous vegetative cover, effectively screens low-profile projects such as low-profile surface disturbance, sagebrush/grass, and intermingled shrubs.

3 = Higher vegetation (>6' height); lush, continuous vegetative cover; some variety of vegetative types is typical but not mandatory; provides significant screening capability of projects up to 15–20 feet in height; juniper woodlands, aspen, conifers.

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**Soil Contrast** **SCORE**

1 = Surface disturbance would expose a high degree of contrast in color with surrounding soil, rock, and vegetation. **1**

2 = Surface disturbance would expose a medium degree of contrast in color with surrounding soil, rock, and vegetation.

3 = Surface disturbance would expose only a low degree of contrast in color with surrounding soil, rock, and vegetation.

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**Visual Variety** **SCORE**

1 = Rating unit exhibits a low degree of visual variety in terms of the landscape character elements of form, line, and texture; may also exhibit minimal variety in landforms, vegetation, or color. **1**

2 = Rating unit exhibits a medium degree of visual variety in terms of the landscape character elements of form, line, and texture; may also exhibit medium variety in landforms, vegetation, or color.

3 = Rating unit exhibits a high degree of visual variety in terms of the landscape character elements of form, line, and texture; may also exhibit high degree of variety in landforms, vegetation, or color.

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**VISUAL ABSORPTION CAPACITY RATING SHEET**

**SCORE**

**Topographical Diversity**

- 1 = Landform has low amount of topographic diversity and variety.  
2 = Landform has moderate amount of topographic diversity and variety.  
3 = Landform has high amount of topographic diversity and variety.

**1**

**Recovery Time**

- 1 = Long-term recovery time (greater than 5 years)  
2 = Medium recovery time (3 to 5 years)  
3 = High (rapid) recovery time (1 to 2 years)

**1**

**Overall Score**

**5**

**5 - 7 = Low**  
**8 - 11 = Medium**  
**12 - 15 = High**

**Visual Absorption Capacity**  
**(Low, Medium, High)**

**Low**

**Rationale and Conclusion**

Low, rolling hills with gentle slopes and sagebrush cover; little visual variety.

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VISUAL ABSORPTION CAPACITY RATING SHEET

Scenic Quality Rating Unit: Cedar Breaks

Date 8/2/2010

Unit Number: 27

Evaluators: CBrandt JLieen GLong

	SCORE
<p><b>Vegetation</b></p> <p>1 = Low, uniform vegetation or sparse vegetative cover; typically less than 3' in height; lacking in variety; uniform color; minimal screening capability; typically sagebrush, sagebrush/grass, or grass type vegetation.</p> <p>2 = Vegetation of moderate height (3–6'), some species variety (2 to 3 types), some variation in color, mostly continuous vegetative cover, effectively screens low-profile projects such as low-profile surface disturbance, sagebrush/grass, and intermingled shrubs.</p> <p>3 = Higher vegetation (&gt;6' height); lush, continuous vegetative cover; some variety of vegetative types is typical but not mandatory; provides significant screening capability of projects up to 15–20 feet in height; juniper woodlands, aspen, conifers.</p>	<p>2</p>
<p><b>Soil Contrast</b></p> <p>1 = Surface disturbance would expose a high degree of contrast in color with surrounding soil, rock, and vegetation.</p> <p>2 = Surface disturbance would expose a medium degree of contrast in color with surrounding soil, rock, and vegetation.</p> <p>3 = Surface disturbance would expose only a low degree of contrast in color with surrounding soil, rock, and vegetation.</p>	<p>2</p>
<p><b>Visual Variety</b></p> <p>1 = Rating unit exhibits a low degree of visual variety in terms of the landscape character elements of form, line, and texture; may also exhibit minimal variety in landforms, vegetation, or color.</p> <p>2 = Rating unit exhibits a medium degree of visual variety in terms of the landscape character elements of form, line, and texture; may also exhibit medium variety in landforms, vegetation, or color.</p> <p>3 = Rating unit exhibits a high degree of visual variety in terms of the landscape character elements of form, line, and texture; may also exhibit high degree of variety in landforms, vegetation, or color.</p>	<p>2</p>

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**VISUAL ABSORPTION CAPACITY RATING SHEET**

**SCORE**

**Topographical Diversity**

- 1 = Landform has low amount of topographic diversity and variety.  
2 = Landform has moderate amount of topographic diversity and variety.  
3 = Landform has high amount of topographic diversity and variety.

**1**

**Recovery Time**

- 1 = Long-term recovery time (greater than 5 years)  
2 = Medium recovery time (3 to 5 years)  
3 = High (rapid) recovery time (1 to 2 years)

**1**

**Overall Score**

**8**

**5 - 7 = Low**  
**8 - 11 = Medium**  
**12 - 15 = High**

**Visual Absorption Capacity**  
**(Low, Medium, High)**

**Medium**

**Rationale and Conclusion**

Somewhat rough breaks and drainages with juniper and shrub community and some color contrast.

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VISUAL ABSORPTION CAPACITY RATING SHEET

Scenic Quality Rating Unit: Sand Creek

Date 8/2/2010

Unit Number: 28

Evaluators: CBrandt JLieen GLong

	SCORE
<p><b>Vegetation</b></p> <p>1 = Low, uniform vegetation or sparse vegetative cover; typically less than 3' in height; lacking in variety; uniform color; minimal screening capability; typically sagebrush, sagebrush/grass, or grass type vegetation.</p> <p>2 = Vegetation of moderate height (3–6'), some species variety (2 to 3 types), some variation in color, mostly continuous vegetative cover, effectively screens low-profile projects such as low-profile surface disturbance, sagebrush/grass, and intermingled shrubs.</p> <p>3 = Higher vegetation (&gt;6' height); lush, continuous vegetative cover; some variety of vegetative types is typical but not mandatory; provides significant screening capability of projects up to 15–20 feet in height; juniper woodlands, aspen, conifers.</p>	<div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 5px; width: 40px; margin: 0 auto;">1</div>
<p><b>Soil Contrast</b></p> <p>1 = Surface disturbance would expose a high degree of contrast in color with surrounding soil, rock, and vegetation.</p> <p>2 = Surface disturbance would expose a medium degree of contrast in color with surrounding soil, rock, and vegetation.</p> <p>3 = Surface disturbance would expose only a low degree of contrast in color with surrounding soil, rock, and vegetation.</p>	<div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 5px; width: 40px; margin: 0 auto;">3</div>
<p><b>Visual Variety</b></p> <p>1 = Rating unit exhibits a low degree of visual variety in terms of the landscape character elements of form, line, and texture; may also exhibit minimal variety in landforms, vegetation, or color.</p> <p>2 = Rating unit exhibits a medium degree of visual variety in terms of the landscape character elements of form, line, and texture; may also exhibit medium variety in landforms, vegetation, or color.</p> <p>3 = Rating unit exhibits a high degree of visual variety in terms of the landscape character elements of form, line, and texture; may also exhibit high degree of variety in landforms, vegetation, or color.</p>	<div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 5px; width: 40px; margin: 0 auto;">1</div>

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**RAWLINS FIELD OFFICE**

**VISUAL ABSORPTION CAPACITY RATING SHEET**

**SCORE**

**Topographical Diversity**

- 1 = Landform has low amount of topographic diversity and variety.  
2 = Landform has moderate amount of topographic diversity and variety.  
3 = Landform has high amount of topographic diversity and variety.

**2**

**Recovery Time**

- 1 = Long-term recovery time (greater than 5 years)  
2 = Medium recovery time (3 to 5 years)  
3 = High (rapid) recovery time (1 to 2 years)

**2**

**Overall Score**

**9**

**5 - 7 = Low**  
**8 - 11 = Medium**  
**12 - 15 = High**

**Visual Absorption Capacity**  
**(Low, Medium, High)**

**Medium**

**Rationale and Conclusion**

Mostly flat floodplain with shrub/grass vegetation cover.

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VISUAL ABSORPTION CAPACITY RATING SHEET

Scenic Quality Rating Unit: Flat Tops

Date 8/2/2010

Unit Number: 29

Evaluators: CBrandt JLieen GLong

	SCORE
<p><b>Vegetation</b></p> <p>1 = Low, uniform vegetation or sparse vegetative cover; typically less than 3' in height; lacking in variety; uniform color; minimal screening capability; typically sagebrush, sagebrush/grass, or grass type vegetation.</p> <p>2 = Vegetation of moderate height (3–6'), some species variety (2 to 3 types), some variation in color, mostly continuous vegetative cover, effectively screens low-profile projects such as low-profile surface disturbance, sagebrush/grass, and intermingled shrubs.</p> <p>3 = Higher vegetation (&gt;6' height); lush, continuous vegetative cover; some variety of vegetative types is typical but not mandatory; provides significant screening capability of projects up to 15–20 feet in height; juniper woodlands, aspen, conifers.</p>	<div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 5px; width: 40px; margin: 0 auto;">1</div>
<p><b>Soil Contrast</b></p> <p>1 = Surface disturbance would expose a high degree of contrast in color with surrounding soil, rock, and vegetation.</p> <p>2 = Surface disturbance would expose a medium degree of contrast in color with surrounding soil, rock, and vegetation.</p> <p>3 = Surface disturbance would expose only a low degree of contrast in color with surrounding soil, rock, and vegetation.</p>	<div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 5px; width: 40px; margin: 0 auto;">1</div>
<p><b>Visual Variety</b></p> <p>1 = Rating unit exhibits a low degree of visual variety in terms of the landscape character elements of form, line, and texture; may also exhibit minimal variety in landforms, vegetation, or color.</p> <p>2 = Rating unit exhibits a medium degree of visual variety in terms of the landscape character elements of form, line, and texture; may also exhibit medium variety in landforms, vegetation, or color.</p> <p>3 = Rating unit exhibits a high degree of visual variety in terms of the landscape character elements of form, line, and texture; may also exhibit high degree of variety in landforms, vegetation, or color.</p>	<div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 5px; width: 40px; margin: 0 auto;">3</div>

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**VISUAL ABSORPTION CAPACITY RATING SHEET**

**SCORE**

**Topographical Diversity**

- 1 = Landform has low amount of topographic diversity and variety.  
2 = Landform has moderate amount of topographic diversity and variety.  
3 = Landform has high amount of topographic diversity and variety.

2

**Recovery Time**

- 1 = Long-term recovery time (greater than 5 years)  
2 = Medium recovery time (3 to 5 years)  
3 = High (rapid) recovery time (1 to 2 years)

1

**Overall Score**

8

5 - 7 = Low  
8 - 11 = Medium  
12 - 15 = High

**Visual Absorption Capacity**  
(Low, Medium, High)

Medium

**Rationale and Conclusion**

Considerable landform variety with mostly sage and other dark shrub cover. VAC is mostly a function of topographic variability.

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VISUAL ABSORPTION CAPACITY RATING SHEET

Scenic Quality Rating Unit: Robbers Gulch

Date 8/2/2010

Unit Number: 30

Evaluators: CBrandt JLieen GLong

	SCORE
<p><b>Vegetation</b></p> <p>1 = Low, uniform vegetation or sparse vegetative cover; typically less than 3' in height; lacking in variety; uniform color; minimal screening capability; typically sagebrush, sagebrush/grass, or grass type vegetation.</p> <p>2 = Vegetation of moderate height (3–6'), some species variety (2 to 3 types), some variation in color, mostly continuous vegetative cover, effectively screens low-profile projects such as low-profile surface disturbance, sagebrush/grass, and intermingled shrubs.</p> <p>3 = Higher vegetation (&gt;6' height); lush, continuous vegetative cover; some variety of vegetative types is typical but not mandatory; provides significant screening capability of projects up to 15–20 feet in height; juniper woodlands, aspen, conifers.</p>	<p>1</p>
<p><b>Soil Contrast</b></p> <p>1 = Surface disturbance would expose a high degree of contrast in color with surrounding soil, rock, and vegetation.</p> <p>2 = Surface disturbance would expose a medium degree of contrast in color with surrounding soil, rock, and vegetation.</p> <p>3 = Surface disturbance would expose only a low degree of contrast in color with surrounding soil, rock, and vegetation.</p>	<p>1</p>
<p><b>Visual Variety</b></p> <p>1 = Rating unit exhibits a low degree of visual variety in terms of the landscape character elements of form, line, and texture; may also exhibit minimal variety in landforms, vegetation, or color.</p> <p>2 = Rating unit exhibits a medium degree of visual variety in terms of the landscape character elements of form, line, and texture; may also exhibit medium variety in landforms, vegetation, or color.</p> <p>3 = Rating unit exhibits a high degree of visual variety in terms of the landscape character elements of form, line, and texture; may also exhibit high degree of variety in landforms, vegetation, or color.</p>	<p>2</p>

UNITED STATES  
DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT

**RAWLINS FIELD OFFICE**

**VISUAL ABSORPTION CAPACITY RATING SHEET**

**SCORE**

**Topographical Diversity**

- 1 = Landform has low amount of topographic diversity and variety.  
2 = Landform has moderate amount of topographic diversity and variety.  
3 = Landform has high amount of topographic diversity and variety.

**2**

**Recovery Time**

- 1 = Long-term recovery time (greater than 5 years)  
2 = Medium recovery time (3 to 5 years)  
3 = High (rapid) recovery time (1 to 2 years)

**1**

**Overall Score**

**7**

**5 - 7 = Low**  
**8 - 11 = Medium**  
**12 - 15 = High**

**Visual Absorption Capacity**  
**(Low, Medium, High)**

**Medium**

**Rationale and Conclusion**

Badlands with scattered juniper, sagebrush/grass provide moderate ability to screen projects.

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VISUAL ABSORPTION CAPACITY RATING SHEET

Scenic Quality Rating Unit: Little Snake Valley

Date 7/31/2010

Unit Number: 31

Evaluators: CBrandt JLieen GLong

	SCORE
<p><b>Vegetation</b></p> <p>1 = Low, uniform vegetation or sparse vegetative cover; typically less than 3' in height; lacking in variety; uniform color; minimal screening capability; typically sagebrush, sagebrush/grass, or grass type vegetation.</p> <p>2 = Vegetation of moderate height (3–6'), some species variety (2 to 3 types), some variation in color, mostly continuous vegetative cover, effectively screens low-profile projects such as low-profile surface disturbance, sagebrush/grass, and intermingled shrubs.</p> <p>3 = Higher vegetation (&gt;6' height); lush, continuous vegetative cover; some variety of vegetative types is typical but not mandatory; provides significant screening capability of projects up to 15–20 feet in height; juniper woodlands, aspen, conifers.</p>	<p>3</p>
<p><b>Soil Contrast</b></p> <p>1 = Surface disturbance would expose a high degree of contrast in color with surrounding soil, rock, and vegetation.</p> <p>2 = Surface disturbance would expose a medium degree of contrast in color with surrounding soil, rock, and vegetation.</p> <p>3 = Surface disturbance would expose only a low degree of contrast in color with surrounding soil, rock, and vegetation.</p>	<p>2</p>
<p><b>Visual Variety</b></p> <p>1 = Rating unit exhibits a low degree of visual variety in terms of the landscape character elements of form, line, and texture; may also exhibit minimal variety in landforms, vegetation, or color.</p> <p>2 = Rating unit exhibits a medium degree of visual variety in terms of the landscape character elements of form, line, and texture; may also exhibit medium variety in landforms, vegetation, or color.</p> <p>3 = Rating unit exhibits a high degree of visual variety in terms of the landscape character elements of form, line, and texture; may also exhibit high degree of variety in landforms, vegetation, or color.</p>	<p>2</p>

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VISUAL ABSORPTION CAPACITY RATING SHEET

SCORE

**Topographical Diversity**

- 1 = Landform has low amount of topographic diversity and variety.  
2 = Landform has moderate amount of topographic diversity and variety.  
3 = Landform has high amount of topographic diversity and variety.

1

**Recovery Time**

- 1 = Long-term recovery time (greater than 5 years)  
2 = Medium recovery time (3 to 5 years)  
3 = High (rapid) recovery time (1 to 2 years)

2

**Overall Score**

10

5 - 7 = Low

8 - 11 = Medium

12 - 15 = High

**Visual Absorption Capacity**  
(Low, Medium, High)

Medium

**Rationale and Conclusion**

Riparian valley setting with well-developed vegetation. High and diverse vegetation would provide screening of projects.

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VISUAL ABSORPTION CAPACITY RATING SHEET

Scenic Quality Rating Unit: Chalk Bluff

Date 7/31/2010

Unit Number: 32

Evaluators: CBrandt JLieen GLong

	SCORE
<p><b>Vegetation</b></p> <p>1 = Low, uniform vegetation or sparse vegetative cover; typically less than 3' in height; lacking in variety; uniform color; minimal screening capability; typically sagebrush, sagebrush/grass, or grass type vegetation.</p> <p>2 = Vegetation of moderate height (3–6'), some species variety (2 to 3 types), some variation in color, mostly continuous vegetative cover, effectively screens low-profile projects such as low-profile surface disturbance, sagebrush/grass, and intermingled shrubs.</p> <p>3 = Higher vegetation (&gt;6' height); lush, continuous vegetative cover; some variety of vegetative types is typical but not mandatory; provides significant screening capability of projects up to 15–20 feet in height; juniper woodlands, aspen, conifers.</p>	<p>1</p>
<p><b>Soil Contrast</b></p> <p>1 = Surface disturbance would expose a high degree of contrast in color with surrounding soil, rock, and vegetation.</p> <p>2 = Surface disturbance would expose a medium degree of contrast in color with surrounding soil, rock, and vegetation.</p> <p>3 = Surface disturbance would expose only a low degree of contrast in color with surrounding soil, rock, and vegetation.</p>	<p>1</p>
<p><b>Visual Variety</b></p> <p>1 = Rating unit exhibits a low degree of visual variety in terms of the landscape character elements of form, line, and texture; may also exhibit minimal variety in landforms, vegetation, or color.</p> <p>2 = Rating unit exhibits a medium degree of visual variety in terms of the landscape character elements of form, line, and texture; may also exhibit medium variety in landforms, vegetation, or color.</p> <p>3 = Rating unit exhibits a high degree of visual variety in terms of the landscape character elements of form, line, and texture; may also exhibit high degree of variety in landforms, vegetation, or color.</p>	<p>1</p>

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**RAWLINS FIELD OFFICE**

**VISUAL ABSORPTION CAPACITY RATING SHEET**

**SCORE**

**Topographical Diversity**

- 1 = Landform has low amount of topographic diversity and variety.  
2 = Landform has moderate amount of topographic diversity and variety.  
3 = Landform has high amount of topographic diversity and variety.

**1**

**Recovery Time**

- 1 = Long-term recovery time (greater than 5 years)  
2 = Medium recovery time (3 to 5 years)  
3 = High (rapid) recovery time (1 to 2 years)

**1**

**Overall Score**

**5**

**5 - 7 = Low**  
**8 - 11 = Medium**  
**12 - 15 = High**

**Visual Absorption Capacity**  
**(Low, Medium, High)**

**Low**

**Rationale and Conclusion**

Sagebrush plain with little ability to screen projects.

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VISUAL ABSORPTION CAPACITY RATING SHEET

Scenic Quality Rating Unit: Deep Creek

Date 7/31/2010

Unit Number: 33

Evaluators: CBrandt JLieen GLong

	SCORE
<p><b>Vegetation</b></p> <p>1 = Low, uniform vegetation or sparse vegetative cover; typically less than 3' in height; lacking in variety; uniform color; minimal screening capability; typically sagebrush, sagebrush/grass, or grass type vegetation.</p> <p>2 = Vegetation of moderate height (3–6'), some species variety (2 to 3 types), some variation in color, mostly continuous vegetative cover, effectively screens low-profile projects such as low-profile surface disturbance, sagebrush/grass, and intermingled shrubs.</p> <p>3 = Higher vegetation (&gt;6' height); lush, continuous vegetative cover; some variety of vegetative types is typical but not mandatory; provides significant screening capability of projects up to 15–20 feet in height; juniper woodlands, aspen, conifers.</p>	<p>2</p>
<p><b>Soil Contrast</b></p> <p>1 = Surface disturbance would expose a high degree of contrast in color with surrounding soil, rock, and vegetation.</p> <p>2 = Surface disturbance would expose a medium degree of contrast in color with surrounding soil, rock, and vegetation.</p> <p>3 = Surface disturbance would expose only a low degree of contrast in color with surrounding soil, rock, and vegetation.</p>	<p>1</p>
<p><b>Visual Variety</b></p> <p>1 = Rating unit exhibits a low degree of visual variety in terms of the landscape character elements of form, line, and texture; may also exhibit minimal variety in landforms, vegetation, or color.</p> <p>2 = Rating unit exhibits a medium degree of visual variety in terms of the landscape character elements of form, line, and texture; may also exhibit medium variety in landforms, vegetation, or color.</p> <p>3 = Rating unit exhibits a high degree of visual variety in terms of the landscape character elements of form, line, and texture; may also exhibit high degree of variety in landforms, vegetation, or color.</p>	<p>2</p>

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**VISUAL ABSORPTION CAPACITY RATING SHEET**

**SCORE**

**Topographical Diversity**

- 1 = Landform has low amount of topographic diversity and variety.  
2 = Landform has moderate amount of topographic diversity and variety.  
3 = Landform has high amount of topographic diversity and variety.

**2**

**Recovery Time**

- 1 = Long-term recovery time (greater than 5 years)  
2 = Medium recovery time (3 to 5 years)  
3 = High (rapid) recovery time (1 to 2 years)

**1**

**Overall Score**

**8**

**5 - 7 = Low**  
**8 - 11 = Medium**  
**12 - 15 = High**

**Visual Absorption Capacity**  
**(Low, Medium, High)**

**Medium**

**Rationale and Conclusion**

Rolling hills, deep drainages and diverse vegetation including cottonwoods, shrubs, sage. Diverse vegetation combined with variable topography enhances VAC for the area.

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VISUAL ABSORPTION CAPACITY RATING SHEET

Scenic Quality Rating Unit: Horse Mountain

Date 7/31/2010

Unit Number: 34

Evaluators: CBrandt JLieen GLong

	SCORE
<p><b>Vegetation</b></p> <p>1 = Low, uniform vegetation or sparse vegetative cover; typically less than 3' in height; lacking in variety; uniform color; minimal screening capability; typically sagebrush, sagebrush/grass, or grass type vegetation.</p> <p>2 = Vegetation of moderate height (3–6'), some species variety (2 to 3 types), some variation in color, mostly continuous vegetative cover, effectively screens low-profile projects such as low-profile surface disturbance, sagebrush/grass, and intermingled shrubs.</p> <p>3 = Higher vegetation (&gt;6' height); lush, continuous vegetative cover; some variety of vegetative types is typical but not mandatory; provides significant screening capability of projects up to 15–20 feet in height; juniper woodlands, aspen, conifers.</p>	<p>2</p>
<p><b>Soil Contrast</b></p> <p>1 = Surface disturbance would expose a high degree of contrast in color with surrounding soil, rock, and vegetation.</p> <p>2 = Surface disturbance would expose a medium degree of contrast in color with surrounding soil, rock, and vegetation.</p> <p>3 = Surface disturbance would expose only a low degree of contrast in color with surrounding soil, rock, and vegetation.</p>	<p>2</p>
<p><b>Visual Variety</b></p> <p>1 = Rating unit exhibits a low degree of visual variety in terms of the landscape character elements of form, line, and texture; may also exhibit minimal variety in landforms, vegetation, or color.</p> <p>2 = Rating unit exhibits a medium degree of visual variety in terms of the landscape character elements of form, line, and texture; may also exhibit medium variety in landforms, vegetation, or color.</p> <p>3 = Rating unit exhibits a high degree of visual variety in terms of the landscape character elements of form, line, and texture; may also exhibit high degree of variety in landforms, vegetation, or color.</p>	<p>2</p>

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VISUAL ABSORPTION CAPACITY RATING SHEET

SCORE

**Topographical Diversity**

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2 = Landform has moderate amount of topographic diversity and variety.  
3 = Landform has high amount of topographic diversity and variety.

2

**Recovery Time**

- 1 = Long-term recovery time (greater than 5 years)  
2 = Medium recovery time (3 to 5 years)  
3 = High (rapid) recovery time (1 to 2 years)

2

**Overall Score**

10

5 - 7 = Low  
8 - 11 = Medium  
12 - 15 = High

**Visual Absorption Capacity**  
(Low, Medium, High)

Medium

**Rationale and Conclusion**

Topographic and vegetative variety would provide moderate VAC.

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VISUAL ABSORPTION CAPACITY RATING SHEET

Scenic Quality Rating Unit: Savery Canyon

Date 7/31/2010

Unit Number: 35

Evaluators: CBrandt JLieen GLong

	SCORE
<p><b>Vegetation</b></p> <p>1 = Low, uniform vegetation or sparse vegetative cover; typically less than 3' in height; lacking in variety; uniform color; minimal screening capability; typically sagebrush, sagebrush/grass, or grass type vegetation.</p> <p>2 = Vegetation of moderate height (3–6'), some species variety (2 to 3 types), some variation in color, mostly continuous vegetative cover, effectively screens low-profile projects such as low-profile surface disturbance, sagebrush/grass, and intermingled shrubs.</p> <p>3 = Higher vegetation (&gt;6' height); lush, continuous vegetative cover; some variety of vegetative types is typical but not mandatory; provides significant screening capability of projects up to 15–20 feet in height; juniper woodlands, aspen, conifers.</p>	<p>2</p>
<p><b>Soil Contrast</b></p> <p>1 = Surface disturbance would expose a high degree of contrast in color with surrounding soil, rock, and vegetation.</p> <p>2 = Surface disturbance would expose a medium degree of contrast in color with surrounding soil, rock, and vegetation.</p> <p>3 = Surface disturbance would expose only a low degree of contrast in color with surrounding soil, rock, and vegetation.</p>	<p>1</p>
<p><b>Visual Variety</b></p> <p>1 = Rating unit exhibits a low degree of visual variety in terms of the landscape character elements of form, line, and texture; may also exhibit minimal variety in landforms, vegetation, or color.</p> <p>2 = Rating unit exhibits a medium degree of visual variety in terms of the landscape character elements of form, line, and texture; may also exhibit medium variety in landforms, vegetation, or color.</p> <p>3 = Rating unit exhibits a high degree of visual variety in terms of the landscape character elements of form, line, and texture; may also exhibit high degree of variety in landforms, vegetation, or color.</p>	<p>2</p>

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VISUAL ABSORPTION CAPACITY RATING SHEET

SCORE

**Topographical Diversity**

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2 = Landform has moderate amount of topographic diversity and variety.  
3 = Landform has high amount of topographic diversity and variety.

3

**Recovery Time**

- 1 = Long-term recovery time (greater than 5 years)  
2 = Medium recovery time (3 to 5 years)  
3 = High (rapid) recovery time (1 to 2 years)

2

**Overall Score**

10

5 - 7 = Low  
8 - 11 = Medium  
12 - 15 = High

**Visual Absorption Capacity**  
(Low, Medium, High)

Medium

**Rationale and Conclusion**

Projects would be less noticeable due to topography and vegetation.

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VISUAL ABSORPTION CAPACITY RATING SHEET

Scenic Quality Rating Unit: Browns Hill

Date 7/31/2010

Unit Number: 36

Evaluators: CBrandt JLieen GLong

	SCORE
<p><b>Vegetation</b></p> <p>1 = Low, uniform vegetation or sparse vegetative cover; typically less than 3' in height; lacking in variety; uniform color; minimal screening capability; typically sagebrush, sagebrush/grass, or grass type vegetation.</p> <p>2 = Vegetation of moderate height (3–6'), some species variety (2 to 3 types), some variation in color, mostly continuous vegetative cover, effectively screens low-profile projects such as low-profile surface disturbance, sagebrush/grass, and intermingled shrubs.</p> <p>3 = Higher vegetation (&gt;6' height); lush, continuous vegetative cover; some variety of vegetative types is typical but not mandatory; provides significant screening capability of projects up to 15–20 feet in height; juniper woodlands, aspen, conifers.</p>	<p>1</p>
<p><b>Soil Contrast</b></p> <p>1 = Surface disturbance would expose a high degree of contrast in color with surrounding soil, rock, and vegetation.</p> <p>2 = Surface disturbance would expose a medium degree of contrast in color with surrounding soil, rock, and vegetation.</p> <p>3 = Surface disturbance would expose only a low degree of contrast in color with surrounding soil, rock, and vegetation.</p>	<p>1</p>
<p><b>Visual Variety</b></p> <p>1 = Rating unit exhibits a low degree of visual variety in terms of the landscape character elements of form, line, and texture; may also exhibit minimal variety in landforms, vegetation, or color.</p> <p>2 = Rating unit exhibits a medium degree of visual variety in terms of the landscape character elements of form, line, and texture; may also exhibit medium variety in landforms, vegetation, or color.</p> <p>3 = Rating unit exhibits a high degree of visual variety in terms of the landscape character elements of form, line, and texture; may also exhibit high degree of variety in landforms, vegetation, or color.</p>	<p>1</p>

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**RAWLINS FIELD OFFICE**

**VISUAL ABSORPTION CAPACITY RATING SHEET**

**SCORE**

**Topographical Diversity**

- 1 = Landform has low amount of topographic diversity and variety.  
2 = Landform has moderate amount of topographic diversity and variety.  
3 = Landform has high amount of topographic diversity and variety.

**1**

**Recovery Time**

- 1 = Long-term recovery time (greater than 5 years)  
2 = Medium recovery time (3 to 5 years)  
3 = High (rapid) recovery time (1 to 2 years)

**2**

**Overall Score**

**6**

**5 - 7 = Low**  
**8 - 11 = Medium**  
**12 - 15 = High**

**Visual Absorption Capacity**  
**(Low, Medium, High)**

**Low**

**Rationale and Conclusion**

Low vegetation and lack of topographic diversity would make most project development quite visible.

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VISUAL ABSORPTION CAPACITY RATING SHEET

**Scenic Quality Rating Unit:** Upper Savery Drainage

**Date** 7/31/2010

**Unit Number:** 37

**Evaluators:** CBrandt JLieen GLong

	<b>SCORE</b>
<p><b>Vegetation</b></p> <p>1 = Low, uniform vegetation or sparse vegetative cover; typically less than 3' in height; lacking in variety; uniform color; minimal screening capability; typically sagebrush, sagebrush/grass, or grass type vegetation.</p> <p>2 = Vegetation of moderate height (3–6'), some species variety (2 to 3 types), some variation in color, mostly continuous vegetative cover, effectively screens low-profile projects such as low-profile surface disturbance, sagebrush/grass, and intermingled shrubs.</p> <p>3 = Higher vegetation (&gt;6' height); lush, continuous vegetative cover; some variety of vegetative types is typical but not mandatory; provides significant screening capability of projects up to 15–20 feet in height; juniper woodlands, aspen, conifers.</p>	<div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 5px; width: 40px; margin: 0 auto;">1</div>
<p><b>Soil Contrast</b></p> <p>1 = Surface disturbance would expose a high degree of contrast in color with surrounding soil, rock, and vegetation.</p> <p>2 = Surface disturbance would expose a medium degree of contrast in color with surrounding soil, rock, and vegetation.</p> <p>3 = Surface disturbance would expose only a low degree of contrast in color with surrounding soil, rock, and vegetation.</p>	<div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 5px; width: 40px; margin: 0 auto;">2</div>
<p><b>Visual Variety</b></p> <p>1 = Rating unit exhibits a low degree of visual variety in terms of the landscape character elements of form, line, and texture; may also exhibit minimal variety in landforms, vegetation, or color.</p> <p>2 = Rating unit exhibits a medium degree of visual variety in terms of the landscape character elements of form, line, and texture; may also exhibit medium variety in landforms, vegetation, or color.</p> <p>3 = Rating unit exhibits a high degree of visual variety in terms of the landscape character elements of form, line, and texture; may also exhibit high degree of variety in landforms, vegetation, or color.</p>	<div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 5px; width: 40px; margin: 0 auto;">2</div>

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**RAWLINS FIELD OFFICE**

**VISUAL ABSORPTION CAPACITY RATING SHEET**

**SCORE**

**Topographical Diversity**

- 1 = Landform has low amount of topographic diversity and variety.  
2 = Landform has moderate amount of topographic diversity and variety.  
3 = Landform has high amount of topographic diversity and variety.

**1**

**Recovery Time**

- 1 = Long-term recovery time (greater than 5 years)  
2 = Medium recovery time (3 to 5 years)  
3 = High (rapid) recovery time (1 to 2 years)

**2**

**Overall Score**

**8**

**5 - 7 = Low**  
**8 - 11 = Medium**  
**12 - 15 = High**

**Visual Absorption Capacity**  
**(Low, Medium, High)**

**Medium**

**Rationale and Conclusion**

Mostly open area with gentle hills and distinctive valleys, areas of sage and aspen. Topographic variation provides some opportunities to screen projects from view.

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VISUAL ABSORPTION CAPACITY RATING SHEET

Scenic Quality Rating Unit: Middlewood Hill

Date 7/30/2010

Unit Number: 38

Evaluators: CBrandt JLieen GLong

	SCORE
<p><b>Vegetation</b></p> <p>1 = Low, uniform vegetation or sparse vegetative cover; typically less than 3' in height; lacking in variety; uniform color; minimal screening capability; typically sagebrush, sagebrush/grass, or grass type vegetation.</p> <p>2 = Vegetation of moderate height (3–6'), some species variety (2 to 3 types), some variation in color, mostly continuous vegetative cover, effectively screens low-profile projects such as low-profile surface disturbance, sagebrush/grass, and intermingled shrubs.</p> <p>3 = Higher vegetation (&gt;6' height); lush, continuous vegetative cover; some variety of vegetative types is typical but not mandatory; provides significant screening capability of projects up to 15–20 feet in height; juniper woodlands, aspen, conifers.</p>	<p>1</p>
<p><b>Soil Contrast</b></p> <p>1 = Surface disturbance would expose a high degree of contrast in color with surrounding soil, rock, and vegetation.</p> <p>2 = Surface disturbance would expose a medium degree of contrast in color with surrounding soil, rock, and vegetation.</p> <p>3 = Surface disturbance would expose only a low degree of contrast in color with surrounding soil, rock, and vegetation.</p>	<p>1</p>
<p><b>Visual Variety</b></p> <p>1 = Rating unit exhibits a low degree of visual variety in terms of the landscape character elements of form, line, and texture; may also exhibit minimal variety in landforms, vegetation, or color.</p> <p>2 = Rating unit exhibits a medium degree of visual variety in terms of the landscape character elements of form, line, and texture; may also exhibit medium variety in landforms, vegetation, or color.</p> <p>3 = Rating unit exhibits a high degree of visual variety in terms of the landscape character elements of form, line, and texture; may also exhibit high degree of variety in landforms, vegetation, or color.</p>	<p>2</p>

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**VISUAL ABSORPTION CAPACITY RATING SHEET**

**SCORE**

**Topographical Diversity**

- 1 = Landform has low amount of topographic diversity and variety.  
2 = Landform has moderate amount of topographic diversity and variety.  
3 = Landform has high amount of topographic diversity and variety.

**2**

**Recovery Time**

- 1 = Long-term recovery time (greater than 5 years)  
2 = Medium recovery time (3 to 5 years)  
3 = High (rapid) recovery time (1 to 2 years)

**1**

**Overall Score**

**7**

**5 - 7 = Low**  
**8 - 11 = Medium**  
**12 - 15 = High**

**Visual Absorption Capacity**  
**(Low, Medium, High)**

**Low**

**Rationale and Conclusion**

Open country; low uniform vegetation.

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VISUAL ABSORPTION CAPACITY RATING SHEET

Scenic Quality Rating Unit: Sage Creek

Date 7/30/2010

Unit Number: 39

Evaluators: CBrandt JLieen GLong

	SCORE
<p><b>Vegetation</b></p> <p>1 = Low, uniform vegetation or sparse vegetative cover; typically less than 3' in height; lacking in variety; uniform color; minimal screening capability; typically sagebrush, sagebrush/grass, or grass type vegetation.</p> <p>2 = Vegetation of moderate height (3–6'), some species variety (2 to 3 types), some variation in color, mostly continuous vegetative cover, effectively screens low-profile projects such as low-profile surface disturbance, sagebrush/grass, and intermingled shrubs.</p> <p>3 = Higher vegetation (&gt;6' height); lush, continuous vegetative cover; some variety of vegetative types is typical but not mandatory; provides significant screening capability of projects up to 15–20 feet in height; juniper woodlands, aspen, conifers.</p>	<p>1</p>
<p><b>Soil Contrast</b></p> <p>1 = Surface disturbance would expose a high degree of contrast in color with surrounding soil, rock, and vegetation.</p> <p>2 = Surface disturbance would expose a medium degree of contrast in color with surrounding soil, rock, and vegetation.</p> <p>3 = Surface disturbance would expose only a low degree of contrast in color with surrounding soil, rock, and vegetation.</p>	<p>3</p>
<p><b>Visual Variety</b></p> <p>1 = Rating unit exhibits a low degree of visual variety in terms of the landscape character elements of form, line, and texture; may also exhibit minimal variety in landforms, vegetation, or color.</p> <p>2 = Rating unit exhibits a medium degree of visual variety in terms of the landscape character elements of form, line, and texture; may also exhibit medium variety in landforms, vegetation, or color.</p> <p>3 = Rating unit exhibits a high degree of visual variety in terms of the landscape character elements of form, line, and texture; may also exhibit high degree of variety in landforms, vegetation, or color.</p>	<p>1</p>

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**VISUAL ABSORPTION CAPACITY RATING SHEET**

**SCORE**

**Topographical Diversity**

- 1 = Landform has low amount of topographic diversity and variety.  
2 = Landform has moderate amount of topographic diversity and variety.  
3 = Landform has high amount of topographic diversity and variety.

**1**

**Recovery Time**

- 1 = Long-term recovery time (greater than 5 years)  
2 = Medium recovery time (3 to 5 years)  
3 = High (rapid) recovery time (1 to 2 years)

**1**

**Overall Score**

**7**

**5 - 7 = Low**  
**8 - 11 = Medium**  
**12 - 15 = High**

**Visual Absorption Capacity**  
**(Low, Medium, High)**

**Low**

**Rationale and Conclusion**

Low hills and open country with fairly low vegetative cover provide minimal ability to screen projects.

UNITED STATES  
DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
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RAWLINS FIELD OFFICE

VISUAL ABSORPTION CAPACITY RATING SHEET

Scenic Quality Rating Unit: Bolton Ranch

Date 7/30/2010

Unit Number: 40

Evaluators: CBrandt JLieen GLong

	SCORE
<p><b>Vegetation</b></p> <p>1 = Low, uniform vegetation or sparse vegetative cover; typically less than 3' in height; lacking in variety; uniform color; minimal screening capability; typically sagebrush, sagebrush/grass, or grass type vegetation.</p> <p>2 = Vegetation of moderate height (3–6'), some species variety (2 to 3 types), some variation in color, mostly continuous vegetative cover, effectively screens low-profile projects such as low-profile surface disturbance, sagebrush/grass, and intermingled shrubs.</p> <p>3 = Higher vegetation (&gt;6' height); lush, continuous vegetative cover; some variety of vegetative types is typical but not mandatory; provides significant screening capability of projects up to 15–20 feet in height; juniper woodlands, aspen, conifers.</p>	<p>1</p>
<p><b>Soil Contrast</b></p> <p>1 = Surface disturbance would expose a high degree of contrast in color with surrounding soil, rock, and vegetation.</p> <p>2 = Surface disturbance would expose a medium degree of contrast in color with surrounding soil, rock, and vegetation.</p> <p>3 = Surface disturbance would expose only a low degree of contrast in color with surrounding soil, rock, and vegetation.</p>	<p>1</p>
<p><b>Visual Variety</b></p> <p>1 = Rating unit exhibits a low degree of visual variety in terms of the landscape character elements of form, line, and texture; may also exhibit minimal variety in landforms, vegetation, or color.</p> <p>2 = Rating unit exhibits a medium degree of visual variety in terms of the landscape character elements of form, line, and texture; may also exhibit medium variety in landforms, vegetation, or color.</p> <p>3 = Rating unit exhibits a high degree of visual variety in terms of the landscape character elements of form, line, and texture; may also exhibit high degree of variety in landforms, vegetation, or color.</p>	<p>2</p>

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**RAWLINS FIELD OFFICE**

**VISUAL ABSORPTION CAPACITY RATING SHEET**

**SCORE**

**Topographical Diversity**

- 1 = Landform has low amount of topographic diversity and variety.  
2 = Landform has moderate amount of topographic diversity and variety.  
3 = Landform has high amount of topographic diversity and variety.

**2**

**Recovery Time**

- 1 = Long-term recovery time (greater than 5 years)  
2 = Medium recovery time (3 to 5 years)  
3 = High (rapid) recovery time (1 to 2 years)

**1**

**Overall Score**

**7**

**5 - 7 = Low**  
**8 - 11 = Medium**  
**12 - 15 = High**

**Visual Absorption Capacity**  
**(Low, Medium, High)**

**Low**

**Rationale and Conclusion**

Low vegetation is the rule. Most any project in the area would be visible from any one of numerous vantage points in the unit.

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RAWLINS FIELD OFFICE

VISUAL ABSORPTION CAPACITY RATING SHEET

Scenic Quality Rating Unit: Rawlins Uplift

Date 8/5/2010

Unit Number: 41

Evaluators: CBrandt JLieen GLong

	SCORE
<p><b>Vegetation</b></p> <p>1 = Low, uniform vegetation or sparse vegetative cover; typically less than 3' in height; lacking in variety; uniform color; minimal screening capability; typically sagebrush, sagebrush/grass, or grass type vegetation.</p> <p>2 = Vegetation of moderate height (3–6'), some species variety (2 to 3 types), some variation in color, mostly continuous vegetative cover, effectively screens low-profile projects such as low-profile surface disturbance, sagebrush/grass, and intermingled shrubs.</p> <p>3 = Higher vegetation (&gt;6' height); lush, continuous vegetative cover; some variety of vegetative types is typical but not mandatory; provides significant screening capability of projects up to 15–20 feet in height; juniper woodlands, aspen, conifers.</p>	<p>1</p>
<p><b>Soil Contrast</b></p> <p>1 = Surface disturbance would expose a high degree of contrast in color with surrounding soil, rock, and vegetation.</p> <p>2 = Surface disturbance would expose a medium degree of contrast in color with surrounding soil, rock, and vegetation.</p> <p>3 = Surface disturbance would expose only a low degree of contrast in color with surrounding soil, rock, and vegetation.</p>	<p>1</p>
<p><b>Visual Variety</b></p> <p>1 = Rating unit exhibits a low degree of visual variety in terms of the landscape character elements of form, line, and texture; may also exhibit minimal variety in landforms, vegetation, or color.</p> <p>2 = Rating unit exhibits a medium degree of visual variety in terms of the landscape character elements of form, line, and texture; may also exhibit medium variety in landforms, vegetation, or color.</p> <p>3 = Rating unit exhibits a high degree of visual variety in terms of the landscape character elements of form, line, and texture; may also exhibit high degree of variety in landforms, vegetation, or color.</p>	<p>2</p>

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**RAWLINS FIELD OFFICE**

**VISUAL ABSORPTION CAPACITY RATING SHEET**

**SCORE**

**Topographical Diversity**

- 1 = Landform has low amount of topographic diversity and variety.  
2 = Landform has moderate amount of topographic diversity and variety.  
3 = Landform has high amount of topographic diversity and variety.

**2**

**Recovery Time**

- 1 = Long-term recovery time (greater than 5 years)  
2 = Medium recovery time (3 to 5 years)  
3 = High (rapid) recovery time (1 to 2 years)

**1**

**Overall Score**

**7**

**5 - 7 = Low**  
**8 - 11 = Medium**  
**12 - 15 = High**

**Visual Absorption Capacity**  
**(Low, Medium, High)**

**Low**

**Rationale and Conclusion**

Distinctive rolling hills with aspen, juniper, and sage. Backdrop for the city of Rawlins. Low vegetation limits screening effect. Most projects located in the area would be readily visible.

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RAWLINS FIELD OFFICE

VISUAL ABSORPTION CAPACITY RATING SHEET

Scenic Quality Rating Unit: Rawlins North

Date 8/5/2010

Unit Number: 42

Evaluators: CBrandt JLieen GLong

	SCORE
<p><b>Vegetation</b></p> <p>1 = Low, uniform vegetation or sparse vegetative cover; typically less than 3' in height; lacking in variety; uniform color; minimal screening capability; typically sagebrush, sagebrush/grass, or grass type vegetation.</p> <p>2 = Vegetation of moderate height (3–6'), some species variety (2 to 3 types), some variation in color, mostly continuous vegetative cover, effectively screens low-profile projects such as low-profile surface disturbance, sagebrush/grass, and intermingled shrubs.</p> <p>3 = Higher vegetation (&gt;6' height); lush, continuous vegetative cover; some variety of vegetative types is typical but not mandatory; provides significant screening capability of projects up to 15–20 feet in height; juniper woodlands, aspen, conifers.</p>	<p>1</p>
<p><b>Soil Contrast</b></p> <p>1 = Surface disturbance would expose a high degree of contrast in color with surrounding soil, rock, and vegetation.</p> <p>2 = Surface disturbance would expose a medium degree of contrast in color with surrounding soil, rock, and vegetation.</p> <p>3 = Surface disturbance would expose only a low degree of contrast in color with surrounding soil, rock, and vegetation.</p>	<p>1</p>
<p><b>Visual Variety</b></p> <p>1 = Rating unit exhibits a low degree of visual variety in terms of the landscape character elements of form, line, and texture; may also exhibit minimal variety in landforms, vegetation, or color.</p> <p>2 = Rating unit exhibits a medium degree of visual variety in terms of the landscape character elements of form, line, and texture; may also exhibit medium variety in landforms, vegetation, or color.</p> <p>3 = Rating unit exhibits a high degree of visual variety in terms of the landscape character elements of form, line, and texture; may also exhibit high degree of variety in landforms, vegetation, or color.</p>	<p>1</p>

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**RAWLINS FIELD OFFICE**

**VISUAL ABSORPTION CAPACITY RATING SHEET**

**SCORE**

**Topographical Diversity**

- 1 = Landform has low amount of topographic diversity and variety.  
2 = Landform has moderate amount of topographic diversity and variety.  
3 = Landform has high amount of topographic diversity and variety.

**1**

**Recovery Time**

- 1 = Long-term recovery time (greater than 5 years)  
2 = Medium recovery time (3 to 5 years)  
3 = High (rapid) recovery time (1 to 2 years)

**1**

**Overall Score**

**5**

**5 - 7 = Low**  
**8 - 11 = Medium**  
**12 - 15 = High**

**Visual Absorption Capacity**  
**(Low, Medium, High)**

**Low**

**Rationale and Conclusion**

Open rangeland with low, rolling hills and minimal ability to screen development.

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VISUAL ABSORPTION CAPACITY RATING SHEET

Scenic Quality Rating Unit: Rendle Hill

Date 8/5/2010

Unit Number: 43

Evaluators: CBrandt JLieen GLong

	SCORE
<p><b>Vegetation</b></p> <p>1 = Low, uniform vegetation or sparse vegetative cover; typically less than 3' in height; lacking in variety; uniform color; minimal screening capability; typically sagebrush, sagebrush/grass, or grass type vegetation.</p> <p>2 = Vegetation of moderate height (3–6'), some species variety (2 to 3 types), some variation in color, mostly continuous vegetative cover, effectively screens low-profile projects such as low-profile surface disturbance, sagebrush/grass, and intermingled shrubs.</p> <p>3 = Higher vegetation (&gt;6' height); lush, continuous vegetative cover; some variety of vegetative types is typical but not mandatory; provides significant screening capability of projects up to 15–20 feet in height; juniper woodlands, aspen, conifers.</p>	<p>1</p>
<p><b>Soil Contrast</b></p> <p>1 = Surface disturbance would expose a high degree of contrast in color with surrounding soil, rock, and vegetation.</p> <p>2 = Surface disturbance would expose a medium degree of contrast in color with surrounding soil, rock, and vegetation.</p> <p>3 = Surface disturbance would expose only a low degree of contrast in color with surrounding soil, rock, and vegetation.</p>	<p>1</p>
<p><b>Visual Variety</b></p> <p>1 = Rating unit exhibits a low degree of visual variety in terms of the landscape character elements of form, line, and texture; may also exhibit minimal variety in landforms, vegetation, or color.</p> <p>2 = Rating unit exhibits a medium degree of visual variety in terms of the landscape character elements of form, line, and texture; may also exhibit medium variety in landforms, vegetation, or color.</p> <p>3 = Rating unit exhibits a high degree of visual variety in terms of the landscape character elements of form, line, and texture; may also exhibit high degree of variety in landforms, vegetation, or color.</p>	<p>2</p>

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VISUAL ABSORPTION CAPACITY RATING SHEET

SCORE

**Topographical Diversity**

- 1 = Landform has low amount of topographic diversity and variety.  
2 = Landform has moderate amount of topographic diversity and variety.  
3 = Landform has high amount of topographic diversity and variety.

2

**Recovery Time**

- 1 = Long-term recovery time (greater than 5 years)  
2 = Medium recovery time (3 to 5 years)  
3 = High (rapid) recovery time (1 to 2 years)

1

**Overall Score**

7

5 - 7 = Low  
8 - 11 = Medium  
12 - 15 = High

**Visual Absorption Capacity**  
(Low, Medium, High)

Low

**Rationale and Conclusion**

Exposed ridges with steep slopes and outcrops and low, uniform vegetation all combine to produce low VAC.

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VISUAL ABSORPTION CAPACITY RATING SHEET

Scenic Quality Rating Unit: Separation Flats

Date 7/26/2010

Unit Number: 44

Evaluators: CBrandt JLieen GLong

	SCORE
<p><b>Vegetation</b></p> <p>1 = Low, uniform vegetation or sparse vegetative cover; typically less than 3' in height; lacking in variety; uniform color; minimal screening capability; typically sagebrush, sagebrush/grass, or grass type vegetation.</p> <p>2 = Vegetation of moderate height (3–6'), some species variety (2 to 3 types), some variation in color, mostly continuous vegetative cover, effectively screens low-profile projects such as low-profile surface disturbance, sagebrush/grass, and intermingled shrubs.</p> <p>3 = Higher vegetation (&gt;6' height); lush, continuous vegetative cover; some variety of vegetative types is typical but not mandatory; provides significant screening capability of projects up to 15–20 feet in height; juniper woodlands, aspen, conifers.</p>	<p>1</p>
<p><b>Soil Contrast</b></p> <p>1 = Surface disturbance would expose a high degree of contrast in color with surrounding soil, rock, and vegetation.</p> <p>2 = Surface disturbance would expose a medium degree of contrast in color with surrounding soil, rock, and vegetation.</p> <p>3 = Surface disturbance would expose only a low degree of contrast in color with surrounding soil, rock, and vegetation.</p>	<p>3</p>
<p><b>Visual Variety</b></p> <p>1 = Rating unit exhibits a low degree of visual variety in terms of the landscape character elements of form, line, and texture; may also exhibit minimal variety in landforms, vegetation, or color.</p> <p>2 = Rating unit exhibits a medium degree of visual variety in terms of the landscape character elements of form, line, and texture; may also exhibit medium variety in landforms, vegetation, or color.</p> <p>3 = Rating unit exhibits a high degree of visual variety in terms of the landscape character elements of form, line, and texture; may also exhibit high degree of variety in landforms, vegetation, or color.</p>	<p>1</p>

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**RAWLINS FIELD OFFICE**

**VISUAL ABSORPTION CAPACITY RATING SHEET**

**SCORE**

**Topographical Diversity**

- 1 = Landform has low amount of topographic diversity and variety.  
2 = Landform has moderate amount of topographic diversity and variety.  
3 = Landform has high amount of topographic diversity and variety.

**1**

**Recovery Time**

- 1 = Long-term recovery time (greater than 5 years)  
2 = Medium recovery time (3 to 5 years)  
3 = High (rapid) recovery time (1 to 2 years)

**1**

**Overall Score**

**7**

**5 - 7 = Low**  
**8 - 11 = Medium**  
**12 - 15 = High**

**Visual Absorption Capacity**  
**(Low, Medium, High)**

**Low**

**Rationale and Conclusion**

Broad, open area with minimal surface variation and minimal capacity to screen projects from view. Virtually anything projecting up from the surface as little as 4-6 feet would be seen at a significant distance.

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RAWLINS FIELD OFFICE

VISUAL ABSORPTION CAPACITY RATING SHEET

Scenic Quality Rating Unit: Haystack Mountains

Date 8/5/2010

Unit Number: 45

Evaluators: CBrandt JLieen GLong

	SCORE
<p><b>Vegetation</b></p> <p>1 = Low, uniform vegetation or sparse vegetative cover; typically less than 3' in height; lacking in variety; uniform color; minimal screening capability; typically sagebrush, sagebrush/grass, or grass type vegetation.</p> <p>2 = Vegetation of moderate height (3–6'), some species variety (2 to 3 types), some variation in color, mostly continuous vegetative cover, effectively screens low-profile projects such as low-profile surface disturbance, sagebrush/grass, and intermingled shrubs.</p> <p>3 = Higher vegetation (&gt;6' height); lush, continuous vegetative cover; some variety of vegetative types is typical but not mandatory; provides significant screening capability of projects up to 15–20 feet in height; juniper woodlands, aspen, conifers.</p>	<p>1</p>
<p><b>Soil Contrast</b></p> <p>1 = Surface disturbance would expose a high degree of contrast in color with surrounding soil, rock, and vegetation.</p> <p>2 = Surface disturbance would expose a medium degree of contrast in color with surrounding soil, rock, and vegetation.</p> <p>3 = Surface disturbance would expose only a low degree of contrast in color with surrounding soil, rock, and vegetation.</p>	<p>2</p>
<p><b>Visual Variety</b></p> <p>1 = Rating unit exhibits a low degree of visual variety in terms of the landscape character elements of form, line, and texture; may also exhibit minimal variety in landforms, vegetation, or color.</p> <p>2 = Rating unit exhibits a medium degree of visual variety in terms of the landscape character elements of form, line, and texture; may also exhibit medium variety in landforms, vegetation, or color.</p> <p>3 = Rating unit exhibits a high degree of visual variety in terms of the landscape character elements of form, line, and texture; may also exhibit high degree of variety in landforms, vegetation, or color.</p>	<p>2</p>

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**VISUAL ABSORPTION CAPACITY RATING SHEET**

**SCORE**

**Topographical Diversity**

- 1 = Landform has low amount of topographic diversity and variety.  
2 = Landform has moderate amount of topographic diversity and variety.  
3 = Landform has high amount of topographic diversity and variety.

2

**Recovery Time**

- 1 = Long-term recovery time (greater than 5 years)  
2 = Medium recovery time (3 to 5 years)  
3 = High (rapid) recovery time (1 to 2 years)

1

**Overall Score**

8

5 - 7 = Low  
8 - 11 = Medium  
12 - 15 = High

**Visual Absorption Capacity**  
(Low, Medium, High)

Medium

**Rationale and Conclusion**

Rough, broken landforms with low, mostly uniform shrub/grass and juniper/pine. Topographic variability, along with visual variety and soil contrast, produce medium VAC.

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VISUAL ABSORPTION CAPACITY RATING SHEET

Scenic Quality Rating Unit: Platte Dugway

Date 8/5/2010

Unit Number: 46

Evaluators: CBrandt JLieen GLong

	SCORE
<p><b>Vegetation</b></p> <p>1 = Low, uniform vegetation or sparse vegetative cover; typically less than 3' in height; lacking in variety; uniform color; minimal screening capability; typically sagebrush, sagebrush/grass, or grass type vegetation.</p> <p>2 = Vegetation of moderate height (3–6'), some species variety (2 to 3 types), some variation in color, mostly continuous vegetative cover, effectively screens low-profile projects such as low-profile surface disturbance, sagebrush/grass, and intermingled shrubs.</p> <p>3 = Higher vegetation (&gt;6' height); lush, continuous vegetative cover; some variety of vegetative types is typical but not mandatory; provides significant screening capability of projects up to 15–20 feet in height; juniper woodlands, aspen, conifers.</p>	<p>2</p>
<p><b>Soil Contrast</b></p> <p>1 = Surface disturbance would expose a high degree of contrast in color with surrounding soil, rock, and vegetation.</p> <p>2 = Surface disturbance would expose a medium degree of contrast in color with surrounding soil, rock, and vegetation.</p> <p>3 = Surface disturbance would expose only a low degree of contrast in color with surrounding soil, rock, and vegetation.</p>	<p>1</p>
<p><b>Visual Variety</b></p> <p>1 = Rating unit exhibits a low degree of visual variety in terms of the landscape character elements of form, line, and texture; may also exhibit minimal variety in landforms, vegetation, or color.</p> <p>2 = Rating unit exhibits a medium degree of visual variety in terms of the landscape character elements of form, line, and texture; may also exhibit medium variety in landforms, vegetation, or color.</p> <p>3 = Rating unit exhibits a high degree of visual variety in terms of the landscape character elements of form, line, and texture; may also exhibit high degree of variety in landforms, vegetation, or color.</p>	<p>3</p>

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**VISUAL ABSORPTION CAPACITY RATING SHEET**

**SCORE**

**Topographical Diversity**

- 1 = Landform has low amount of topographic diversity and variety.  
2 = Landform has moderate amount of topographic diversity and variety.  
3 = Landform has high amount of topographic diversity and variety.

**3**

**Recovery Time**

- 1 = Long-term recovery time (greater than 5 years)  
2 = Medium recovery time (3 to 5 years)  
3 = High (rapid) recovery time (1 to 2 years)

**1**

**Overall Score**

**11**

**5 - 7 = Low**

**8 - 11 = Medium**

**12 - 15 = High**

**Visual Absorption Capacity  
(Low, Medium, High)**

**Medium**

**Rationale and Conclusion**

Steep and rugged canyon walls with a visually dominant water feature and moderate vegetative cover. VAC would be higher were it not for the fact that the highway passes along the river through the heart of the area.

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RAWLINS FIELD OFFICE

VISUAL ABSORPTION CAPACITY RATING SHEET

Scenic Quality Rating Unit: Seminole West

Date 8/5/2010

Unit Number: 47

Evaluators: CBrandt JLieen GLong

	SCORE
<p><b>Vegetation</b></p> <p>1 = Low, uniform vegetation or sparse vegetative cover; typically less than 3' in height; lacking in variety; uniform color; minimal screening capability; typically sagebrush, sagebrush/grass, or grass type vegetation.</p> <p>2 = Vegetation of moderate height (3–6'), some species variety (2 to 3 types), some variation in color, mostly continuous vegetative cover, effectively screens low-profile projects such as low-profile surface disturbance, sagebrush/grass, and intermingled shrubs.</p> <p>3 = Higher vegetation (&gt;6' height); lush, continuous vegetative cover; some variety of vegetative types is typical but not mandatory; provides significant screening capability of projects up to 15–20 feet in height; juniper woodlands, aspen, conifers.</p>	<p>1</p>
<p><b>Soil Contrast</b></p> <p>1 = Surface disturbance would expose a high degree of contrast in color with surrounding soil, rock, and vegetation.</p> <p>2 = Surface disturbance would expose a medium degree of contrast in color with surrounding soil, rock, and vegetation.</p> <p>3 = Surface disturbance would expose only a low degree of contrast in color with surrounding soil, rock, and vegetation.</p>	<p>1</p>
<p><b>Visual Variety</b></p> <p>1 = Rating unit exhibits a low degree of visual variety in terms of the landscape character elements of form, line, and texture; may also exhibit minimal variety in landforms, vegetation, or color.</p> <p>2 = Rating unit exhibits a medium degree of visual variety in terms of the landscape character elements of form, line, and texture; may also exhibit medium variety in landforms, vegetation, or color.</p> <p>3 = Rating unit exhibits a high degree of visual variety in terms of the landscape character elements of form, line, and texture; may also exhibit high degree of variety in landforms, vegetation, or color.</p>	<p>2</p>

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**RAWLINS FIELD OFFICE**

**VISUAL ABSORPTION CAPACITY RATING SHEET**

**SCORE**

**Topographical Diversity**

- 1 = Landform has low amount of topographic diversity and variety.  
2 = Landform has moderate amount of topographic diversity and variety.  
3 = Landform has high amount of topographic diversity and variety.

**1**

**Recovery Time**

- 1 = Long-term recovery time (greater than 5 years)  
2 = Medium recovery time (3 to 5 years)  
3 = High (rapid) recovery time (1 to 2 years)

**1**

**Overall Score**

**6**

**5 - 7 = Low**  
**8 - 11 = Medium**  
**12 - 15 = High**

**Visual Absorption Capacity**  
**(Low, Medium, High)**

**Low**

**Rationale and Conclusion**

Low , rolling hills with little visual variety to screen development.

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RAWLINS FIELD OFFICE

VISUAL ABSORPTION CAPACITY RATING SHEET

Scenic Quality Rating Unit: Cheyenne Ridge

Date 8/6/2010

Unit Number: 48

Evaluators: CBrandt JLieen GLong

	SCORE
<p><b>Vegetation</b></p> <p>1 = Low, uniform vegetation or sparse vegetative cover; typically less than 3' in height; lacking in variety; uniform color; minimal screening capability; typically sagebrush, sagebrush/grass, or grass type vegetation.</p> <p>2 = Vegetation of moderate height (3–6'), some species variety (2 to 3 types), some variation in color, mostly continuous vegetative cover, effectively screens low-profile projects such as low-profile surface disturbance, sagebrush/grass, and intermingled shrubs.</p> <p>3 = Higher vegetation (&gt;6' height); lush, continuous vegetative cover; some variety of vegetative types is typical but not mandatory; provides significant screening capability of projects up to 15–20 feet in height; juniper woodlands, aspen, conifers.</p>	<p>1</p>
<p><b>Soil Contrast</b></p> <p>1 = Surface disturbance would expose a high degree of contrast in color with surrounding soil, rock, and vegetation.</p> <p>2 = Surface disturbance would expose a medium degree of contrast in color with surrounding soil, rock, and vegetation.</p> <p>3 = Surface disturbance would expose only a low degree of contrast in color with surrounding soil, rock, and vegetation.</p>	<p>2</p>
<p><b>Visual Variety</b></p> <p>1 = Rating unit exhibits a low degree of visual variety in terms of the landscape character elements of form, line, and texture; may also exhibit minimal variety in landforms, vegetation, or color.</p> <p>2 = Rating unit exhibits a medium degree of visual variety in terms of the landscape character elements of form, line, and texture; may also exhibit medium variety in landforms, vegetation, or color.</p> <p>3 = Rating unit exhibits a high degree of visual variety in terms of the landscape character elements of form, line, and texture; may also exhibit high degree of variety in landforms, vegetation, or color.</p>	<p>2</p>

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**RAWLINS FIELD OFFICE**

**VISUAL ABSORPTION CAPACITY RATING SHEET**

**SCORE**

**Topographical Diversity**

- 1 = Landform has low amount of topographic diversity and variety.  
2 = Landform has moderate amount of topographic diversity and variety.  
3 = Landform has high amount of topographic diversity and variety.

**2**

**Recovery Time**

- 1 = Long-term recovery time (greater than 5 years)  
2 = Medium recovery time (3 to 5 years)  
3 = High (rapid) recovery time (1 to 2 years)

**2**

**Overall Score**

**9**

**5 - 7 = Low**  
**8 - 11 = Medium**  
**12 - 15 = High**

**Visual Absorption Capacity**  
**(Low, Medium, High)**

**Medium**

**Rationale and Conclusion**

Rugged topography and fairly diverse vegetation.

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RAWLINS FIELD OFFICE

VISUAL ABSORPTION CAPACITY RATING SHEET

Scenic Quality Rating Unit: Seminole Sand Dunes

Date 7/27/2010

Unit Number: 49

Evaluators: CBrandt JLieen GLong

	SCORE
<p><b>Vegetation</b></p> <p>1 = Low, uniform vegetation or sparse vegetative cover; typically less than 3' in height; lacking in variety; uniform color; minimal screening capability; typically sagebrush, sagebrush/grass, or grass type vegetation.</p> <p>2 = Vegetation of moderate height (3–6'), some species variety (2 to 3 types), some variation in color, mostly continuous vegetative cover, effectively screens low-profile projects such as low-profile surface disturbance, sagebrush/grass, and intermingled shrubs.</p> <p>3 = Higher vegetation (&gt;6' height); lush, continuous vegetative cover; some variety of vegetative types is typical but not mandatory; provides significant screening capability of projects up to 15–20 feet in height; juniper woodlands, aspen, conifers.</p>	<p>1</p>
<p><b>Soil Contrast</b></p> <p>1 = Surface disturbance would expose a high degree of contrast in color with surrounding soil, rock, and vegetation.</p> <p>2 = Surface disturbance would expose a medium degree of contrast in color with surrounding soil, rock, and vegetation.</p> <p>3 = Surface disturbance would expose only a low degree of contrast in color with surrounding soil, rock, and vegetation.</p>	<p>1</p>
<p><b>Visual Variety</b></p> <p>1 = Rating unit exhibits a low degree of visual variety in terms of the landscape character elements of form, line, and texture; may also exhibit minimal variety in landforms, vegetation, or color.</p> <p>2 = Rating unit exhibits a medium degree of visual variety in terms of the landscape character elements of form, line, and texture; may also exhibit medium variety in landforms, vegetation, or color.</p> <p>3 = Rating unit exhibits a high degree of visual variety in terms of the landscape character elements of form, line, and texture; may also exhibit high degree of variety in landforms, vegetation, or color.</p>	<p>2</p>

UNITED STATES  
DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT

**RAWLINS FIELD OFFICE**

**VISUAL ABSORPTION CAPACITY RATING SHEET**

**SCORE**

**Topographical Diversity**

- 1 = Landform has low amount of topographic diversity and variety.
- 2 = Landform has moderate amount of topographic diversity and variety.
- 3 = Landform has high amount of topographic diversity and variety.

**2**

**Recovery Time**

- 1 = Long-term recovery time (greater than 5 years)
- 2 = Medium recovery time (3 to 5 years)
- 3 = High (rapid) recovery time (1 to 2 years)

**2**

**Overall Score**

**8**

- 5 - 7 = Low**
- 8 - 11 = Medium**
- 12 - 15 = High**

**Visual Absorption Capacity  
(Low, Medium, High)**

**Medium**

**Rationale and Conclusion**

Linear, east-west oriented stabilized sand dunes. Steep-sloped, separated by ravines. Variable enough that most oil & gas can be screened if care is used to select sites. Significant contrast between active dunes and surrounding vegetation color.

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VISUAL ABSORPTION CAPACITY RATING SHEET

**Scenic Quality Rating Unit:** Ferris Mountain Foothills

**Date** 7/27/2010

**Unit Number:** 50

**Evaluators:** CBrandt JLieen GLong

	<b>SCORE</b>
<p><b>Vegetation</b></p> <p>1 = Low, uniform vegetation or sparse vegetative cover; typically less than 3' in height; lacking in variety; uniform color; minimal screening capability; typically sagebrush, sagebrush/grass, or grass type vegetation.</p> <p>2 = Vegetation of moderate height (3–6'), some species variety (2 to 3 types), some variation in color, mostly continuous vegetative cover, effectively screens low-profile projects such as low-profile surface disturbance, sagebrush/grass, and intermingled shrubs.</p> <p>3 = Higher vegetation (&gt;6' height); lush, continuous vegetative cover; some variety of vegetative types is typical but not mandatory; provides significant screening capability of projects up to 15–20 feet in height; juniper woodlands, aspen, conifers.</p>	<b>1</b>
<p><b>Soil Contrast</b></p> <p>1 = Surface disturbance would expose a high degree of contrast in color with surrounding soil, rock, and vegetation.</p> <p>2 = Surface disturbance would expose a medium degree of contrast in color with surrounding soil, rock, and vegetation.</p> <p>3 = Surface disturbance would expose only a low degree of contrast in color with surrounding soil, rock, and vegetation.</p>	<b>2</b>
<p><b>Visual Variety</b></p> <p>1 = Rating unit exhibits a low degree of visual variety in terms of the landscape character elements of form, line, and texture; may also exhibit minimal variety in landforms, vegetation, or color.</p> <p>2 = Rating unit exhibits a medium degree of visual variety in terms of the landscape character elements of form, line, and texture; may also exhibit medium variety in landforms, vegetation, or color.</p> <p>3 = Rating unit exhibits a high degree of visual variety in terms of the landscape character elements of form, line, and texture; may also exhibit high degree of variety in landforms, vegetation, or color.</p>	<b>2</b>

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**VISUAL ABSORPTION CAPACITY RATING SHEET**

**SCORE**

**Topographical Diversity**

- 1 = Landform has low amount of topographic diversity and variety.  
2 = Landform has moderate amount of topographic diversity and variety.  
3 = Landform has high amount of topographic diversity and variety.

2

**Recovery Time**

- 1 = Long-term recovery time (greater than 5 years)  
2 = Medium recovery time (3 to 5 years)  
3 = High (rapid) recovery time (1 to 2 years)

1

**Overall Score**

8

5 - 7 = Low  
8 - 11 = Medium  
12 - 15 = High

**Visual Absorption Capacity**  
(Low, Medium, High)

Medium

**Rationale and Conclusion**

VAC is positively influenced by topographic variation and relatively low contrast between soil, rock, and vegetation. Angle of observation exposes much of the surface to views from the surrounding areas.

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RAWLINS FIELD OFFICE

VISUAL ABSORPTION CAPACITY RATING SHEET

Scenic Quality Rating Unit: Ferris Mountain

Date 7/27/2010

Unit Number: 51

Evaluators: CBrandt JLieen GLong

	SCORE
<p><b>Vegetation</b></p> <p>1 = Low, uniform vegetation or sparse vegetative cover; typically less than 3' in height; lacking in variety; uniform color; minimal screening capability; typically sagebrush, sagebrush/grass, or grass type vegetation.</p> <p>2 = Vegetation of moderate height (3–6'), some species variety (2 to 3 types), some variation in color, mostly continuous vegetative cover, effectively screens low-profile projects such as low-profile surface disturbance, sagebrush/grass, and intermingled shrubs.</p> <p>3 = Higher vegetation (&gt;6' height); lush, continuous vegetative cover; some variety of vegetative types is typical but not mandatory; provides significant screening capability of projects up to 15–20 feet in height; juniper woodlands, aspen, conifers.</p>	<p>3</p>
<p><b>Soil Contrast</b></p> <p>1 = Surface disturbance would expose a high degree of contrast in color with surrounding soil, rock, and vegetation.</p> <p>2 = Surface disturbance would expose a medium degree of contrast in color with surrounding soil, rock, and vegetation.</p> <p>3 = Surface disturbance would expose only a low degree of contrast in color with surrounding soil, rock, and vegetation.</p>	<p>1</p>
<p><b>Visual Variety</b></p> <p>1 = Rating unit exhibits a low degree of visual variety in terms of the landscape character elements of form, line, and texture; may also exhibit minimal variety in landforms, vegetation, or color.</p> <p>2 = Rating unit exhibits a medium degree of visual variety in terms of the landscape character elements of form, line, and texture; may also exhibit medium variety in landforms, vegetation, or color.</p> <p>3 = Rating unit exhibits a high degree of visual variety in terms of the landscape character elements of form, line, and texture; may also exhibit high degree of variety in landforms, vegetation, or color.</p>	<p>3</p>

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**SCORE**

**Topographical Diversity**

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2 = Landform has moderate amount of topographic diversity and variety.  
3 = Landform has high amount of topographic diversity and variety.

**3**

**Recovery Time**

- 1 = Long-term recovery time (greater than 5 years)  
2 = Medium recovery time (3 to 5 years)  
3 = High (rapid) recovery time (1 to 2 years)

**1**

**Overall Score**

**11**

**5 - 7 = Low**  
**8 - 11 = Medium**  
**12 - 15 = High**

**Visual Absorption Capacity**  
**(Low, Medium, High)**

**Medium**

**Rationale and Conclusion**

All in the foreground/midground. Steep slopes expose most areas to view, equivalent to having a superior view of the entire landscape. Projects placed anywhere on the mountain would require extreme caution to avoid adverse visual impacts.

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VISUAL ABSORPTION CAPACITY RATING SHEET

Scenic Quality Rating Unit: Arkansas Flats

Date 8/6/2010

Unit Number: 52

Evaluators: CBrandt JLieen GLong

	SCORE
<p><b>Vegetation</b></p> <p>1 = Low, uniform vegetation or sparse vegetative cover; typically less than 3' in height; lacking in variety; uniform color; minimal screening capability; typically sagebrush, sagebrush/grass, or grass type vegetation.</p> <p>2 = Vegetation of moderate height (3–6'), some species variety (2 to 3 types), some variation in color, mostly continuous vegetative cover, effectively screens low-profile projects such as low-profile surface disturbance, sagebrush/grass, and intermingled shrubs.</p> <p>3 = Higher vegetation (&gt;6' height); lush, continuous vegetative cover; some variety of vegetative types is typical but not mandatory; provides significant screening capability of projects up to 15–20 feet in height; juniper woodlands, aspen, conifers.</p>	<p>1</p>
<p><b>Soil Contrast</b></p> <p>1 = Surface disturbance would expose a high degree of contrast in color with surrounding soil, rock, and vegetation.</p> <p>2 = Surface disturbance would expose a medium degree of contrast in color with surrounding soil, rock, and vegetation.</p> <p>3 = Surface disturbance would expose only a low degree of contrast in color with surrounding soil, rock, and vegetation.</p>	<p>2</p>
<p><b>Visual Variety</b></p> <p>1 = Rating unit exhibits a low degree of visual variety in terms of the landscape character elements of form, line, and texture; may also exhibit minimal variety in landforms, vegetation, or color.</p> <p>2 = Rating unit exhibits a medium degree of visual variety in terms of the landscape character elements of form, line, and texture; may also exhibit medium variety in landforms, vegetation, or color.</p> <p>3 = Rating unit exhibits a high degree of visual variety in terms of the landscape character elements of form, line, and texture; may also exhibit high degree of variety in landforms, vegetation, or color.</p>	<p>1</p>

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**SCORE**

**Topographical Diversity**

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3 = Landform has high amount of topographic diversity and variety.

**1**

**Recovery Time**

- 1 = Long-term recovery time (greater than 5 years)  
2 = Medium recovery time (3 to 5 years)  
3 = High (rapid) recovery time (1 to 2 years)

**1**

**Overall Score**

**6**

**5 - 7 = Low**  
**8 - 11 = Medium**  
**12 - 15 = High**

**Visual Absorption Capacity**  
**(Low, Medium, High)**

**Low**

**Rationale and Conclusion**

Low, gently rolling terrain with moderate soil contrast and low visual variety.

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VISUAL ABSORPTION CAPACITY RATING SHEET

Scenic Quality Rating Unit: Sentinel Rocks

Date 8/6/2010

Unit Number: 53

Evaluators: CBrandt JLieen GLong

	SCORE
<p><b>Vegetation</b></p> <p>1 = Low, uniform vegetation or sparse vegetative cover; typically less than 3' in height; lacking in variety; uniform color; minimal screening capability; typically sagebrush, sagebrush/grass, or grass type vegetation.</p> <p>2 = Vegetation of moderate height (3–6'), some species variety (2 to 3 types), some variation in color, mostly continuous vegetative cover, effectively screens low-profile projects such as low-profile surface disturbance, sagebrush/grass, and intermingled shrubs.</p> <p>3 = Higher vegetation (&gt;6' height); lush, continuous vegetative cover; some variety of vegetative types is typical but not mandatory; provides significant screening capability of projects up to 15–20 feet in height; juniper woodlands, aspen, conifers.</p>	<p>3</p>
<p><b>Soil Contrast</b></p> <p>1 = Surface disturbance would expose a high degree of contrast in color with surrounding soil, rock, and vegetation.</p> <p>2 = Surface disturbance would expose a medium degree of contrast in color with surrounding soil, rock, and vegetation.</p> <p>3 = Surface disturbance would expose only a low degree of contrast in color with surrounding soil, rock, and vegetation.</p>	<p>2</p>
<p><b>Visual Variety</b></p> <p>1 = Rating unit exhibits a low degree of visual variety in terms of the landscape character elements of form, line, and texture; may also exhibit minimal variety in landforms, vegetation, or color.</p> <p>2 = Rating unit exhibits a medium degree of visual variety in terms of the landscape character elements of form, line, and texture; may also exhibit medium variety in landforms, vegetation, or color.</p> <p>3 = Rating unit exhibits a high degree of visual variety in terms of the landscape character elements of form, line, and texture; may also exhibit high degree of variety in landforms, vegetation, or color.</p>	<p>2</p>

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**Topographical Diversity**

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**3**

**Recovery Time**

- 1 = Long-term recovery time (greater than 5 years)  
2 = Medium recovery time (3 to 5 years)  
3 = High (rapid) recovery time (1 to 2 years)

**1**

**Overall Score**

**11**

**5 - 7 = Low**

**8 - 11 = Medium**

**12 - 15 = High**

**Visual Absorption Capacity  
(Low, Medium, High)**

**Medium**

**Rationale and Conclusion**

Rugged mountains and juniper with indistinct, complex lines creates high topographic diversity with moderate visual variety. These factors combine to produce medium VAC.

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VISUAL ABSORPTION CAPACITY RATING SHEET

Scenic Quality Rating Unit: Sunday Morning Creek

Date 8/18/2010

Unit Number: 54

Evaluators: CBrandt JLieen GLong

	SCORE
<p><b>Vegetation</b></p> <p>1 = Low, uniform vegetation or sparse vegetative cover; typically less than 3' in height; lacking in variety; uniform color; minimal screening capability; typically sagebrush, sagebrush/grass, or grass type vegetation.</p> <p>2 = Vegetation of moderate height (3–6'), some species variety (2 to 3 types), some variation in color, mostly continuous vegetative cover, effectively screens low-profile projects such as low-profile surface disturbance, sagebrush/grass, and intermingled shrubs.</p> <p>3 = Higher vegetation (&gt;6' height); lush, continuous vegetative cover; some variety of vegetative types is typical but not mandatory; provides significant screening capability of projects up to 15–20 feet in height; juniper woodlands, aspen, conifers.</p>	<p>1</p>
<p><b>Soil Contrast</b></p> <p>1 = Surface disturbance would expose a high degree of contrast in color with surrounding soil, rock, and vegetation.</p> <p>2 = Surface disturbance would expose a medium degree of contrast in color with surrounding soil, rock, and vegetation.</p> <p>3 = Surface disturbance would expose only a low degree of contrast in color with surrounding soil, rock, and vegetation.</p>	<p>2</p>
<p><b>Visual Variety</b></p> <p>1 = Rating unit exhibits a low degree of visual variety in terms of the landscape character elements of form, line, and texture; may also exhibit minimal variety in landforms, vegetation, or color.</p> <p>2 = Rating unit exhibits a medium degree of visual variety in terms of the landscape character elements of form, line, and texture; may also exhibit medium variety in landforms, vegetation, or color.</p> <p>3 = Rating unit exhibits a high degree of visual variety in terms of the landscape character elements of form, line, and texture; may also exhibit high degree of variety in landforms, vegetation, or color.</p>	<p>1</p>

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**VISUAL ABSORPTION CAPACITY RATING SHEET**

**SCORE**

**Topographical Diversity**

- 1 = Landform has low amount of topographic diversity and variety.  
2 = Landform has moderate amount of topographic diversity and variety.  
3 = Landform has high amount of topographic diversity and variety.

**1**

**Recovery Time**

- 1 = Long-term recovery time (greater than 5 years)  
2 = Medium recovery time (3 to 5 years)  
3 = High (rapid) recovery time (1 to 2 years)

**1**

**Overall Score**

**6**

**5 - 7 = Low**  
**8 - 11 = Medium**  
**12 - 15 = High**

**Visual Absorption Capacity**  
**(Low, Medium, High)**

**Low**

**Rationale and Conclusion**

Most any activity in the area would be seen and recovery time would be long-term.

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VISUAL ABSORPTION CAPACITY RATING SHEET

Scenic Quality Rating Unit: Seminole Mountains

Date 8/18/2010

Unit Number: 55

Evaluators: CBrandt JLieen GLong

	SCORE
<p><b>Vegetation</b></p> <p>1 = Low, uniform vegetation or sparse vegetative cover; typically less than 3' in height; lacking in variety; uniform color; minimal screening capability; typically sagebrush, sagebrush/grass, or grass type vegetation.</p> <p>2 = Vegetation of moderate height (3–6'), some species variety (2 to 3 types), some variation in color, mostly continuous vegetative cover, effectively screens low-profile projects such as low-profile surface disturbance, sagebrush/grass, and intermingled shrubs.</p> <p>3 = Higher vegetation (&gt;6' height); lush, continuous vegetative cover; some variety of vegetative types is typical but not mandatory; provides significant screening capability of projects up to 15–20 feet in height; juniper woodlands, aspen, conifers.</p>	<p>3</p>
<p><b>Soil Contrast</b></p> <p>1 = Surface disturbance would expose a high degree of contrast in color with surrounding soil, rock, and vegetation.</p> <p>2 = Surface disturbance would expose a medium degree of contrast in color with surrounding soil, rock, and vegetation.</p> <p>3 = Surface disturbance would expose only a low degree of contrast in color with surrounding soil, rock, and vegetation.</p>	<p>1</p>
<p><b>Visual Variety</b></p> <p>1 = Rating unit exhibits a low degree of visual variety in terms of the landscape character elements of form, line, and texture; may also exhibit minimal variety in landforms, vegetation, or color.</p> <p>2 = Rating unit exhibits a medium degree of visual variety in terms of the landscape character elements of form, line, and texture; may also exhibit medium variety in landforms, vegetation, or color.</p> <p>3 = Rating unit exhibits a high degree of visual variety in terms of the landscape character elements of form, line, and texture; may also exhibit high degree of variety in landforms, vegetation, or color.</p>	<p>3</p>

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**VISUAL ABSORPTION CAPACITY RATING SHEET**

**SCORE**

**Topographical Diversity**

- 1 = Landform has low amount of topographic diversity and variety.  
2 = Landform has moderate amount of topographic diversity and variety.  
3 = Landform has high amount of topographic diversity and variety.

**3**

**Recovery Time**

- 1 = Long-term recovery time (greater than 5 years)  
2 = Medium recovery time (3 to 5 years)  
3 = High (rapid) recovery time (1 to 2 years)

**1**

**Overall Score**

**11**

**5 - 7 = Low**

**8 - 11 = Medium**

**12 - 15 = High**

**Visual Absorption Capacity  
(Low, Medium, High)**

**Medium**

**Rationale and Conclusion**

A rugged dry mountain range with a long recovery time and high soil/vegetation contrast rating. The fact that the area demonstrated slow recovery and high contrast between soil and vegetation suppresses the rating to medium VAC.

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VISUAL ABSORPTION CAPACITY RATING SHEET

Scenic Quality Rating Unit: Miracle Mile

Date 8/18/2010

Unit Number: 56

Evaluators: CBrandt JLieen GLong

	SCORE
<p><b>Vegetation</b></p> <p>1 = Low, uniform vegetation or sparse vegetative cover; typically less than 3' in height; lacking in variety; uniform color; minimal screening capability; typically sagebrush, sagebrush/grass, or grass type vegetation.</p> <p>2 = Vegetation of moderate height (3–6'), some species variety (2 to 3 types), some variation in color, mostly continuous vegetative cover, effectively screens low-profile projects such as low-profile surface disturbance, sagebrush/grass, and intermingled shrubs.</p> <p>3 = Higher vegetation (&gt;6' height); lush, continuous vegetative cover; some variety of vegetative types is typical but not mandatory; provides significant screening capability of projects up to 15–20 feet in height; juniper woodlands, aspen, conifers.</p>	<p>2</p>
<p><b>Soil Contrast</b></p> <p>1 = Surface disturbance would expose a high degree of contrast in color with surrounding soil, rock, and vegetation.</p> <p>2 = Surface disturbance would expose a medium degree of contrast in color with surrounding soil, rock, and vegetation.</p> <p>3 = Surface disturbance would expose only a low degree of contrast in color with surrounding soil, rock, and vegetation.</p>	<p>2</p>
<p><b>Visual Variety</b></p> <p>1 = Rating unit exhibits a low degree of visual variety in terms of the landscape character elements of form, line, and texture; may also exhibit minimal variety in landforms, vegetation, or color.</p> <p>2 = Rating unit exhibits a medium degree of visual variety in terms of the landscape character elements of form, line, and texture; may also exhibit medium variety in landforms, vegetation, or color.</p> <p>3 = Rating unit exhibits a high degree of visual variety in terms of the landscape character elements of form, line, and texture; may also exhibit high degree of variety in landforms, vegetation, or color.</p>	<p>2</p>

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**SCORE**

**Topographical Diversity**

- 1 = Landform has low amount of topographic diversity and variety.  
2 = Landform has moderate amount of topographic diversity and variety.  
3 = Landform has high amount of topographic diversity and variety.

**2**

**Recovery Time**

- 1 = Long-term recovery time (greater than 5 years)  
2 = Medium recovery time (3 to 5 years)  
3 = High (rapid) recovery time (1 to 2 years)

**2**

**Overall Score**

**10**

**5 - 7 = Low**

**8 - 11 = Medium**

**12 - 15 = High**

**Visual Absorption Capacity  
(Low, Medium, High)**

**Medium**

**Rationale and Conclusion**

In terms of VAC, no single factor is rated as high. Add the fact that the unit is in a fairly narrow valley/canyon, and no rating higher than medium is possible.

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VISUAL ABSORPTION CAPACITY RATING SHEET

Scenic Quality Rating Unit: Little Basin

Date 8/17/2010

Unit Number: 57

Evaluators: CBrandt JLieen GLong

	SCORE
<p><b>Vegetation</b></p> <p>1 = Low, uniform vegetation or sparse vegetative cover; typically less than 3' in height; lacking in variety; uniform color; minimal screening capability; typically sagebrush, sagebrush/grass, or grass type vegetation.</p> <p>2 = Vegetation of moderate height (3–6'), some species variety (2 to 3 types), some variation in color, mostly continuous vegetative cover, effectively screens low-profile projects such as low-profile surface disturbance, sagebrush/grass, and intermingled shrubs.</p> <p>3 = Higher vegetation (&gt;6' height); lush, continuous vegetative cover; some variety of vegetative types is typical but not mandatory; provides significant screening capability of projects up to 15–20 feet in height; juniper woodlands, aspen, conifers.</p>	<p>1</p>
<p><b>Soil Contrast</b></p> <p>1 = Surface disturbance would expose a high degree of contrast in color with surrounding soil, rock, and vegetation.</p> <p>2 = Surface disturbance would expose a medium degree of contrast in color with surrounding soil, rock, and vegetation.</p> <p>3 = Surface disturbance would expose only a low degree of contrast in color with surrounding soil, rock, and vegetation.</p>	<p>2</p>
<p><b>Visual Variety</b></p> <p>1 = Rating unit exhibits a low degree of visual variety in terms of the landscape character elements of form, line, and texture; may also exhibit minimal variety in landforms, vegetation, or color.</p> <p>2 = Rating unit exhibits a medium degree of visual variety in terms of the landscape character elements of form, line, and texture; may also exhibit medium variety in landforms, vegetation, or color.</p> <p>3 = Rating unit exhibits a high degree of visual variety in terms of the landscape character elements of form, line, and texture; may also exhibit high degree of variety in landforms, vegetation, or color.</p>	<p>1</p>

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**SCORE**

**Topographical Diversity**

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2 = Landform has moderate amount of topographic diversity and variety.  
3 = Landform has high amount of topographic diversity and variety.

**1**

**Recovery Time**

- 1 = Long-term recovery time (greater than 5 years)  
2 = Medium recovery time (3 to 5 years)  
3 = High (rapid) recovery time (1 to 2 years)

**1**

**Overall Score**

**6**

**5 - 7 = Low**  
**8 - 11 = Medium**  
**12 - 15 = High**

**Visual Absorption Capacity**  
**(Low, Medium, High)**

**Low**

**Rationale and Conclusion**

Although the unit has some rugged terrain and topographic variability the vast majority is open. Most any activity would be seen. Combined with long-term recovery time the area rates low VAC.

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VISUAL ABSORPTION CAPACITY RATING SHEET

Scenic Quality Rating Unit: Pedro Mountains

Date 8/18/2010

Unit Number: 58

Evaluators: CBrandt JLieen GLong

	SCORE
<p><b>Vegetation</b></p> <p>1 = Low, uniform vegetation or sparse vegetative cover; typically less than 3' in height; lacking in variety; uniform color; minimal screening capability; typically sagebrush, sagebrush/grass, or grass type vegetation.</p> <p>2 = Vegetation of moderate height (3–6'), some species variety (2 to 3 types), some variation in color, mostly continuous vegetative cover, effectively screens low-profile projects such as low-profile surface disturbance, sagebrush/grass, and intermingled shrubs.</p> <p>3 = Higher vegetation (&gt;6' height); lush, continuous vegetative cover; some variety of vegetative types is typical but not mandatory; provides significant screening capability of projects up to 15–20 feet in height; juniper woodlands, aspen, conifers.</p>	<p>3</p>
<p><b>Soil Contrast</b></p> <p>1 = Surface disturbance would expose a high degree of contrast in color with surrounding soil, rock, and vegetation.</p> <p>2 = Surface disturbance would expose a medium degree of contrast in color with surrounding soil, rock, and vegetation.</p> <p>3 = Surface disturbance would expose only a low degree of contrast in color with surrounding soil, rock, and vegetation.</p>	<p>1</p>
<p><b>Visual Variety</b></p> <p>1 = Rating unit exhibits a low degree of visual variety in terms of the landscape character elements of form, line, and texture; may also exhibit minimal variety in landforms, vegetation, or color.</p> <p>2 = Rating unit exhibits a medium degree of visual variety in terms of the landscape character elements of form, line, and texture; may also exhibit medium variety in landforms, vegetation, or color.</p> <p>3 = Rating unit exhibits a high degree of visual variety in terms of the landscape character elements of form, line, and texture; may also exhibit high degree of variety in landforms, vegetation, or color.</p>	<p>3</p>

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BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT

**RAWLINS FIELD OFFICE**

**VISUAL ABSORPTION CAPACITY RATING SHEET**

**SCORE**

**Topographical Diversity**

- 1 = Landform has low amount of topographic diversity and variety.  
2 = Landform has moderate amount of topographic diversity and variety.  
3 = Landform has high amount of topographic diversity and variety.

**3**

**Recovery Time**

- 1 = Long-term recovery time (greater than 5 years)  
2 = Medium recovery time (3 to 5 years)  
3 = High (rapid) recovery time (1 to 2 years)

**1**

**Overall Score**

**11**

**5 - 7 = Low**

**8 - 11 = Medium**

**12 - 15 = High**

**Visual Absorption Capacity  
(Low, Medium, High)**

**Medium**

**Rationale and Conclusion**

Rugged, diverse topography and extensive vegetation create significant visual variety. Because of these factors the area rated Medium VAC.

UNITED STATES  
DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT

RAWLINS FIELD OFFICE

VISUAL ABSORPTION CAPACITY RATING SHEET

Scenic Quality Rating Unit: Canyon Creek

Date 8/18/2010

Unit Number: 59

Evaluators: CBrandt JLieen GLong

	SCORE
<p><b>Vegetation</b></p> <p>1 = Low, uniform vegetation or sparse vegetative cover; typically less than 3' in height; lacking in variety; uniform color; minimal screening capability; typically sagebrush, sagebrush/grass, or grass type vegetation.</p> <p>2 = Vegetation of moderate height (3–6'), some species variety (2 to 3 types), some variation in color, mostly continuous vegetative cover, effectively screens low-profile projects such as low-profile surface disturbance, sagebrush/grass, and intermingled shrubs.</p> <p>3 = Higher vegetation (&gt;6' height); lush, continuous vegetative cover; some variety of vegetative types is typical but not mandatory; provides significant screening capability of projects up to 15–20 feet in height; juniper woodlands, aspen, conifers.</p>	<p>1</p>
<p><b>Soil Contrast</b></p> <p>1 = Surface disturbance would expose a high degree of contrast in color with surrounding soil, rock, and vegetation.</p> <p>2 = Surface disturbance would expose a medium degree of contrast in color with surrounding soil, rock, and vegetation.</p> <p>3 = Surface disturbance would expose only a low degree of contrast in color with surrounding soil, rock, and vegetation.</p>	<p>1</p>
<p><b>Visual Variety</b></p> <p>1 = Rating unit exhibits a low degree of visual variety in terms of the landscape character elements of form, line, and texture; may also exhibit minimal variety in landforms, vegetation, or color.</p> <p>2 = Rating unit exhibits a medium degree of visual variety in terms of the landscape character elements of form, line, and texture; may also exhibit medium variety in landforms, vegetation, or color.</p> <p>3 = Rating unit exhibits a high degree of visual variety in terms of the landscape character elements of form, line, and texture; may also exhibit high degree of variety in landforms, vegetation, or color.</p>	<p>1</p>

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DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT

**RAWLINS FIELD OFFICE**

**VISUAL ABSORPTION CAPACITY RATING SHEET**

**SCORE**

**Topographical Diversity**

- 1 = Landform has low amount of topographic diversity and variety.  
2 = Landform has moderate amount of topographic diversity and variety.  
3 = Landform has high amount of topographic diversity and variety.

**1**

**Recovery Time**

- 1 = Long-term recovery time (greater than 5 years)  
2 = Medium recovery time (3 to 5 years)  
3 = High (rapid) recovery time (1 to 2 years)

**1**

**Overall Score**

**5**

**5 - 7 = Low**  
**8 - 11 = Medium**  
**12 - 15 = High**

**Visual Absorption Capacity**  
**(Low, Medium, High)**

**Low**

**Rationale and Conclusion**

Most any feature in the area would be readily seen by any casual observer.

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VISUAL ABSORPTION CAPACITY RATING SHEET

Scenic Quality Rating Unit: Dry Creek

Date 8/18/2010

Unit Number: 60

Evaluators: CBrandt JLieen GLong

	SCORE
<p><b>Vegetation</b></p> <p>1 = Low, uniform vegetation or sparse vegetative cover; typically less than 3' in height; lacking in variety; uniform color; minimal screening capability; typically sagebrush, sagebrush/grass, or grass type vegetation.</p> <p>2 = Vegetation of moderate height (3–6'), some species variety (2 to 3 types), some variation in color, mostly continuous vegetative cover, effectively screens low-profile projects such as low-profile surface disturbance, sagebrush/grass, and intermingled shrubs.</p> <p>3 = Higher vegetation (&gt;6' height); lush, continuous vegetative cover; some variety of vegetative types is typical but not mandatory; provides significant screening capability of projects up to 15–20 feet in height; juniper woodlands, aspen, conifers.</p>	<p>1</p>
<p><b>Soil Contrast</b></p> <p>1 = Surface disturbance would expose a high degree of contrast in color with surrounding soil, rock, and vegetation.</p> <p>2 = Surface disturbance would expose a medium degree of contrast in color with surrounding soil, rock, and vegetation.</p> <p>3 = Surface disturbance would expose only a low degree of contrast in color with surrounding soil, rock, and vegetation.</p>	<p>2</p>
<p><b>Visual Variety</b></p> <p>1 = Rating unit exhibits a low degree of visual variety in terms of the landscape character elements of form, line, and texture; may also exhibit minimal variety in landforms, vegetation, or color.</p> <p>2 = Rating unit exhibits a medium degree of visual variety in terms of the landscape character elements of form, line, and texture; may also exhibit medium variety in landforms, vegetation, or color.</p> <p>3 = Rating unit exhibits a high degree of visual variety in terms of the landscape character elements of form, line, and texture; may also exhibit high degree of variety in landforms, vegetation, or color.</p>	<p>1</p>

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DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
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**RAWLINS FIELD OFFICE**

**VISUAL ABSORPTION CAPACITY RATING SHEET**

**SCORE**

**Topographical Diversity**

- 1 = Landform has low amount of topographic diversity and variety.  
2 = Landform has moderate amount of topographic diversity and variety.  
3 = Landform has high amount of topographic diversity and variety.

**1**

**Recovery Time**

- 1 = Long-term recovery time (greater than 5 years)  
2 = Medium recovery time (3 to 5 years)  
3 = High (rapid) recovery time (1 to 2 years)

**1**

**Overall Score**

**6**

**5 - 7 = Low**  
**8 - 11 = Medium**  
**12 - 15 = High**

**Visual Absorption Capacity**  
**(Low, Medium, High)**

**Low**

**Rationale and Conclusion**

The soil contrast factor was rated medium because of the light-colored vegetation. Overall the area rates Low VAC.

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VISUAL ABSORPTION CAPACITY RATING SHEET

Scenic Quality Rating Unit: Shirley Mountains

Date 8/18/2010

Unit Number: 61

Evaluators: CBrandt JLieen GLong

	SCORE
<p><b>Vegetation</b></p> <p>1 = Low, uniform vegetation or sparse vegetative cover; typically less than 3' in height; lacking in variety; uniform color; minimal screening capability; typically sagebrush, sagebrush/grass, or grass type vegetation.</p> <p>2 = Vegetation of moderate height (3–6'), some species variety (2 to 3 types), some variation in color, mostly continuous vegetative cover, effectively screens low-profile projects such as low-profile surface disturbance, sagebrush/grass, and intermingled shrubs.</p> <p>3 = Higher vegetation (&gt;6' height); lush, continuous vegetative cover; some variety of vegetative types is typical but not mandatory; provides significant screening capability of projects up to 15–20 feet in height; juniper woodlands, aspen, conifers.</p>	<p>3</p>
<p><b>Soil Contrast</b></p> <p>1 = Surface disturbance would expose a high degree of contrast in color with surrounding soil, rock, and vegetation.</p> <p>2 = Surface disturbance would expose a medium degree of contrast in color with surrounding soil, rock, and vegetation.</p> <p>3 = Surface disturbance would expose only a low degree of contrast in color with surrounding soil, rock, and vegetation.</p>	<p>2</p>
<p><b>Visual Variety</b></p> <p>1 = Rating unit exhibits a low degree of visual variety in terms of the landscape character elements of form, line, and texture; may also exhibit minimal variety in landforms, vegetation, or color.</p> <p>2 = Rating unit exhibits a medium degree of visual variety in terms of the landscape character elements of form, line, and texture; may also exhibit medium variety in landforms, vegetation, or color.</p> <p>3 = Rating unit exhibits a high degree of visual variety in terms of the landscape character elements of form, line, and texture; may also exhibit high degree of variety in landforms, vegetation, or color.</p>	<p>3</p>

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**VISUAL ABSORPTION CAPACITY RATING SHEET**

**SCORE**

**Topographical Diversity**

- 1 = Landform has low amount of topographic diversity and variety.  
2 = Landform has moderate amount of topographic diversity and variety.  
3 = Landform has high amount of topographic diversity and variety.

**3**

**Recovery Time**

- 1 = Long-term recovery time (greater than 5 years)  
2 = Medium recovery time (3 to 5 years)  
3 = High (rapid) recovery time (1 to 2 years)

**2**

**Overall Score**

**13**

**5 - 7 = Low**

**8 - 11 = Medium**

**12 - 15 = High**

**Visual Absorption Capacity  
(Low, Medium, High)**

**High**

**Rationale and Conclusion**

The combination of rugged topography and heavy vegetative cover combine to create opportunities to conceal many surface-disturbing activities.

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VISUAL ABSORPTION CAPACITY RATING SHEET

Scenic Quality Rating Unit: Horseshoe Ridge

Date 8/17/2010

Unit Number: 62

Evaluators: CBrandt JLieen GLong

	SCORE
<p><b>Vegetation</b></p> <p>1 = Low, uniform vegetation or sparse vegetative cover; typically less than 3' in height; lacking in variety; uniform color; minimal screening capability; typically sagebrush, sagebrush/grass, or grass type vegetation.</p> <p>2 = Vegetation of moderate height (3–6'), some species variety (2 to 3 types), some variation in color, mostly continuous vegetative cover, effectively screens low-profile projects such as low-profile surface disturbance, sagebrush/grass, and intermingled shrubs.</p> <p>3 = Higher vegetation (&gt;6' height); lush, continuous vegetative cover; some variety of vegetative types is typical but not mandatory; provides significant screening capability of projects up to 15–20 feet in height; juniper woodlands, aspen, conifers.</p>	<p>1</p>
<p><b>Soil Contrast</b></p> <p>1 = Surface disturbance would expose a high degree of contrast in color with surrounding soil, rock, and vegetation.</p> <p>2 = Surface disturbance would expose a medium degree of contrast in color with surrounding soil, rock, and vegetation.</p> <p>3 = Surface disturbance would expose only a low degree of contrast in color with surrounding soil, rock, and vegetation.</p>	<p>2</p>
<p><b>Visual Variety</b></p> <p>1 = Rating unit exhibits a low degree of visual variety in terms of the landscape character elements of form, line, and texture; may also exhibit minimal variety in landforms, vegetation, or color.</p> <p>2 = Rating unit exhibits a medium degree of visual variety in terms of the landscape character elements of form, line, and texture; may also exhibit medium variety in landforms, vegetation, or color.</p> <p>3 = Rating unit exhibits a high degree of visual variety in terms of the landscape character elements of form, line, and texture; may also exhibit high degree of variety in landforms, vegetation, or color.</p>	<p>2</p>

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**VISUAL ABSORPTION CAPACITY RATING SHEET**

**SCORE**

**Topographical Diversity**

- 1 = Landform has low amount of topographic diversity and variety.  
2 = Landform has moderate amount of topographic diversity and variety.  
3 = Landform has high amount of topographic diversity and variety.

**3**

**Recovery Time**

- 1 = Long-term recovery time (greater than 5 years)  
2 = Medium recovery time (3 to 5 years)  
3 = High (rapid) recovery time (1 to 2 years)

**1**

**Overall Score**

**9**

**5 - 7 = Low**  
**8 - 11 = Medium**  
**12 - 15 = High**

**Visual Absorption Capacity**  
**(Low, Medium, High)**

**Medium**

**Rationale and Conclusion**

Overall low vegetation and long recovery time. This area rates medium VAC mainly because it has a substantial amount of topographic diversity. Accordingly, projects could be effectively screened from view.

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VISUAL ABSORPTION CAPACITY RATING SHEET

**Scenic Quality Rating Unit:** Medicine Bow River

**Date** 8/17/2010

**Unit Number:** 63

**Evaluators:** CBrandt JLieen GLong

	<b>SCORE</b>
<p><b>Vegetation</b></p> <p>1 = Low, uniform vegetation or sparse vegetative cover; typically less than 3' in height; lacking in variety; uniform color; minimal screening capability; typically sagebrush, sagebrush/grass, or grass type vegetation.</p> <p>2 = Vegetation of moderate height (3–6'), some species variety (2 to 3 types), some variation in color, mostly continuous vegetative cover, effectively screens low-profile projects such as low-profile surface disturbance, sagebrush/grass, and intermingled shrubs.</p> <p>3 = Higher vegetation (&gt;6' height); lush, continuous vegetative cover; some variety of vegetative types is typical but not mandatory; provides significant screening capability of projects up to 15–20 feet in height; juniper woodlands, aspen, conifers.</p>	<div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 5px; width: 40px; margin: 0 auto;">2</div>
<p><b>Soil Contrast</b></p> <p>1 = Surface disturbance would expose a high degree of contrast in color with surrounding soil, rock, and vegetation.</p> <p>2 = Surface disturbance would expose a medium degree of contrast in color with surrounding soil, rock, and vegetation.</p> <p>3 = Surface disturbance would expose only a low degree of contrast in color with surrounding soil, rock, and vegetation.</p>	<div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 5px; width: 40px; margin: 0 auto;">2</div>
<p><b>Visual Variety</b></p> <p>1 = Rating unit exhibits a low degree of visual variety in terms of the landscape character elements of form, line, and texture; may also exhibit minimal variety in landforms, vegetation, or color.</p> <p>2 = Rating unit exhibits a medium degree of visual variety in terms of the landscape character elements of form, line, and texture; may also exhibit medium variety in landforms, vegetation, or color.</p> <p>3 = Rating unit exhibits a high degree of visual variety in terms of the landscape character elements of form, line, and texture; may also exhibit high degree of variety in landforms, vegetation, or color.</p>	<div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 5px; width: 40px; margin: 0 auto;">2</div>

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**VISUAL ABSORPTION CAPACITY RATING SHEET**

**SCORE**

**Topographical Diversity**

- 1 = Landform has low amount of topographic diversity and variety.  
2 = Landform has moderate amount of topographic diversity and variety.  
3 = Landform has high amount of topographic diversity and variety.

**1**

**Recovery Time**

- 1 = Long-term recovery time (greater than 5 years)  
2 = Medium recovery time (3 to 5 years)  
3 = High (rapid) recovery time (1 to 2 years)

**3**

**Overall Score**

**10**

**5 - 7 = Low**

**8 - 11 = Medium**

**12 - 15 = High**

**Visual Absorption Capacity  
(Low, Medium, High)**

**Medium**

**Rationale and Conclusion**

While this unit lacks the ability to screen most projects that have any vertical character, it does have potential for rapid recovery of surface disturbance; thus the medium VAC category.

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VISUAL ABSORPTION CAPACITY RATING SHEET

Scenic Quality Rating Unit: Cottonwood Draw

Date 8/17/2010

Unit Number: 64

Evaluators: CBrandt JLieen GLong

	SCORE
<p><b>Vegetation</b></p> <p>1 = Low, uniform vegetation or sparse vegetative cover; typically less than 3' in height; lacking in variety; uniform color; minimal screening capability; typically sagebrush, sagebrush/grass, or grass type vegetation.</p> <p>2 = Vegetation of moderate height (3–6'), some species variety (2 to 3 types), some variation in color, mostly continuous vegetative cover, effectively screens low-profile projects such as low-profile surface disturbance, sagebrush/grass, and intermingled shrubs.</p> <p>3 = Higher vegetation (&gt;6' height); lush, continuous vegetative cover; some variety of vegetative types is typical but not mandatory; provides significant screening capability of projects up to 15–20 feet in height; juniper woodlands, aspen, conifers.</p>	<p>1</p>
<p><b>Soil Contrast</b></p> <p>1 = Surface disturbance would expose a high degree of contrast in color with surrounding soil, rock, and vegetation.</p> <p>2 = Surface disturbance would expose a medium degree of contrast in color with surrounding soil, rock, and vegetation.</p> <p>3 = Surface disturbance would expose only a low degree of contrast in color with surrounding soil, rock, and vegetation.</p>	<p>2</p>
<p><b>Visual Variety</b></p> <p>1 = Rating unit exhibits a low degree of visual variety in terms of the landscape character elements of form, line, and texture; may also exhibit minimal variety in landforms, vegetation, or color.</p> <p>2 = Rating unit exhibits a medium degree of visual variety in terms of the landscape character elements of form, line, and texture; may also exhibit medium variety in landforms, vegetation, or color.</p> <p>3 = Rating unit exhibits a high degree of visual variety in terms of the landscape character elements of form, line, and texture; may also exhibit high degree of variety in landforms, vegetation, or color.</p>	<p>2</p>

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**VISUAL ABSORPTION CAPACITY RATING SHEET**

**SCORE**

**Topographical Diversity**

- 1 = Landform has low amount of topographic diversity and variety.  
2 = Landform has moderate amount of topographic diversity and variety.  
3 = Landform has high amount of topographic diversity and variety.

**2**

**Recovery Time**

- 1 = Long-term recovery time (greater than 5 years)  
2 = Medium recovery time (3 to 5 years)  
3 = High (rapid) recovery time (1 to 2 years)

**1**

**Overall Score**

**8**

**5 - 7 = Low**  
**8 - 11 = Medium**  
**12 - 15 = High**

**Visual Absorption Capacity**  
**(Low, Medium, High)**

**Medium**

**Rationale and Conclusion**

Medium ratings for soil contrast, topographic variability, and visual variety place this unit in the Medium VAC category.

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VISUAL ABSORPTION CAPACITY RATING SHEET

Scenic Quality Rating Unit: Hanna Uplift

Date 8/17/2010

Unit Number: 65

Evaluators: CBrandt JLieen GLong

	SCORE
<p><b>Vegetation</b></p> <p>1 = Low, uniform vegetation or sparse vegetative cover; typically less than 3' in height; lacking in variety; uniform color; minimal screening capability; typically sagebrush, sagebrush/grass, or grass type vegetation.</p> <p>2 = Vegetation of moderate height (3–6'), some species variety (2 to 3 types), some variation in color, mostly continuous vegetative cover, effectively screens low-profile projects such as low-profile surface disturbance, sagebrush/grass, and intermingled shrubs.</p> <p>3 = Higher vegetation (&gt;6' height); lush, continuous vegetative cover; some variety of vegetative types is typical but not mandatory; provides significant screening capability of projects up to 15–20 feet in height; juniper woodlands, aspen, conifers.</p>	<p>2</p>
<p><b>Soil Contrast</b></p> <p>1 = Surface disturbance would expose a high degree of contrast in color with surrounding soil, rock, and vegetation.</p> <p>2 = Surface disturbance would expose a medium degree of contrast in color with surrounding soil, rock, and vegetation.</p> <p>3 = Surface disturbance would expose only a low degree of contrast in color with surrounding soil, rock, and vegetation.</p>	<p>1</p>
<p><b>Visual Variety</b></p> <p>1 = Rating unit exhibits a low degree of visual variety in terms of the landscape character elements of form, line, and texture; may also exhibit minimal variety in landforms, vegetation, or color.</p> <p>2 = Rating unit exhibits a medium degree of visual variety in terms of the landscape character elements of form, line, and texture; may also exhibit medium variety in landforms, vegetation, or color.</p> <p>3 = Rating unit exhibits a high degree of visual variety in terms of the landscape character elements of form, line, and texture; may also exhibit high degree of variety in landforms, vegetation, or color.</p>	<p>2</p>

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**VISUAL ABSORPTION CAPACITY RATING SHEET**

**SCORE**

**Topographical Diversity**

- 1 = Landform has low amount of topographic diversity and variety.  
2 = Landform has moderate amount of topographic diversity and variety.  
3 = Landform has high amount of topographic diversity and variety.

2

**Recovery Time**

- 1 = Long-term recovery time (greater than 5 years)  
2 = Medium recovery time (3 to 5 years)  
3 = High (rapid) recovery time (1 to 2 years)

1

**Overall Score**

8

5 - 7 = Low  
8 - 11 = Medium  
12 - 15 = High

**Visual Absorption Capacity**  
(Low, Medium, High)

Medium

**Rationale and Conclusion**

Long recovery time, high soil/vegetation contrast. However, the area has the capability to absorb low-profile projects fairly well due to diverse vegetation. Higher-profile projects would have much greater, longer-term visual impact.

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VISUAL ABSORPTION CAPACITY RATING SHEET

**Scenic Quality Rating Unit:** Dana Meadows

**Date** 8/17/2010

**Unit Number:** 66

**Evaluators:** CBrandt JLieen GLong

	<b>SCORE</b>
<p><b>Vegetation</b></p> <p>1 = Low, uniform vegetation or sparse vegetative cover; typically less than 3' in height; lacking in variety; uniform color; minimal screening capability; typically sagebrush, sagebrush/grass, or grass type vegetation.</p> <p>2 = Vegetation of moderate height (3–6'), some species variety (2 to 3 types), some variation in color, mostly continuous vegetative cover, effectively screens low-profile projects such as low-profile surface disturbance, sagebrush/grass, and intermingled shrubs.</p> <p>3 = Higher vegetation (&gt;6' height); lush, continuous vegetative cover; some variety of vegetative types is typical but not mandatory; provides significant screening capability of projects up to 15–20 feet in height; juniper woodlands, aspen, conifers.</p>	<div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 5px; width: 40px; margin: 0 auto;">1</div>
<p><b>Soil Contrast</b></p> <p>1 = Surface disturbance would expose a high degree of contrast in color with surrounding soil, rock, and vegetation.</p> <p>2 = Surface disturbance would expose a medium degree of contrast in color with surrounding soil, rock, and vegetation.</p> <p>3 = Surface disturbance would expose only a low degree of contrast in color with surrounding soil, rock, and vegetation.</p>	<div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 5px; width: 40px; margin: 0 auto;">2</div>
<p><b>Visual Variety</b></p> <p>1 = Rating unit exhibits a low degree of visual variety in terms of the landscape character elements of form, line, and texture; may also exhibit minimal variety in landforms, vegetation, or color.</p> <p>2 = Rating unit exhibits a medium degree of visual variety in terms of the landscape character elements of form, line, and texture; may also exhibit medium variety in landforms, vegetation, or color.</p> <p>3 = Rating unit exhibits a high degree of visual variety in terms of the landscape character elements of form, line, and texture; may also exhibit high degree of variety in landforms, vegetation, or color.</p>	<div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 5px; width: 40px; margin: 0 auto;">2</div>

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**VISUAL ABSORPTION CAPACITY RATING SHEET**

**SCORE**

**Topographical Diversity**

- 1 = Landform has low amount of topographic diversity and variety.  
2 = Landform has moderate amount of topographic diversity and variety.  
3 = Landform has high amount of topographic diversity and variety.

**2**

**Recovery Time**

- 1 = Long-term recovery time (greater than 5 years)  
2 = Medium recovery time (3 to 5 years)  
3 = High (rapid) recovery time (1 to 2 years)

**1**

**Overall Score**

**8**

**5 - 7 = Low**  
**8 - 11 = Medium**  
**12 - 15 = High**

**Visual Absorption Capacity**  
**(Low, Medium, High)**

**Medium**

**Rationale and Conclusion**

Low vegetation and long recovery time combine to compress VAC. The area has the capability to absorb low-profile projects fairly well due to diverse vegetation. Higher-profile projects would have much greater and longer-term visual impact.

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VISUAL ABSORPTION CAPACITY RATING SHEET

Scenic Quality Rating Unit: Parallel Ridges

Date 8/5/2010

Unit Number: 67

Evaluators: CBrandt JLieen GLong

	SCORE
<p><b>Vegetation</b></p> <p>1 = Low, uniform vegetation or sparse vegetative cover; typically less than 3' in height; lacking in variety; uniform color; minimal screening capability; typically sagebrush, sagebrush/grass, or grass type vegetation.</p> <p>2 = Vegetation of moderate height (3–6'), some species variety (2 to 3 types), some variation in color, mostly continuous vegetative cover, effectively screens low-profile projects such as low-profile surface disturbance, sagebrush/grass, and intermingled shrubs.</p> <p>3 = Higher vegetation (&gt;6' height); lush, continuous vegetative cover; some variety of vegetative types is typical but not mandatory; provides significant screening capability of projects up to 15–20 feet in height; juniper woodlands, aspen, conifers.</p>	<p>1</p>
<p><b>Soil Contrast</b></p> <p>1 = Surface disturbance would expose a high degree of contrast in color with surrounding soil, rock, and vegetation.</p> <p>2 = Surface disturbance would expose a medium degree of contrast in color with surrounding soil, rock, and vegetation.</p> <p>3 = Surface disturbance would expose only a low degree of contrast in color with surrounding soil, rock, and vegetation.</p>	<p>1</p>
<p><b>Visual Variety</b></p> <p>1 = Rating unit exhibits a low degree of visual variety in terms of the landscape character elements of form, line, and texture; may also exhibit minimal variety in landforms, vegetation, or color.</p> <p>2 = Rating unit exhibits a medium degree of visual variety in terms of the landscape character elements of form, line, and texture; may also exhibit medium variety in landforms, vegetation, or color.</p> <p>3 = Rating unit exhibits a high degree of visual variety in terms of the landscape character elements of form, line, and texture; may also exhibit high degree of variety in landforms, vegetation, or color.</p>	<p>2</p>

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**VISUAL ABSORPTION CAPACITY RATING SHEET**

**SCORE**

**Topographical Diversity**

- 1 = Landform has low amount of topographic diversity and variety.  
2 = Landform has moderate amount of topographic diversity and variety.  
3 = Landform has high amount of topographic diversity and variety.

**2**

**Recovery Time**

- 1 = Long-term recovery time (greater than 5 years)  
2 = Medium recovery time (3 to 5 years)  
3 = High (rapid) recovery time (1 to 2 years)

**1**

**Overall Score**

**7**

**5 - 7 = Low**  
**8 - 11 = Medium**  
**12 - 15 = High**

**Visual Absorption Capacity**  
**(Low, Medium, High)**

**Low**

**Rationale and Conclusion**

Ridges and hills with mostly sage/grass and greasewood cover; moderate visual variety and topographical diversity.

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VISUAL ABSORPTION CAPACITY RATING SHEET

Scenic Quality Rating Unit: Sheephead Mountain

Date 8/5/2010

Unit Number: 68

Evaluators: CBrandt JLieen GLong

	SCORE
<p><b>Vegetation</b></p> <p>1 = Low, uniform vegetation or sparse vegetative cover; typically less than 3' in height; lacking in variety; uniform color; minimal screening capability; typically sagebrush, sagebrush/grass, or grass type vegetation.</p> <p>2 = Vegetation of moderate height (3–6'), some species variety (2 to 3 types), some variation in color, mostly continuous vegetative cover, effectively screens low-profile projects such as low-profile surface disturbance, sagebrush/grass, and intermingled shrubs.</p> <p>3 = Higher vegetation (&gt;6' height); lush, continuous vegetative cover; some variety of vegetative types is typical but not mandatory; provides significant screening capability of projects up to 15–20 feet in height; juniper woodlands, aspen, conifers.</p>	<p>2</p>
<p><b>Soil Contrast</b></p> <p>1 = Surface disturbance would expose a high degree of contrast in color with surrounding soil, rock, and vegetation.</p> <p>2 = Surface disturbance would expose a medium degree of contrast in color with surrounding soil, rock, and vegetation.</p> <p>3 = Surface disturbance would expose only a low degree of contrast in color with surrounding soil, rock, and vegetation.</p>	<p>2</p>
<p><b>Visual Variety</b></p> <p>1 = Rating unit exhibits a low degree of visual variety in terms of the landscape character elements of form, line, and texture; may also exhibit minimal variety in landforms, vegetation, or color.</p> <p>2 = Rating unit exhibits a medium degree of visual variety in terms of the landscape character elements of form, line, and texture; may also exhibit medium variety in landforms, vegetation, or color.</p> <p>3 = Rating unit exhibits a high degree of visual variety in terms of the landscape character elements of form, line, and texture; may also exhibit high degree of variety in landforms, vegetation, or color.</p>	<p>3</p>

UNITED STATES  
DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT

**RAWLINS FIELD OFFICE**

**VISUAL ABSORPTION CAPACITY RATING SHEET**

**SCORE**

**Topographical Diversity**

- 1 = Landform has low amount of topographic diversity and variety.
- 2 = Landform has moderate amount of topographic diversity and variety.
- 3 = Landform has high amount of topographic diversity and variety.

3

---

**Recovery Time**

- 1 = Long-term recovery time (greater than 5 years)
- 2 = Medium recovery time (3 to 5 years)
- 3 = High (rapid) recovery time (1 to 2 years)

2

---

**Overall Score**

12

- 5 - 7 = Low**
- 8 - 11 = Medium**
- 12 - 15 = High**

**Visual Absorption Capacity  
(Low, Medium, High)**

High

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**Rationale and Conclusion**

High topographical diversity in dramatic landforms with moderate vegetation and soil and color contrast. Added to visual variety, these factors combine to produce high VAC.

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VISUAL ABSORPTION CAPACITY RATING SHEET

Scenic Quality Rating Unit: Pass Creek Agricultural Lands

Date 8/5/2010

Unit Number: 69

Evaluators: CBrandt JLieen GLong

	SCORE
<p><b>Vegetation</b></p> <p>1 = Low, uniform vegetation or sparse vegetative cover; typically less than 3' in height; lacking in variety; uniform color; minimal screening capability; typically sagebrush, sagebrush/grass, or grass type vegetation.</p> <p>2 = Vegetation of moderate height (3–6'), some species variety (2 to 3 types), some variation in color, mostly continuous vegetative cover, effectively screens low-profile projects such as low-profile surface disturbance, sagebrush/grass, and intermingled shrubs.</p> <p>3 = Higher vegetation (&gt;6' height); lush, continuous vegetative cover; some variety of vegetative types is typical but not mandatory; provides significant screening capability of projects up to 15–20 feet in height; juniper woodlands, aspen, conifers.</p>	<div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 5px; width: 40px; margin: 0 auto;">1</div>
<p><b>Soil Contrast</b></p> <p>1 = Surface disturbance would expose a high degree of contrast in color with surrounding soil, rock, and vegetation.</p> <p>2 = Surface disturbance would expose a medium degree of contrast in color with surrounding soil, rock, and vegetation.</p> <p>3 = Surface disturbance would expose only a low degree of contrast in color with surrounding soil, rock, and vegetation.</p>	<div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 5px; width: 40px; margin: 0 auto;">2</div>
<p><b>Visual Variety</b></p> <p>1 = Rating unit exhibits a low degree of visual variety in terms of the landscape character elements of form, line, and texture; may also exhibit minimal variety in landforms, vegetation, or color.</p> <p>2 = Rating unit exhibits a medium degree of visual variety in terms of the landscape character elements of form, line, and texture; may also exhibit medium variety in landforms, vegetation, or color.</p> <p>3 = Rating unit exhibits a high degree of visual variety in terms of the landscape character elements of form, line, and texture; may also exhibit high degree of variety in landforms, vegetation, or color.</p>	<div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 5px; width: 40px; margin: 0 auto;">1</div>

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**RAWLINS FIELD OFFICE**

**VISUAL ABSORPTION CAPACITY RATING SHEET**

**SCORE**

**Topographical Diversity**

- 1 = Landform has low amount of topographic diversity and variety.  
2 = Landform has moderate amount of topographic diversity and variety.  
3 = Landform has high amount of topographic diversity and variety.

**1**

**Recovery Time**

- 1 = Long-term recovery time (greater than 5 years)  
2 = Medium recovery time (3 to 5 years)  
3 = High (rapid) recovery time (1 to 2 years)

**3**

**Overall Score**

**8**

**5 - 7 = Low**  
**8 - 11 = Medium**  
**12 - 15 = High**

**Visual Absorption Capacity**  
**(Low, Medium, High)**

**Medium**

**Rationale and Conclusion**

Vibrantly colored agricultural lands with high recovery time and moderate soil contrast combine to produce medium VAC.

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VISUAL ABSORPTION CAPACITY RATING SHEET

Scenic Quality Rating Unit: Walcott

Date 7/30/2010

Unit Number: 70

Evaluators: CBrandt JLieen GLong

	SCORE
<p><b>Vegetation</b></p> <p>1 = Low, uniform vegetation or sparse vegetative cover; typically less than 3' in height; lacking in variety; uniform color; minimal screening capability; typically sagebrush, sagebrush/grass, or grass type vegetation.</p> <p>2 = Vegetation of moderate height (3–6'), some species variety (2 to 3 types), some variation in color, mostly continuous vegetative cover, effectively screens low-profile projects such as low-profile surface disturbance, sagebrush/grass, and intermingled shrubs.</p> <p>3 = Higher vegetation (&gt;6' height); lush, continuous vegetative cover; some variety of vegetative types is typical but not mandatory; provides significant screening capability of projects up to 15–20 feet in height; juniper woodlands, aspen, conifers.</p>	<div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 5px; width: 40px; margin: 0 auto;">1</div>
<p><b>Soil Contrast</b></p> <p>1 = Surface disturbance would expose a high degree of contrast in color with surrounding soil, rock, and vegetation.</p> <p>2 = Surface disturbance would expose a medium degree of contrast in color with surrounding soil, rock, and vegetation.</p> <p>3 = Surface disturbance would expose only a low degree of contrast in color with surrounding soil, rock, and vegetation.</p>	<div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 5px; width: 40px; margin: 0 auto;">1</div>
<p><b>Visual Variety</b></p> <p>1 = Rating unit exhibits a low degree of visual variety in terms of the landscape character elements of form, line, and texture; may also exhibit minimal variety in landforms, vegetation, or color.</p> <p>2 = Rating unit exhibits a medium degree of visual variety in terms of the landscape character elements of form, line, and texture; may also exhibit medium variety in landforms, vegetation, or color.</p> <p>3 = Rating unit exhibits a high degree of visual variety in terms of the landscape character elements of form, line, and texture; may also exhibit high degree of variety in landforms, vegetation, or color.</p>	<div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 5px; width: 40px; margin: 0 auto;">1</div>

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**RAWLINS FIELD OFFICE**

**VISUAL ABSORPTION CAPACITY RATING SHEET**

**SCORE**

**Topographical Diversity**

- 1 = Landform has low amount of topographic diversity and variety.  
2 = Landform has moderate amount of topographic diversity and variety.  
3 = Landform has high amount of topographic diversity and variety.

**1**

**Recovery Time**

- 1 = Long-term recovery time (greater than 5 years)  
2 = Medium recovery time (3 to 5 years)  
3 = High (rapid) recovery time (1 to 2 years)

**1**

**Overall Score**

**5**

**5 - 7 = Low**  
**8 - 11 = Medium**  
**12 - 15 = High**

**Visual Absorption Capacity**  
**(Low, Medium, High)**

**Low**

**Rationale and Conclusion**

Most any human activity involving structures or surface disturbance would be visible to the casual observer.

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VISUAL ABSORPTION CAPACITY RATING SHEET

Scenic Quality Rating Unit: Platte North

Date 7/30/2010

Unit Number: 71

Evaluators: CBrandt JLieen GLong

	SCORE
<p><b>Vegetation</b></p> <p>1 = Low, uniform vegetation or sparse vegetative cover; typically less than 3' in height; lacking in variety; uniform color; minimal screening capability; typically sagebrush, sagebrush/grass, or grass type vegetation.</p> <p>2 = Vegetation of moderate height (3–6'), some species variety (2 to 3 types), some variation in color, mostly continuous vegetative cover, effectively screens low-profile projects such as low-profile surface disturbance, sagebrush/grass, and intermingled shrubs.</p> <p>3 = Higher vegetation (&gt;6' height); lush, continuous vegetative cover; some variety of vegetative types is typical but not mandatory; provides significant screening capability of projects up to 15–20 feet in height; juniper woodlands, aspen, conifers.</p>	<p>3</p>
<p><b>Soil Contrast</b></p> <p>1 = Surface disturbance would expose a high degree of contrast in color with surrounding soil, rock, and vegetation.</p> <p>2 = Surface disturbance would expose a medium degree of contrast in color with surrounding soil, rock, and vegetation.</p> <p>3 = Surface disturbance would expose only a low degree of contrast in color with surrounding soil, rock, and vegetation.</p>	<p>1</p>
<p><b>Visual Variety</b></p> <p>1 = Rating unit exhibits a low degree of visual variety in terms of the landscape character elements of form, line, and texture; may also exhibit minimal variety in landforms, vegetation, or color.</p> <p>2 = Rating unit exhibits a medium degree of visual variety in terms of the landscape character elements of form, line, and texture; may also exhibit medium variety in landforms, vegetation, or color.</p> <p>3 = Rating unit exhibits a high degree of visual variety in terms of the landscape character elements of form, line, and texture; may also exhibit high degree of variety in landforms, vegetation, or color.</p>	<p>2</p>

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**VISUAL ABSORPTION CAPACITY RATING SHEET**

**SCORE**

**Topographical Diversity**

- 1 = Landform has low amount of topographic diversity and variety.  
2 = Landform has moderate amount of topographic diversity and variety.  
3 = Landform has high amount of topographic diversity and variety.

**1**

**Recovery Time**

- 1 = Long-term recovery time (greater than 5 years)  
2 = Medium recovery time (3 to 5 years)  
3 = High (rapid) recovery time (1 to 2 years)

**2**

**Overall Score**

**9**

**5 - 7 = Low**  
**8 - 11 = Medium**  
**12 - 15 = High**

**Visual Absorption Capacity**  
**(Low, Medium, High)**

**Medium**

**Rationale and Conclusion**

The river corridor and associated vegetation would screen projects from view.

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VISUAL ABSORPTION CAPACITY RATING SHEET

Scenic Quality Rating Unit: Jack Creek Valley

Date 7/31/2010

Unit Number: 72

Evaluators: CBrandt JLieen GLong

	SCORE
<p><b>Vegetation</b></p> <p>1 = Low, uniform vegetation or sparse vegetative cover; typically less than 3' in height; lacking in variety; uniform color; minimal screening capability; typically sagebrush, sagebrush/grass, or grass type vegetation.</p> <p>2 = Vegetation of moderate height (3–6'), some species variety (2 to 3 types), some variation in color, mostly continuous vegetative cover, effectively screens low-profile projects such as low-profile surface disturbance, sagebrush/grass, and intermingled shrubs.</p> <p>3 = Higher vegetation (&gt;6' height); lush, continuous vegetative cover; some variety of vegetative types is typical but not mandatory; provides significant screening capability of projects up to 15–20 feet in height; juniper woodlands, aspen, conifers.</p>	<p>1</p>
<p><b>Soil Contrast</b></p> <p>1 = Surface disturbance would expose a high degree of contrast in color with surrounding soil, rock, and vegetation.</p> <p>2 = Surface disturbance would expose a medium degree of contrast in color with surrounding soil, rock, and vegetation.</p> <p>3 = Surface disturbance would expose only a low degree of contrast in color with surrounding soil, rock, and vegetation.</p>	<p>1</p>
<p><b>Visual Variety</b></p> <p>1 = Rating unit exhibits a low degree of visual variety in terms of the landscape character elements of form, line, and texture; may also exhibit minimal variety in landforms, vegetation, or color.</p> <p>2 = Rating unit exhibits a medium degree of visual variety in terms of the landscape character elements of form, line, and texture; may also exhibit medium variety in landforms, vegetation, or color.</p> <p>3 = Rating unit exhibits a high degree of visual variety in terms of the landscape character elements of form, line, and texture; may also exhibit high degree of variety in landforms, vegetation, or color.</p>	<p>1</p>

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**VISUAL ABSORPTION CAPACITY RATING SHEET**

**SCORE**

**Topographical Diversity**

- 1 = Landform has low amount of topographic diversity and variety.  
2 = Landform has moderate amount of topographic diversity and variety.  
3 = Landform has high amount of topographic diversity and variety.

**1**

**Recovery Time**

- 1 = Long-term recovery time (greater than 5 years)  
2 = Medium recovery time (3 to 5 years)  
3 = High (rapid) recovery time (1 to 2 years)

**2**

**Overall Score**

**6**

**5 - 7 = Low**  
**8 - 11 = Medium**  
**12 - 15 = High**

**Visual Absorption Capacity**  
**(Low, Medium, High)**

**Low**

**Rationale and Conclusion**

An open landscape lacking in visual variety except for Jack Creek.

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VISUAL ABSORPTION CAPACITY RATING SHEET

Scenic Quality Rating Unit: Sierra Madre Foothills

Date 7/29/2010

Unit Number: 73

Evaluators: CBrandt JLieen GLong

	SCORE
<p><b>Vegetation</b></p> <p>1 = Low, uniform vegetation or sparse vegetative cover; typically less than 3' in height; lacking in variety; uniform color; minimal screening capability; typically sagebrush, sagebrush/grass, or grass type vegetation.</p> <p>2 = Vegetation of moderate height (3–6'), some species variety (2 to 3 types), some variation in color, mostly continuous vegetative cover, effectively screens low-profile projects such as low-profile surface disturbance, sagebrush/grass, and intermingled shrubs.</p> <p>3 = Higher vegetation (&gt;6' height); lush, continuous vegetative cover; some variety of vegetative types is typical but not mandatory; provides significant screening capability of projects up to 15–20 feet in height; juniper woodlands, aspen, conifers.</p>	<p>2</p>
<p><b>Soil Contrast</b></p> <p>1 = Surface disturbance would expose a high degree of contrast in color with surrounding soil, rock, and vegetation.</p> <p>2 = Surface disturbance would expose a medium degree of contrast in color with surrounding soil, rock, and vegetation.</p> <p>3 = Surface disturbance would expose only a low degree of contrast in color with surrounding soil, rock, and vegetation.</p>	<p>2</p>
<p><b>Visual Variety</b></p> <p>1 = Rating unit exhibits a low degree of visual variety in terms of the landscape character elements of form, line, and texture; may also exhibit minimal variety in landforms, vegetation, or color.</p> <p>2 = Rating unit exhibits a medium degree of visual variety in terms of the landscape character elements of form, line, and texture; may also exhibit medium variety in landforms, vegetation, or color.</p> <p>3 = Rating unit exhibits a high degree of visual variety in terms of the landscape character elements of form, line, and texture; may also exhibit high degree of variety in landforms, vegetation, or color.</p>	<p>2</p>

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**RAWLINS FIELD OFFICE**

**VISUAL ABSORPTION CAPACITY RATING SHEET**

**SCORE**

**Topographical Diversity**

- 1 = Landform has low amount of topographic diversity and variety.  
2 = Landform has moderate amount of topographic diversity and variety.  
3 = Landform has high amount of topographic diversity and variety.

**2**

**Recovery Time**

- 1 = Long-term recovery time (greater than 5 years)  
2 = Medium recovery time (3 to 5 years)  
3 = High (rapid) recovery time (1 to 2 years)

**1**

**Overall Score**

**9**

**5 - 7 = Low**  
**8 - 11 = Medium**  
**12 - 15 = High**

**Visual Absorption Capacity**  
**(Low, Medium, High)**

**Medium**

**Rationale and Conclusion**

Topographic variety and diverse vegetation in combination make for a medium VAC level.

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RAWLINS FIELD OFFICE

VISUAL ABSORPTION CAPACITY RATING SHEET

Scenic Quality Rating Unit: Saratoga Valley

Date 7/31/2010

Unit Number: 74

Evaluators: CBrandt JLieen GLong

	SCORE
<p><b>Vegetation</b></p> <p>1 = Low, uniform vegetation or sparse vegetative cover; typically less than 3' in height; lacking in variety; uniform color; minimal screening capability; typically sagebrush, sagebrush/grass, or grass type vegetation.</p> <p>2 = Vegetation of moderate height (3–6'), some species variety (2 to 3 types), some variation in color, mostly continuous vegetative cover, effectively screens low-profile projects such as low-profile surface disturbance, sagebrush/grass, and intermingled shrubs.</p> <p>3 = Higher vegetation (&gt;6' height); lush, continuous vegetative cover; some variety of vegetative types is typical but not mandatory; provides significant screening capability of projects up to 15–20 feet in height; juniper woodlands, aspen, conifers.</p>	<p>1</p>
<p><b>Soil Contrast</b></p> <p>1 = Surface disturbance would expose a high degree of contrast in color with surrounding soil, rock, and vegetation.</p> <p>2 = Surface disturbance would expose a medium degree of contrast in color with surrounding soil, rock, and vegetation.</p> <p>3 = Surface disturbance would expose only a low degree of contrast in color with surrounding soil, rock, and vegetation.</p>	<p>1</p>
<p><b>Visual Variety</b></p> <p>1 = Rating unit exhibits a low degree of visual variety in terms of the landscape character elements of form, line, and texture; may also exhibit minimal variety in landforms, vegetation, or color.</p> <p>2 = Rating unit exhibits a medium degree of visual variety in terms of the landscape character elements of form, line, and texture; may also exhibit medium variety in landforms, vegetation, or color.</p> <p>3 = Rating unit exhibits a high degree of visual variety in terms of the landscape character elements of form, line, and texture; may also exhibit high degree of variety in landforms, vegetation, or color.</p>	<p>1</p>

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**RAWLINS FIELD OFFICE**

**VISUAL ABSORPTION CAPACITY RATING SHEET**

**SCORE**

**Topographical Diversity**

- 1 = Landform has low amount of topographic diversity and variety.  
2 = Landform has moderate amount of topographic diversity and variety.  
3 = Landform has high amount of topographic diversity and variety.

**1**

**Recovery Time**

- 1 = Long-term recovery time (greater than 5 years)  
2 = Medium recovery time (3 to 5 years)  
3 = High (rapid) recovery time (1 to 2 years)

**2**

**Overall Score**

**6**

**5 - 7 = Low**  
**8 - 11 = Medium**  
**12 - 15 = High**

**Visual Absorption Capacity**  
**(Low, Medium, High)**

**Low**

**Rationale and Conclusion**

Low, rolling hills and uniform vegetation.

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VISUAL ABSORPTION CAPACITY RATING SHEET

**Scenic Quality Rating Unit:** Saratoga Valley Agricultural Lands

**Date** 7/31/2010

**Unit Number:** 75

**Evaluators:** CBrandt JLieen GLong

	<b>SCORE</b>
<p><b>Vegetation</b></p> <p>1 = Low, uniform vegetation or sparse vegetative cover; typically less than 3' in height; lacking in variety; uniform color; minimal screening capability; typically sagebrush, sagebrush/grass, or grass type vegetation.</p> <p>2 = Vegetation of moderate height (3–6'), some species variety (2 to 3 types), some variation in color, mostly continuous vegetative cover, effectively screens low-profile projects such as low-profile surface disturbance, sagebrush/grass, and intermingled shrubs.</p> <p>3 = Higher vegetation (&gt;6' height); lush, continuous vegetative cover; some variety of vegetative types is typical but not mandatory; provides significant screening capability of projects up to 15–20 feet in height; juniper woodlands, aspen, conifers.</p>	<div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 5px; width: 40px; margin: 0 auto;">2</div>
<p><b>Soil Contrast</b></p> <p>1 = Surface disturbance would expose a high degree of contrast in color with surrounding soil, rock, and vegetation.</p> <p>2 = Surface disturbance would expose a medium degree of contrast in color with surrounding soil, rock, and vegetation.</p> <p>3 = Surface disturbance would expose only a low degree of contrast in color with surrounding soil, rock, and vegetation.</p>	<div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 5px; width: 40px; margin: 0 auto;">2</div>
<p><b>Visual Variety</b></p> <p>1 = Rating unit exhibits a low degree of visual variety in terms of the landscape character elements of form, line, and texture; may also exhibit minimal variety in landforms, vegetation, or color.</p> <p>2 = Rating unit exhibits a medium degree of visual variety in terms of the landscape character elements of form, line, and texture; may also exhibit medium variety in landforms, vegetation, or color.</p> <p>3 = Rating unit exhibits a high degree of visual variety in terms of the landscape character elements of form, line, and texture; may also exhibit high degree of variety in landforms, vegetation, or color.</p>	<div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 5px; width: 40px; margin: 0 auto;">1</div>

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**VISUAL ABSORPTION CAPACITY RATING SHEET**

**SCORE**

**Topographical Diversity**

- 1 = Landform has low amount of topographic diversity and variety.  
2 = Landform has moderate amount of topographic diversity and variety.  
3 = Landform has high amount of topographic diversity and variety.

**1**

**Recovery Time**

- 1 = Long-term recovery time (greater than 5 years)  
2 = Medium recovery time (3 to 5 years)  
3 = High (rapid) recovery time (1 to 2 years)

**3**

**Overall Score**

**9**

**5 - 7 = Low**  
**8 - 11 = Medium**  
**12 - 15 = High**

**Visual Absorption Capacity**  
**(Low, Medium, High)**

**Medium**

**Rationale and Conclusion**

Productive lands, fairly rapid recovery time, vegetation of moderate height.

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VISUAL ABSORPTION CAPACITY RATING SHEET

Scenic Quality Rating Unit: Upper Platte Valley

Date 7/29/2010

Unit Number: 76

Evaluators: CBrandt JLieen GLong

	SCORE
<p><b>Vegetation</b></p> <p>1 = Low, uniform vegetation or sparse vegetative cover; typically less than 3' in height; lacking in variety; uniform color; minimal screening capability; typically sagebrush, sagebrush/grass, or grass type vegetation.</p> <p>2 = Vegetation of moderate height (3–6'), some species variety (2 to 3 types), some variation in color, mostly continuous vegetative cover, effectively screens low-profile projects such as low-profile surface disturbance, sagebrush/grass, and intermingled shrubs.</p> <p>3 = Higher vegetation (&gt;6' height); lush, continuous vegetative cover; some variety of vegetative types is typical but not mandatory; provides significant screening capability of projects up to 15–20 feet in height; juniper woodlands, aspen, conifers.</p>	<p>1</p>
<p><b>Soil Contrast</b></p> <p>1 = Surface disturbance would expose a high degree of contrast in color with surrounding soil, rock, and vegetation.</p> <p>2 = Surface disturbance would expose a medium degree of contrast in color with surrounding soil, rock, and vegetation.</p> <p>3 = Surface disturbance would expose only a low degree of contrast in color with surrounding soil, rock, and vegetation.</p>	<p>2</p>
<p><b>Visual Variety</b></p> <p>1 = Rating unit exhibits a low degree of visual variety in terms of the landscape character elements of form, line, and texture; may also exhibit minimal variety in landforms, vegetation, or color.</p> <p>2 = Rating unit exhibits a medium degree of visual variety in terms of the landscape character elements of form, line, and texture; may also exhibit medium variety in landforms, vegetation, or color.</p> <p>3 = Rating unit exhibits a high degree of visual variety in terms of the landscape character elements of form, line, and texture; may also exhibit high degree of variety in landforms, vegetation, or color.</p>	<p>2</p>

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**VISUAL ABSORPTION CAPACITY RATING SHEET**

**SCORE**

**Topographical Diversity**

- 1 = Landform has low amount of topographic diversity and variety.  
2 = Landform has moderate amount of topographic diversity and variety.  
3 = Landform has high amount of topographic diversity and variety.

2

**Recovery Time**

- 1 = Long-term recovery time (greater than 5 years)  
2 = Medium recovery time (3 to 5 years)  
3 = High (rapid) recovery time (1 to 2 years)

2

**Overall Score**

9

5 - 7 = Low  
8 - 11 = Medium  
12 - 15 = High

**Visual Absorption Capacity**  
(Low, Medium, High)

Medium

**Rationale and Conclusion**

Valley bottom does not have a great capability to absorb visual impacts but surrounding hills and slopes, with greater topographic variation, have a fairly high ability.

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VISUAL ABSORPTION CAPACITY RATING SHEET

Scenic Quality Rating Unit: Prospect Mountain

Date 7/29/2010

Unit Number: 77

Evaluators: CBrandt JLieen GLong

	SCORE
<p><b>Vegetation</b></p> <p>1 = Low, uniform vegetation or sparse vegetative cover; typically less than 3' in height; lacking in variety; uniform color; minimal screening capability; typically sagebrush, sagebrush/grass, or grass type vegetation.</p> <p>2 = Vegetation of moderate height (3–6'), some species variety (2 to 3 types), some variation in color, mostly continuous vegetative cover, effectively screens low-profile projects such as low-profile surface disturbance, sagebrush/grass, and intermingled shrubs.</p> <p>3 = Higher vegetation (&gt;6' height); lush, continuous vegetative cover; some variety of vegetative types is typical but not mandatory; provides significant screening capability of projects up to 15–20 feet in height; juniper woodlands, aspen, conifers.</p>	<p>3</p>
<p><b>Soil Contrast</b></p> <p>1 = Surface disturbance would expose a high degree of contrast in color with surrounding soil, rock, and vegetation.</p> <p>2 = Surface disturbance would expose a medium degree of contrast in color with surrounding soil, rock, and vegetation.</p> <p>3 = Surface disturbance would expose only a low degree of contrast in color with surrounding soil, rock, and vegetation.</p>	<p>2</p>
<p><b>Visual Variety</b></p> <p>1 = Rating unit exhibits a low degree of visual variety in terms of the landscape character elements of form, line, and texture; may also exhibit minimal variety in landforms, vegetation, or color.</p> <p>2 = Rating unit exhibits a medium degree of visual variety in terms of the landscape character elements of form, line, and texture; may also exhibit medium variety in landforms, vegetation, or color.</p> <p>3 = Rating unit exhibits a high degree of visual variety in terms of the landscape character elements of form, line, and texture; may also exhibit high degree of variety in landforms, vegetation, or color.</p>	<p>3</p>

UNITED STATES  
DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT

**RAWLINS FIELD OFFICE**

**VISUAL ABSORPTION CAPACITY RATING SHEET**

**SCORE**

**Topographical Diversity**

- 1 = Landform has low amount of topographic diversity and variety.  
2 = Landform has moderate amount of topographic diversity and variety.  
3 = Landform has high amount of topographic diversity and variety.

**3**

**Recovery Time**

- 1 = Long-term recovery time (greater than 5 years)  
2 = Medium recovery time (3 to 5 years)  
3 = High (rapid) recovery time (1 to 2 years)

**2**

**Overall Score**

**13**

**5 - 7 = Low**  
**8 - 11 = Medium**  
**12 - 15 = High**

**Visual Absorption Capacity**  
**(Low, Medium, High)**

**High**

**Rationale and Conclusion**

High VAC due to high visual variety, fairly rapid recovery time. Topographic variability and dense vegetation would provide opportunities to screen projects from view.

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RAWLINS FIELD OFFICE

VISUAL ABSORPTION CAPACITY RATING SHEET

Scenic Quality Rating Unit: Bennett Peak

Date 7/29/2010

Unit Number: 78

Evaluators: CBrandt JLieen GLong

	SCORE
<p><b>Vegetation</b></p> <p>1 = Low, uniform vegetation or sparse vegetative cover; typically less than 3' in height; lacking in variety; uniform color; minimal screening capability; typically sagebrush, sagebrush/grass, or grass type vegetation.</p> <p>2 = Vegetation of moderate height (3–6'), some species variety (2 to 3 types), some variation in color, mostly continuous vegetative cover, effectively screens low-profile projects such as low-profile surface disturbance, sagebrush/grass, and intermingled shrubs.</p> <p>3 = Higher vegetation (&gt;6' height); lush, continuous vegetative cover; some variety of vegetative types is typical but not mandatory; provides significant screening capability of projects up to 15–20 feet in height; juniper woodlands, aspen, conifers.</p>	<p>3</p>
<p><b>Soil Contrast</b></p> <p>1 = Surface disturbance would expose a high degree of contrast in color with surrounding soil, rock, and vegetation.</p> <p>2 = Surface disturbance would expose a medium degree of contrast in color with surrounding soil, rock, and vegetation.</p> <p>3 = Surface disturbance would expose only a low degree of contrast in color with surrounding soil, rock, and vegetation.</p>	<p>2</p>
<p><b>Visual Variety</b></p> <p>1 = Rating unit exhibits a low degree of visual variety in terms of the landscape character elements of form, line, and texture; may also exhibit minimal variety in landforms, vegetation, or color.</p> <p>2 = Rating unit exhibits a medium degree of visual variety in terms of the landscape character elements of form, line, and texture; may also exhibit medium variety in landforms, vegetation, or color.</p> <p>3 = Rating unit exhibits a high degree of visual variety in terms of the landscape character elements of form, line, and texture; may also exhibit high degree of variety in landforms, vegetation, or color.</p>	<p>3</p>

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VISUAL ABSORPTION CAPACITY RATING SHEET

SCORE

**Topographical Diversity**

- 1 = Landform has low amount of topographic diversity and variety.  
2 = Landform has moderate amount of topographic diversity and variety.  
3 = Landform has high amount of topographic diversity and variety.

3

**Recovery Time**

- 1 = Long-term recovery time (greater than 5 years)  
2 = Medium recovery time (3 to 5 years)  
3 = High (rapid) recovery time (1 to 2 years)

2

**Overall Score**

13

5 - 7 = Low  
8 - 11 = Medium  
12 - 15 = High

**Visual Absorption Capacity**  
(Low, Medium, High)

High

**Rationale and Conclusion**

Diverse landforms, lush/dense vegetation provides opportunities to screen projects from view.

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VISUAL ABSORPTION CAPACITY RATING SHEET

Scenic Quality Rating Unit: Cedar Ridge

Date 8/5/2010

Unit Number: 79

Evaluators: CBrandt JLieen GLong

	SCORE
<p><b>Vegetation</b></p> <p>1 = Low, uniform vegetation or sparse vegetative cover; typically less than 3' in height; lacking in variety; uniform color; minimal screening capability; typically sagebrush, sagebrush/grass, or grass type vegetation.</p> <p>2 = Vegetation of moderate height (3–6'), some species variety (2 to 3 types), some variation in color, mostly continuous vegetative cover, effectively screens low-profile projects such as low-profile surface disturbance, sagebrush/grass, and intermingled shrubs.</p> <p>3 = Higher vegetation (&gt;6' height); lush, continuous vegetative cover; some variety of vegetative types is typical but not mandatory; provides significant screening capability of projects up to 15–20 feet in height; juniper woodlands, aspen, conifers.</p>	<p>2</p>
<p><b>Soil Contrast</b></p> <p>1 = Surface disturbance would expose a high degree of contrast in color with surrounding soil, rock, and vegetation.</p> <p>2 = Surface disturbance would expose a medium degree of contrast in color with surrounding soil, rock, and vegetation.</p> <p>3 = Surface disturbance would expose only a low degree of contrast in color with surrounding soil, rock, and vegetation.</p>	<p>1</p>
<p><b>Visual Variety</b></p> <p>1 = Rating unit exhibits a low degree of visual variety in terms of the landscape character elements of form, line, and texture; may also exhibit minimal variety in landforms, vegetation, or color.</p> <p>2 = Rating unit exhibits a medium degree of visual variety in terms of the landscape character elements of form, line, and texture; may also exhibit medium variety in landforms, vegetation, or color.</p> <p>3 = Rating unit exhibits a high degree of visual variety in terms of the landscape character elements of form, line, and texture; may also exhibit high degree of variety in landforms, vegetation, or color.</p>	<p>2</p>

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VISUAL ABSORPTION CAPACITY RATING SHEET

SCORE

**Topographical Diversity**

- 1 = Landform has low amount of topographic diversity and variety.  
2 = Landform has moderate amount of topographic diversity and variety.  
3 = Landform has high amount of topographic diversity and variety.

2

**Recovery Time**

- 1 = Long-term recovery time (greater than 5 years)  
2 = Medium recovery time (3 to 5 years)  
3 = High (rapid) recovery time (1 to 2 years)

1

**Overall Score**

8

5 - 7 = Low  
8 - 11 = Medium  
12 - 15 = High

**Visual Absorption Capacity**  
(Low, Medium, High)

Medium

**Rationale and Conclusion**

Rocky, rolling hills with moderate sage/grass, juniper and hay meadows and moderate visual variety.

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VISUAL ABSORPTION CAPACITY RATING SHEET

Scenic Quality Rating Unit: Upper Platte River

Date 7/29/2010

Unit Number: 80

Evaluators: CBrandt JLieen GLong

	SCORE
<p><b>Vegetation</b></p> <p>1 = Low, uniform vegetation or sparse vegetative cover; typically less than 3' in height; lacking in variety; uniform color; minimal screening capability; typically sagebrush, sagebrush/grass, or grass type vegetation.</p> <p>2 = Vegetation of moderate height (3–6'), some species variety (2 to 3 types), some variation in color, mostly continuous vegetative cover, effectively screens low-profile projects such as low-profile surface disturbance, sagebrush/grass, and intermingled shrubs.</p> <p>3 = Higher vegetation (&gt;6' height); lush, continuous vegetative cover; some variety of vegetative types is typical but not mandatory; provides significant screening capability of projects up to 15–20 feet in height; juniper woodlands, aspen, conifers.</p>	<p>2</p>
<p><b>Soil Contrast</b></p> <p>1 = Surface disturbance would expose a high degree of contrast in color with surrounding soil, rock, and vegetation.</p> <p>2 = Surface disturbance would expose a medium degree of contrast in color with surrounding soil, rock, and vegetation.</p> <p>3 = Surface disturbance would expose only a low degree of contrast in color with surrounding soil, rock, and vegetation.</p>	<p>2</p>
<p><b>Visual Variety</b></p> <p>1 = Rating unit exhibits a low degree of visual variety in terms of the landscape character elements of form, line, and texture; may also exhibit minimal variety in landforms, vegetation, or color.</p> <p>2 = Rating unit exhibits a medium degree of visual variety in terms of the landscape character elements of form, line, and texture; may also exhibit medium variety in landforms, vegetation, or color.</p> <p>3 = Rating unit exhibits a high degree of visual variety in terms of the landscape character elements of form, line, and texture; may also exhibit high degree of variety in landforms, vegetation, or color.</p>	<p>2</p>

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**VISUAL ABSORPTION CAPACITY RATING SHEET**

**SCORE**

**Topographical Diversity**

- 1 = Landform has low amount of topographic diversity and variety.  
2 = Landform has moderate amount of topographic diversity and variety.  
3 = Landform has high amount of topographic diversity and variety.

**1**

**Recovery Time**

- 1 = Long-term recovery time (greater than 5 years)  
2 = Medium recovery time (3 to 5 years)  
3 = High (rapid) recovery time (1 to 2 years)

**2**

**Overall Score**

**9**

**5 - 7 = Low**  
**8 - 11 = Medium**  
**12 - 15 = High**

**Visual Absorption Capacity**  
**(Low, Medium, High)**

**Medium**

**Rationale and Conclusion**

Screening would be provided by trees, mainly cottonwoods and willow along the river valley. Topography would also provide some screening.

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VISUAL ABSORPTION CAPACITY RATING SHEET

**Scenic Quality Rating Unit:** Encampment River WSA **Date:** 7/29/2010

**Unit Number:** 81

**Evaluators:** CBrandt JLieon GLong

	<b>SCORE</b>
<p><b>Vegetation</b></p> <p>1 = Low, uniform vegetation or sparse vegetative cover; typically less than 3' in height; lacking in variety; uniform color; minimal screening capability; typically sagebrush, sagebrush/grass, or grass type vegetation.</p> <p>2 = Vegetation of moderate height (3–6'), some species variety (2 to 3 types), some variation in color, mostly continuous vegetative cover, effectively screens low-profile projects such as low-profile surface disturbance, sagebrush/grass, and intermingled shrubs.</p> <p>3 = Higher vegetation (&gt;6' height); lush, continuous vegetative cover; some variety of vegetative types is typical but not mandatory; provides significant screening capability of projects up to 15–20 feet in height; juniper woodlands, aspen, conifers.</p>	<b>2</b>
<p><b>Soil Contrast</b></p> <p>1 = Surface disturbance would expose a high degree of contrast in color with surrounding soil, rock, and vegetation.</p> <p>2 = Surface disturbance would expose a medium degree of contrast in color with surrounding soil, rock, and vegetation.</p> <p>3 = Surface disturbance would expose only a low degree of contrast in color with surrounding soil, rock, and vegetation.</p>	<b>2</b>
<p><b>Visual Variety</b></p> <p>1 = Rating unit exhibits a low degree of visual variety in terms of the landscape character elements of form, line, and texture; may also exhibit minimal variety in landforms, vegetation, or color.</p> <p>2 = Rating unit exhibits a medium degree of visual variety in terms of the landscape character elements of form, line, and texture; may also exhibit medium variety in landforms, vegetation, or color.</p> <p>3 = Rating unit exhibits a high degree of visual variety in terms of the landscape character elements of form, line, and texture; may also exhibit high degree of variety in landforms, vegetation, or color.</p>	<b>2</b>

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**VISUAL ABSORPTION CAPACITY RATING SHEET**

**SCORE**

**Topographical Diversity**

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2 = Landform has moderate amount of topographic diversity and variety.  
3 = Landform has high amount of topographic diversity and variety.

**2**

**Recovery Time**

- 1 = Long-term recovery time (greater than 5 years)  
2 = Medium recovery time (3 to 5 years)  
3 = High (rapid) recovery time (1 to 2 years)

**1**

**Overall Score**

**9**

**5 - 7 = Low**  
**8 - 11 = Medium**  
**12 - 15 = High**

**Visual Absorption Capacity**  
**(Low, Medium, High)**

**Medium**

**Rationale and Conclusion**

Topographic diversity, lush vegetation, minor cultural modifications exist but are generally screened or not of appreciable consequence.

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VISUAL ABSORPTION CAPACITY RATING SHEET

Scenic Quality Rating Unit: Medicine Bow Foothills

Date 8/5/2010

Unit Number: 82

Evaluators: CBrandt JLieen GLong

	SCORE
<p><b>Vegetation</b></p> <p>1 = Low, uniform vegetation or sparse vegetative cover; typically less than 3' in height; lacking in variety; uniform color; minimal screening capability; typically sagebrush, sagebrush/grass, or grass type vegetation.</p> <p>2 = Vegetation of moderate height (3–6'), some species variety (2 to 3 types), some variation in color, mostly continuous vegetative cover, effectively screens low-profile projects such as low-profile surface disturbance, sagebrush/grass, and intermingled shrubs.</p> <p>3 = Higher vegetation (&gt;6' height); lush, continuous vegetative cover; some variety of vegetative types is typical but not mandatory; provides significant screening capability of projects up to 15–20 feet in height; juniper woodlands, aspen, conifers.</p>	<p>3</p>
<p><b>Soil Contrast</b></p> <p>1 = Surface disturbance would expose a high degree of contrast in color with surrounding soil, rock, and vegetation.</p> <p>2 = Surface disturbance would expose a medium degree of contrast in color with surrounding soil, rock, and vegetation.</p> <p>3 = Surface disturbance would expose only a low degree of contrast in color with surrounding soil, rock, and vegetation.</p>	<p>1</p>
<p><b>Visual Variety</b></p> <p>1 = Rating unit exhibits a low degree of visual variety in terms of the landscape character elements of form, line, and texture; may also exhibit minimal variety in landforms, vegetation, or color.</p> <p>2 = Rating unit exhibits a medium degree of visual variety in terms of the landscape character elements of form, line, and texture; may also exhibit medium variety in landforms, vegetation, or color.</p> <p>3 = Rating unit exhibits a high degree of visual variety in terms of the landscape character elements of form, line, and texture; may also exhibit high degree of variety in landforms, vegetation, or color.</p>	<p>3</p>

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VISUAL ABSORPTION CAPACITY RATING SHEET

SCORE

**Topographical Diversity**

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3 = Landform has high amount of topographic diversity and variety.

2

**Recovery Time**

- 1 = Long-term recovery time (greater than 5 years)  
2 = Medium recovery time (3 to 5 years)  
3 = High (rapid) recovery time (1 to 2 years)

2

**Overall Score**

11

5 - 7 = Low  
8 - 11 = Medium  
12 - 15 = High

**Visual Absorption Capacity**  
(Low, Medium, High)

Medium

**Rationale and Conclusion**

Vegetation combined with topographic diversity helps elevate VAC for this unit.

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RAWLINS FIELD OFFICE

VISUAL ABSORPTION CAPACITY RATING SHEET

Scenic Quality Rating Unit: Coad Mountain

Date 8/5/2010

Unit Number: 83

Evaluators: CBrandt JLieen GLong

	SCORE
<p><b>Vegetation</b></p> <p>1 = Low, uniform vegetation or sparse vegetative cover; typically less than 3' in height; lacking in variety; uniform color; minimal screening capability; typically sagebrush, sagebrush/grass, or grass type vegetation.</p> <p>2 = Vegetation of moderate height (3–6'), some species variety (2 to 3 types), some variation in color, mostly continuous vegetative cover, effectively screens low-profile projects such as low-profile surface disturbance, sagebrush/grass, and intermingled shrubs.</p> <p>3 = Higher vegetation (&gt;6' height); lush, continuous vegetative cover; some variety of vegetative types is typical but not mandatory; provides significant screening capability of projects up to 15–20 feet in height; juniper woodlands, aspen, conifers.</p>	<p>2</p>
<p><b>Soil Contrast</b></p> <p>1 = Surface disturbance would expose a high degree of contrast in color with surrounding soil, rock, and vegetation.</p> <p>2 = Surface disturbance would expose a medium degree of contrast in color with surrounding soil, rock, and vegetation.</p> <p>3 = Surface disturbance would expose only a low degree of contrast in color with surrounding soil, rock, and vegetation.</p>	<p>1</p>
<p><b>Visual Variety</b></p> <p>1 = Rating unit exhibits a low degree of visual variety in terms of the landscape character elements of form, line, and texture; may also exhibit minimal variety in landforms, vegetation, or color.</p> <p>2 = Rating unit exhibits a medium degree of visual variety in terms of the landscape character elements of form, line, and texture; may also exhibit medium variety in landforms, vegetation, or color.</p> <p>3 = Rating unit exhibits a high degree of visual variety in terms of the landscape character elements of form, line, and texture; may also exhibit high degree of variety in landforms, vegetation, or color.</p>	<p>3</p>

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VISUAL ABSORPTION CAPACITY RATING SHEET

SCORE

**Topographical Diversity**

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2 = Landform has moderate amount of topographic diversity and variety.  
3 = Landform has high amount of topographic diversity and variety.

3

**Recovery Time**

- 1 = Long-term recovery time (greater than 5 years)  
2 = Medium recovery time (3 to 5 years)  
3 = High (rapid) recovery time (1 to 2 years)

2

**Overall Score**

11

5 - 7 = Low

8 - 11 = Medium

12 - 15 = High

**Visual Absorption Capacity**  
(Low, Medium, High)

Medium

**Rationale and Conclusion**

Complex landform and moderate vegetative cover with high visual variety. In particular, high visual variety and topographical diversity combine to elevate VAC.

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VISUAL ABSORPTION CAPACITY RATING SHEET

Scenic Quality Rating Unit: Elk Mountain

Date 8/5/2010

Unit Number: 84

Evaluators: CBrandt JLieen GLong

	SCORE
<p><b>Vegetation</b></p> <p>1 = Low, uniform vegetation or sparse vegetative cover; typically less than 3' in height; lacking in variety; uniform color; minimal screening capability; typically sagebrush, sagebrush/grass, or grass type vegetation.</p> <p>2 = Vegetation of moderate height (3–6'), some species variety (2 to 3 types), some variation in color, mostly continuous vegetative cover, effectively screens low-profile projects such as low-profile surface disturbance, sagebrush/grass, and intermingled shrubs.</p> <p>3 = Higher vegetation (&gt;6' height); lush, continuous vegetative cover; some variety of vegetative types is typical but not mandatory; provides significant screening capability of projects up to 15–20 feet in height; juniper woodlands, aspen, conifers.</p>	<p>3</p>
<p><b>Soil Contrast</b></p> <p>1 = Surface disturbance would expose a high degree of contrast in color with surrounding soil, rock, and vegetation.</p> <p>2 = Surface disturbance would expose a medium degree of contrast in color with surrounding soil, rock, and vegetation.</p> <p>3 = Surface disturbance would expose only a low degree of contrast in color with surrounding soil, rock, and vegetation.</p>	<p>1</p>
<p><b>Visual Variety</b></p> <p>1 = Rating unit exhibits a low degree of visual variety in terms of the landscape character elements of form, line, and texture; may also exhibit minimal variety in landforms, vegetation, or color.</p> <p>2 = Rating unit exhibits a medium degree of visual variety in terms of the landscape character elements of form, line, and texture; may also exhibit medium variety in landforms, vegetation, or color.</p> <p>3 = Rating unit exhibits a high degree of visual variety in terms of the landscape character elements of form, line, and texture; may also exhibit high degree of variety in landforms, vegetation, or color.</p>	<p>3</p>

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**RAWLINS FIELD OFFICE**

**VISUAL ABSORPTION CAPACITY RATING SHEET**

**SCORE**

**Topographical Diversity**

- 1 = Landform has low amount of topographic diversity and variety.  
2 = Landform has moderate amount of topographic diversity and variety.  
3 = Landform has high amount of topographic diversity and variety.

**3**

**Recovery Time**

- 1 = Long-term recovery time (greater than 5 years)  
2 = Medium recovery time (3 to 5 years)  
3 = High (rapid) recovery time (1 to 2 years)

**2**

**Overall Score**

**12**

**5 - 7 = Low**

**8 - 11 = Medium**

**12 - 15 = High**

**Visual Absorption Capacity  
(Low, Medium, High)**

**High**

**Rationale and Conclusion**

Densely forested. Residential development could be located on the mountain without impairing scenic values; large-scale projects (wind, communication sites) or those not repeating landscape elements would not blend in.

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VISUAL ABSORPTION CAPACITY RATING SHEET

Scenic Quality Rating Unit: Upper Medicine Bow Basin

Date 8/5/2010

Unit Number: 85

Evaluators: CBrandt JLieen GLong

	SCORE
<p><b>Vegetation</b></p> <p>1 = Low, uniform vegetation or sparse vegetative cover; typically less than 3' in height; lacking in variety; uniform color; minimal screening capability; typically sagebrush, sagebrush/grass, or grass type vegetation.</p> <p>2 = Vegetation of moderate height (3–6'), some species variety (2 to 3 types), some variation in color, mostly continuous vegetative cover, effectively screens low-profile projects such as low-profile surface disturbance, sagebrush/grass, and intermingled shrubs.</p> <p>3 = Higher vegetation (&gt;6' height); lush, continuous vegetative cover; some variety of vegetative types is typical but not mandatory; provides significant screening capability of projects up to 15–20 feet in height; juniper woodlands, aspen, conifers.</p>	<p>1</p>
<p><b>Soil Contrast</b></p> <p>1 = Surface disturbance would expose a high degree of contrast in color with surrounding soil, rock, and vegetation.</p> <p>2 = Surface disturbance would expose a medium degree of contrast in color with surrounding soil, rock, and vegetation.</p> <p>3 = Surface disturbance would expose only a low degree of contrast in color with surrounding soil, rock, and vegetation.</p>	<p>2</p>
<p><b>Visual Variety</b></p> <p>1 = Rating unit exhibits a low degree of visual variety in terms of the landscape character elements of form, line, and texture; may also exhibit minimal variety in landforms, vegetation, or color.</p> <p>2 = Rating unit exhibits a medium degree of visual variety in terms of the landscape character elements of form, line, and texture; may also exhibit medium variety in landforms, vegetation, or color.</p> <p>3 = Rating unit exhibits a high degree of visual variety in terms of the landscape character elements of form, line, and texture; may also exhibit high degree of variety in landforms, vegetation, or color.</p>	<p>1</p>

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VISUAL ABSORPTION CAPACITY RATING SHEET

SCORE

**Topographical Diversity**

- 1 = Landform has low amount of topographic diversity and variety.  
2 = Landform has moderate amount of topographic diversity and variety.  
3 = Landform has high amount of topographic diversity and variety.

1

**Recovery Time**

- 1 = Long-term recovery time (greater than 5 years)  
2 = Medium recovery time (3 to 5 years)  
3 = High (rapid) recovery time (1 to 2 years)

3

**Overall Score**

8

5 - 7 = Low  
8 - 11 = Medium  
12 - 15 = High

**Visual Absorption Capacity**  
(Low, Medium, High)

Medium

**Rationale and Conclusion**

Rapid recovery time and moderate contrast in soil color combine to produce medium VAC.

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VISUAL ABSORPTION CAPACITY RATING SHEET

Scenic Quality Rating Unit: Sand Creek Hills

Date 8/17/2010

Unit Number: 86

Evaluators: CBrandt JLieen GLong

	SCORE
<p><b>Vegetation</b></p> <p>1 = Low, uniform vegetation or sparse vegetative cover; typically less than 3' in height; lacking in variety; uniform color; minimal screening capability; typically sagebrush, sagebrush/grass, or grass type vegetation.</p> <p>2 = Vegetation of moderate height (3–6'), some species variety (2 to 3 types), some variation in color, mostly continuous vegetative cover, effectively screens low-profile projects such as low-profile surface disturbance, sagebrush/grass, and intermingled shrubs.</p> <p>3 = Higher vegetation (&gt;6' height); lush, continuous vegetative cover; some variety of vegetative types is typical but not mandatory; provides significant screening capability of projects up to 15–20 feet in height; juniper woodlands, aspen, conifers.</p>	<p>2</p>
<p><b>Soil Contrast</b></p> <p>1 = Surface disturbance would expose a high degree of contrast in color with surrounding soil, rock, and vegetation.</p> <p>2 = Surface disturbance would expose a medium degree of contrast in color with surrounding soil, rock, and vegetation.</p> <p>3 = Surface disturbance would expose only a low degree of contrast in color with surrounding soil, rock, and vegetation.</p>	<p>1</p>
<p><b>Visual Variety</b></p> <p>1 = Rating unit exhibits a low degree of visual variety in terms of the landscape character elements of form, line, and texture; may also exhibit minimal variety in landforms, vegetation, or color.</p> <p>2 = Rating unit exhibits a medium degree of visual variety in terms of the landscape character elements of form, line, and texture; may also exhibit medium variety in landforms, vegetation, or color.</p> <p>3 = Rating unit exhibits a high degree of visual variety in terms of the landscape character elements of form, line, and texture; may also exhibit high degree of variety in landforms, vegetation, or color.</p>	<p>2</p>

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**VISUAL ABSORPTION CAPACITY RATING SHEET**

**SCORE**

**Topographical Diversity**

- 1 = Landform has low amount of topographic diversity and variety.  
2 = Landform has moderate amount of topographic diversity and variety.  
3 = Landform has high amount of topographic diversity and variety.

2

**Recovery Time**

- 1 = Long-term recovery time (greater than 5 years)  
2 = Medium recovery time (3 to 5 years)  
3 = High (rapid) recovery time (1 to 2 years)

1

**Overall Score**

8

5 - 7 = Low  
8 - 11 = Medium  
12 - 15 = High

**Visual Absorption Capacity**  
(Low, Medium, High)

Medium

**Rationale and Conclusion**

Fairly big topographic diversity provides opportunities to conceal most low-profile projects. Vegetation in much of the area is fairly high.

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RAWLINS FIELD OFFICE

VISUAL ABSORPTION CAPACITY RATING SHEET

Scenic Quality Rating Unit: Spade Flats

Date 8/17/2010

Unit Number: 87

Evaluators: CBrandt JLieen GLong

	SCORE
<p><b>Vegetation</b></p> <p>1 = Low, uniform vegetation or sparse vegetative cover; typically less than 3' in height; lacking in variety; uniform color; minimal screening capability; typically sagebrush, sagebrush/grass, or grass type vegetation.</p> <p>2 = Vegetation of moderate height (3–6'), some species variety (2 to 3 types), some variation in color, mostly continuous vegetative cover, effectively screens low-profile projects such as low-profile surface disturbance, sagebrush/grass, and intermingled shrubs.</p> <p>3 = Higher vegetation (&gt;6' height); lush, continuous vegetative cover; some variety of vegetative types is typical but not mandatory; provides significant screening capability of projects up to 15–20 feet in height; juniper woodlands, aspen, conifers.</p>	<p>1</p>
<p><b>Soil Contrast</b></p> <p>1 = Surface disturbance would expose a high degree of contrast in color with surrounding soil, rock, and vegetation.</p> <p>2 = Surface disturbance would expose a medium degree of contrast in color with surrounding soil, rock, and vegetation.</p> <p>3 = Surface disturbance would expose only a low degree of contrast in color with surrounding soil, rock, and vegetation.</p>	<p>2</p>
<p><b>Visual Variety</b></p> <p>1 = Rating unit exhibits a low degree of visual variety in terms of the landscape character elements of form, line, and texture; may also exhibit minimal variety in landforms, vegetation, or color.</p> <p>2 = Rating unit exhibits a medium degree of visual variety in terms of the landscape character elements of form, line, and texture; may also exhibit medium variety in landforms, vegetation, or color.</p> <p>3 = Rating unit exhibits a high degree of visual variety in terms of the landscape character elements of form, line, and texture; may also exhibit high degree of variety in landforms, vegetation, or color.</p>	<p>1</p>

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**RAWLINS FIELD OFFICE**

**VISUAL ABSORPTION CAPACITY RATING SHEET**

**SCORE**

**Topographical Diversity**

- 1 = Landform has low amount of topographic diversity and variety.  
2 = Landform has moderate amount of topographic diversity and variety.  
3 = Landform has high amount of topographic diversity and variety.

**1**

**Recovery Time**

- 1 = Long-term recovery time (greater than 5 years)  
2 = Medium recovery time (3 to 5 years)  
3 = High (rapid) recovery time (1 to 2 years)

**1**

**Overall Score**

**6**

**5 - 7 = Low**  
**8 - 11 = Medium**  
**12 - 15 = High**

**Visual Absorption Capacity**  
**(Low, Medium, High)**

**Low**

**Rationale and Conclusion**

All factors would rate low VAC except that soil and vegetation have relatively low contrast due to light-colored vegetation.

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VISUAL ABSORPTION CAPACITY RATING SHEET

Scenic Quality Rating Unit: Slate Ridge

Date 8/19/2010

Unit Number: 88

Evaluators: CBrandt JLieen GLong

	SCORE
<p><b>Vegetation</b></p> <p>1 = Low, uniform vegetation or sparse vegetative cover; typically less than 3' in height; lacking in variety; uniform color; minimal screening capability; typically sagebrush, sagebrush/grass, or grass type vegetation.</p> <p>2 = Vegetation of moderate height (3–6'), some species variety (2 to 3 types), some variation in color, mostly continuous vegetative cover, effectively screens low-profile projects such as low-profile surface disturbance, sagebrush/grass, and intermingled shrubs.</p> <p>3 = Higher vegetation (&gt;6' height); lush, continuous vegetative cover; some variety of vegetative types is typical but not mandatory; provides significant screening capability of projects up to 15–20 feet in height; juniper woodlands, aspen, conifers.</p>	<p>2</p>
<p><b>Soil Contrast</b></p> <p>1 = Surface disturbance would expose a high degree of contrast in color with surrounding soil, rock, and vegetation.</p> <p>2 = Surface disturbance would expose a medium degree of contrast in color with surrounding soil, rock, and vegetation.</p> <p>3 = Surface disturbance would expose only a low degree of contrast in color with surrounding soil, rock, and vegetation.</p>	<p>2</p>
<p><b>Visual Variety</b></p> <p>1 = Rating unit exhibits a low degree of visual variety in terms of the landscape character elements of form, line, and texture; may also exhibit minimal variety in landforms, vegetation, or color.</p> <p>2 = Rating unit exhibits a medium degree of visual variety in terms of the landscape character elements of form, line, and texture; may also exhibit medium variety in landforms, vegetation, or color.</p> <p>3 = Rating unit exhibits a high degree of visual variety in terms of the landscape character elements of form, line, and texture; may also exhibit high degree of variety in landforms, vegetation, or color.</p>	<p>2</p>

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**VISUAL ABSORPTION CAPACITY RATING SHEET**

**SCORE**

**Topographical Diversity**

- 1 = Landform has low amount of topographic diversity and variety.  
2 = Landform has moderate amount of topographic diversity and variety.  
3 = Landform has high amount of topographic diversity and variety.

**2**

**Recovery Time**

- 1 = Long-term recovery time (greater than 5 years)  
2 = Medium recovery time (3 to 5 years)  
3 = High (rapid) recovery time (1 to 2 years)

**1**

**Overall Score**

**8**

**5 - 7 = Low**  
**8 - 11 = Medium**  
**12 - 15 = High**

**Visual Absorption Capacity**  
**(Low, Medium, High)**

**Medium**

**Rationale and Conclusion**

Higher landform diversity and vegetation gives the area a medium VAC.

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VISUAL ABSORPTION CAPACITY RATING SHEET

Scenic Quality Rating Unit: Freezeout Mountains

Date 8/18/2010

Unit Number: 89

Evaluators: CBrandt JLieen GLong

	SCORE
<p><b>Vegetation</b></p> <p>1 = Low, uniform vegetation or sparse vegetative cover; typically less than 3' in height; lacking in variety; uniform color; minimal screening capability; typically sagebrush, sagebrush/grass, or grass type vegetation.</p> <p>2 = Vegetation of moderate height (3–6'), some species variety (2 to 3 types), some variation in color, mostly continuous vegetative cover, effectively screens low-profile projects such as low-profile surface disturbance, sagebrush/grass, and intermingled shrubs.</p> <p>3 = Higher vegetation (&gt;6' height); lush, continuous vegetative cover; some variety of vegetative types is typical but not mandatory; provides significant screening capability of projects up to 15–20 feet in height; juniper woodlands, aspen, conifers.</p>	<p>2</p>
<p><b>Soil Contrast</b></p> <p>1 = Surface disturbance would expose a high degree of contrast in color with surrounding soil, rock, and vegetation.</p> <p>2 = Surface disturbance would expose a medium degree of contrast in color with surrounding soil, rock, and vegetation.</p> <p>3 = Surface disturbance would expose only a low degree of contrast in color with surrounding soil, rock, and vegetation.</p>	<p>2</p>
<p><b>Visual Variety</b></p> <p>1 = Rating unit exhibits a low degree of visual variety in terms of the landscape character elements of form, line, and texture; may also exhibit minimal variety in landforms, vegetation, or color.</p> <p>2 = Rating unit exhibits a medium degree of visual variety in terms of the landscape character elements of form, line, and texture; may also exhibit medium variety in landforms, vegetation, or color.</p> <p>3 = Rating unit exhibits a high degree of visual variety in terms of the landscape character elements of form, line, and texture; may also exhibit high degree of variety in landforms, vegetation, or color.</p>	<p>3</p>

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**VISUAL ABSORPTION CAPACITY RATING SHEET**

**SCORE**

**Topographical Diversity**

- 1 = Landform has low amount of topographic diversity and variety.
- 2 = Landform has moderate amount of topographic diversity and variety.
- 3 = Landform has high amount of topographic diversity and variety.

3

**Recovery Time**

- 1 = Long-term recovery time (greater than 5 years)
- 2 = Medium recovery time (3 to 5 years)
- 3 = High (rapid) recovery time (1 to 2 years)

1

**Overall Score**

11

- 5 - 7 = Low
- 8 - 11 = Medium
- 12 - 15 = High

**Visual Absorption Capacity  
(Low, Medium, High)**

Medium

**Rationale and Conclusion**

Higher visual variety and topographic diversity. Significant topographic variability would create opportunities to conceal projects and localize visual impacts.

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VISUAL ABSORPTION CAPACITY RATING SHEET

Scenic Quality Rating Unit: Muddy Creek Flats

Date 8/1/2010

Unit Number: 90

Evaluators: CBrandt JLieen GLong

	SCORE
<p><b>Vegetation</b></p> <p>1 = Low, uniform vegetation or sparse vegetative cover; typically less than 3' in height; lacking in variety; uniform color; minimal screening capability; typically sagebrush, sagebrush/grass, or grass type vegetation.</p> <p>2 = Vegetation of moderate height (3–6'), some species variety (2 to 3 types), some variation in color, mostly continuous vegetative cover, effectively screens low-profile projects such as low-profile surface disturbance, sagebrush/grass, and intermingled shrubs.</p> <p>3 = Higher vegetation (&gt;6' height); lush, continuous vegetative cover; some variety of vegetative types is typical but not mandatory; provides significant screening capability of projects up to 15–20 feet in height; juniper woodlands, aspen, conifers.</p>	<p>1</p>
<p><b>Soil Contrast</b></p> <p>1 = Surface disturbance would expose a high degree of contrast in color with surrounding soil, rock, and vegetation.</p> <p>2 = Surface disturbance would expose a medium degree of contrast in color with surrounding soil, rock, and vegetation.</p> <p>3 = Surface disturbance would expose only a low degree of contrast in color with surrounding soil, rock, and vegetation.</p>	<p>1</p>
<p><b>Visual Variety</b></p> <p>1 = Rating unit exhibits a low degree of visual variety in terms of the landscape character elements of form, line, and texture; may also exhibit minimal variety in landforms, vegetation, or color.</p> <p>2 = Rating unit exhibits a medium degree of visual variety in terms of the landscape character elements of form, line, and texture; may also exhibit medium variety in landforms, vegetation, or color.</p> <p>3 = Rating unit exhibits a high degree of visual variety in terms of the landscape character elements of form, line, and texture; may also exhibit high degree of variety in landforms, vegetation, or color.</p>	<p>1</p>

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**VISUAL ABSORPTION CAPACITY RATING SHEET**

**SCORE**

**Topographical Diversity**

- 1 = Landform has low amount of topographic diversity and variety.  
2 = Landform has moderate amount of topographic diversity and variety.  
3 = Landform has high amount of topographic diversity and variety.

**1**

**Recovery Time**

- 1 = Long-term recovery time (greater than 5 years)  
2 = Medium recovery time (3 to 5 years)  
3 = High (rapid) recovery time (1 to 2 years)

**1**

**Overall Score**

**5**

**5 - 7 = Low**  
**8 - 11 = Medium**  
**12 - 15 = High**

**Visual Absorption Capacity**  
**(Low, Medium, High)**

**Low**

**Rationale and Conclusion**

Low, flat terrain covered primarily by greasewood limits VAC.

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VISUAL ABSORPTION CAPACITY RATING SHEET

Scenic Quality Rating Unit: Shirley Basin

Date 8/19/2010

Unit Number: 91

Evaluators: CBrandt JLieen GLong

	SCORE
<p><b>Vegetation</b></p> <p>1 = Low, uniform vegetation or sparse vegetative cover; typically less than 3' in height; lacking in variety; uniform color; minimal screening capability; typically sagebrush, sagebrush/grass, or grass type vegetation.</p> <p>2 = Vegetation of moderate height (3–6'), some species variety (2 to 3 types), some variation in color, mostly continuous vegetative cover, effectively screens low-profile projects such as low-profile surface disturbance, sagebrush/grass, and intermingled shrubs.</p> <p>3 = Higher vegetation (&gt;6' height); lush, continuous vegetative cover; some variety of vegetative types is typical but not mandatory; provides significant screening capability of projects up to 15–20 feet in height; juniper woodlands, aspen, conifers.</p>	<p>1</p>
<p><b>Soil Contrast</b></p> <p>1 = Surface disturbance would expose a high degree of contrast in color with surrounding soil, rock, and vegetation.</p> <p>2 = Surface disturbance would expose a medium degree of contrast in color with surrounding soil, rock, and vegetation.</p> <p>3 = Surface disturbance would expose only a low degree of contrast in color with surrounding soil, rock, and vegetation.</p>	<p>2</p>
<p><b>Visual Variety</b></p> <p>1 = Rating unit exhibits a low degree of visual variety in terms of the landscape character elements of form, line, and texture; may also exhibit minimal variety in landforms, vegetation, or color.</p> <p>2 = Rating unit exhibits a medium degree of visual variety in terms of the landscape character elements of form, line, and texture; may also exhibit medium variety in landforms, vegetation, or color.</p> <p>3 = Rating unit exhibits a high degree of visual variety in terms of the landscape character elements of form, line, and texture; may also exhibit high degree of variety in landforms, vegetation, or color.</p>	<p>1</p>

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**VISUAL ABSORPTION CAPACITY RATING SHEET**

**SCORE**

**Topographical Diversity**

- 1 = Landform has low amount of topographic diversity and variety.
- 2 = Landform has moderate amount of topographic diversity and variety.
- 3 = Landform has high amount of topographic diversity and variety.

**1**

**Recovery Time**

- 1 = Long-term recovery time (greater than 5 years)
- 2 = Medium recovery time (3 to 5 years)
- 3 = High (rapid) recovery time (1 to 2 years)

**1**

**Overall Score**

**6**

- 5 - 7 = Low**
- 8 - 11 = Medium**
- 12 - 15 = High**

**Visual Absorption Capacity  
(Low, Medium, High)**

**Low**

**Rationale and Conclusion**

A vast, open landscape with little visual variety and low, continuous vegetation. This is a visually dramatic landscape. Low VAC suggests that significant project development would have far-reaching visual impacts.

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VISUAL ABSORPTION CAPACITY RATING SHEET

**Scenic Quality Rating Unit:** Bates Hole **Date** 8/18/2010

**Unit Number:** 92

**Evaluators:** CBrandt JLieen GLong

	<b>SCORE</b>
<p><b>Vegetation</b></p> <p>1 = Low, uniform vegetation or sparse vegetative cover; typically less than 3' in height; lacking in variety; uniform color; minimal screening capability; typically sagebrush, sagebrush/grass, or grass type vegetation.</p> <p>2 = Vegetation of moderate height (3–6'), some species variety (2 to 3 types), some variation in color, mostly continuous vegetative cover, effectively screens low-profile projects such as low-profile surface disturbance, sagebrush/grass, and intermingled shrubs.</p> <p>3 = Higher vegetation (&gt;6' height); lush, continuous vegetative cover; some variety of vegetative types is typical but not mandatory; provides significant screening capability of projects up to 15–20 feet in height; juniper woodlands, aspen, conifers.</p>	<b>2</b>
<p><b>Soil Contrast</b></p> <p>1 = Surface disturbance would expose a high degree of contrast in color with surrounding soil, rock, and vegetation.</p> <p>2 = Surface disturbance would expose a medium degree of contrast in color with surrounding soil, rock, and vegetation.</p> <p>3 = Surface disturbance would expose only a low degree of contrast in color with surrounding soil, rock, and vegetation.</p>	<b>1</b>
<p><b>Visual Variety</b></p> <p>1 = Rating unit exhibits a low degree of visual variety in terms of the landscape character elements of form, line, and texture; may also exhibit minimal variety in landforms, vegetation, or color.</p> <p>2 = Rating unit exhibits a medium degree of visual variety in terms of the landscape character elements of form, line, and texture; may also exhibit medium variety in landforms, vegetation, or color.</p> <p>3 = Rating unit exhibits a high degree of visual variety in terms of the landscape character elements of form, line, and texture; may also exhibit high degree of variety in landforms, vegetation, or color.</p>	<b>2</b>

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**VISUAL ABSORPTION CAPACITY RATING SHEET**

**SCORE**

**Topographical Diversity**

- 1 = Landform has low amount of topographic diversity and variety.  
2 = Landform has moderate amount of topographic diversity and variety.  
3 = Landform has high amount of topographic diversity and variety.

**2**

**Recovery Time**

- 1 = Long-term recovery time (greater than 5 years)  
2 = Medium recovery time (3 to 5 years)  
3 = High (rapid) recovery time (1 to 2 years)

**1**

**Overall Score**

**8**

**5 - 7 = Low**  
**8 - 11 = Medium**  
**12 - 15 = High**

**Visual Absorption Capacity**  
**(Low, Medium, High)**

**Medium**

**Rationale and Conclusion**

Parts of the area exhibit high VAC. Overall, however, most human activity would be noted.

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VISUAL ABSORPTION CAPACITY RATING SHEET

**Scenic Quality Rating Unit:** North of Moss Agate Ridge

**Date:** 8/19/2010

**Unit Number:** 93

**Evaluators:** CBrandt JLieen GLong

	<b>SCORE</b>
<p><b>Vegetation</b></p> <p>1 = Low, uniform vegetation or sparse vegetative cover; typically less than 3' in height; lacking in variety; uniform color; minimal screening capability; typically sagebrush, sagebrush/grass, or grass type vegetation.</p> <p>2 = Vegetation of moderate height (3–6'), some species variety (2 to 3 types), some variation in color, mostly continuous vegetative cover, effectively screens low-profile projects such as low-profile surface disturbance, sagebrush/grass, and intermingled shrubs.</p> <p>3 = Higher vegetation (&gt;6' height); lush, continuous vegetative cover; some variety of vegetative types is typical but not mandatory; provides significant screening capability of projects up to 15–20 feet in height; juniper woodlands, aspen, conifers.</p>	<div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 5px; width: 40px; margin: 0 auto;">1</div>
<p><b>Soil Contrast</b></p> <p>1 = Surface disturbance would expose a high degree of contrast in color with surrounding soil, rock, and vegetation.</p> <p>2 = Surface disturbance would expose a medium degree of contrast in color with surrounding soil, rock, and vegetation.</p> <p>3 = Surface disturbance would expose only a low degree of contrast in color with surrounding soil, rock, and vegetation.</p>	<div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 5px; width: 40px; margin: 0 auto;">2</div>
<p><b>Visual Variety</b></p> <p>1 = Rating unit exhibits a low degree of visual variety in terms of the landscape character elements of form, line, and texture; may also exhibit minimal variety in landforms, vegetation, or color.</p> <p>2 = Rating unit exhibits a medium degree of visual variety in terms of the landscape character elements of form, line, and texture; may also exhibit medium variety in landforms, vegetation, or color.</p> <p>3 = Rating unit exhibits a high degree of visual variety in terms of the landscape character elements of form, line, and texture; may also exhibit high degree of variety in landforms, vegetation, or color.</p>	<div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 5px; width: 40px; margin: 0 auto;">1</div>

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**VISUAL ABSORPTION CAPACITY RATING SHEET**

**SCORE**

**Topographical Diversity**

- 1 = Landform has low amount of topographic diversity and variety.  
2 = Landform has moderate amount of topographic diversity and variety.  
3 = Landform has high amount of topographic diversity and variety.

**1**

**Recovery Time**

- 1 = Long-term recovery time (greater than 5 years)  
2 = Medium recovery time (3 to 5 years)  
3 = High (rapid) recovery time (1 to 2 years)

**1**

**Overall Score**

**6**

**5 - 7 = Low**  
**8 - 11 = Medium**  
**12 - 15 = High**

**Visual Absorption Capacity**  
**(Low, Medium, High)**

**Low**

**Rationale and Conclusion**

Wide-open spaces with low vegetation, a lack of visual variety and diversity.

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VISUAL ABSORPTION CAPACITY RATING SHEET

Scenic Quality Rating Unit: Mines

Date 8/19/2010

Unit Number: 94

Evaluators: CBrandt JLieen GLong

	SCORE
<p><b>Vegetation</b></p> <p>1 = Low, uniform vegetation or sparse vegetative cover; typically less than 3' in height; lacking in variety; uniform color; minimal screening capability; typically sagebrush, sagebrush/grass, or grass type vegetation.</p> <p>2 = Vegetation of moderate height (3–6'), some species variety (2 to 3 types), some variation in color, mostly continuous vegetative cover, effectively screens low-profile projects such as low-profile surface disturbance, sagebrush/grass, and intermingled shrubs.</p> <p>3 = Higher vegetation (&gt;6' height); lush, continuous vegetative cover; some variety of vegetative types is typical but not mandatory; provides significant screening capability of projects up to 15–20 feet in height; juniper woodlands, aspen, conifers.</p>	<p>1</p>
<p><b>Soil Contrast</b></p> <p>1 = Surface disturbance would expose a high degree of contrast in color with surrounding soil, rock, and vegetation.</p> <p>2 = Surface disturbance would expose a medium degree of contrast in color with surrounding soil, rock, and vegetation.</p> <p>3 = Surface disturbance would expose only a low degree of contrast in color with surrounding soil, rock, and vegetation.</p>	<p>2</p>
<p><b>Visual Variety</b></p> <p>1 = Rating unit exhibits a low degree of visual variety in terms of the landscape character elements of form, line, and texture; may also exhibit minimal variety in landforms, vegetation, or color.</p> <p>2 = Rating unit exhibits a medium degree of visual variety in terms of the landscape character elements of form, line, and texture; may also exhibit medium variety in landforms, vegetation, or color.</p> <p>3 = Rating unit exhibits a high degree of visual variety in terms of the landscape character elements of form, line, and texture; may also exhibit high degree of variety in landforms, vegetation, or color.</p>	<p>1</p>

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**VISUAL ABSORPTION CAPACITY RATING SHEET**

**SCORE**

**Topographical Diversity**

- 1 = Landform has low amount of topographic diversity and variety.
- 2 = Landform has moderate amount of topographic diversity and variety.
- 3 = Landform has high amount of topographic diversity and variety.

**1**

**Recovery Time**

- 1 = Long-term recovery time (greater than 5 years)
- 2 = Medium recovery time (3 to 5 years)
- 3 = High (rapid) recovery time (1 to 2 years)

**2**

**Overall Score**

**7**

- 5 - 7 = Low**
- 8 - 11 = Medium**
- 12 - 15 = High**

**Visual Absorption Capacity  
(Low, Medium, High)**

**Low**

**Rationale and Conclusion**

The reclaimed spoil piles are high, rounded hills with uniform grass vegetation. Even though recovery time and soil contrast are medium, overall VAC is low.

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VISUAL ABSORPTION CAPACITY RATING SHEET

Scenic Quality Rating Unit: Little Medicine Bow River

Date 8/19/2010

Unit Number: 95

Evaluators: CBrandt JLieen GLong

	SCORE
<p><b>Vegetation</b></p> <p>1 = Low, uniform vegetation or sparse vegetative cover; typically less than 3' in height; lacking in variety; uniform color; minimal screening capability; typically sagebrush, sagebrush/grass, or grass type vegetation.</p> <p>2 = Vegetation of moderate height (3–6'), some species variety (2 to 3 types), some variation in color, mostly continuous vegetative cover, effectively screens low-profile projects such as low-profile surface disturbance, sagebrush/grass, and intermingled shrubs.</p> <p>3 = Higher vegetation (&gt;6' height); lush, continuous vegetative cover; some variety of vegetative types is typical but not mandatory; provides significant screening capability of projects up to 15–20 feet in height; juniper woodlands, aspen, conifers.</p>	<p>1</p>
<p><b>Soil Contrast</b></p> <p>1 = Surface disturbance would expose a high degree of contrast in color with surrounding soil, rock, and vegetation.</p> <p>2 = Surface disturbance would expose a medium degree of contrast in color with surrounding soil, rock, and vegetation.</p> <p>3 = Surface disturbance would expose only a low degree of contrast in color with surrounding soil, rock, and vegetation.</p>	<p>2</p>
<p><b>Visual Variety</b></p> <p>1 = Rating unit exhibits a low degree of visual variety in terms of the landscape character elements of form, line, and texture; may also exhibit minimal variety in landforms, vegetation, or color.</p> <p>2 = Rating unit exhibits a medium degree of visual variety in terms of the landscape character elements of form, line, and texture; may also exhibit medium variety in landforms, vegetation, or color.</p> <p>3 = Rating unit exhibits a high degree of visual variety in terms of the landscape character elements of form, line, and texture; may also exhibit high degree of variety in landforms, vegetation, or color.</p>	<p>1</p>

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**VISUAL ABSORPTION CAPACITY RATING SHEET**

**SCORE**

**Topographical Diversity**

- 1 = Landform has low amount of topographic diversity and variety.  
2 = Landform has moderate amount of topographic diversity and variety.  
3 = Landform has high amount of topographic diversity and variety.

**1**

**Recovery Time**

- 1 = Long-term recovery time (greater than 5 years)  
2 = Medium recovery time (3 to 5 years)  
3 = High (rapid) recovery time (1 to 2 years)

**1**

**Overall Score**

**6**

**5 - 7 = Low**  
**8 - 11 = Medium**  
**12 - 15 = High**

**Visual Absorption Capacity**  
**(Low, Medium, High)**

**Low**

**Rationale and Conclusion**

This landscape has little capability to absorb visual impacts. The soil contrast is moderate because of the light color of vegetation.

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VISUAL ABSORPTION CAPACITY RATING SHEET

Scenic Quality Rating Unit: Cameron Pass

Date 8/19/2010

Unit Number: 96

Evaluators: CBrandt JLieen GLong

	SCORE
<p><b>Vegetation</b></p> <p>1 = Low, uniform vegetation or sparse vegetative cover; typically less than 3' in height; lacking in variety; uniform color; minimal screening capability; typically sagebrush, sagebrush/grass, or grass type vegetation.</p> <p>2 = Vegetation of moderate height (3–6'), some species variety (2 to 3 types), some variation in color, mostly continuous vegetative cover, effectively screens low-profile projects such as low-profile surface disturbance, sagebrush/grass, and intermingled shrubs.</p> <p>3 = Higher vegetation (&gt;6' height); lush, continuous vegetative cover; some variety of vegetative types is typical but not mandatory; provides significant screening capability of projects up to 15–20 feet in height; juniper woodlands, aspen, conifers.</p>	<p>2</p>
<p><b>Soil Contrast</b></p> <p>1 = Surface disturbance would expose a high degree of contrast in color with surrounding soil, rock, and vegetation.</p> <p>2 = Surface disturbance would expose a medium degree of contrast in color with surrounding soil, rock, and vegetation.</p> <p>3 = Surface disturbance would expose only a low degree of contrast in color with surrounding soil, rock, and vegetation.</p>	<p>2</p>
<p><b>Visual Variety</b></p> <p>1 = Rating unit exhibits a low degree of visual variety in terms of the landscape character elements of form, line, and texture; may also exhibit minimal variety in landforms, vegetation, or color.</p> <p>2 = Rating unit exhibits a medium degree of visual variety in terms of the landscape character elements of form, line, and texture; may also exhibit medium variety in landforms, vegetation, or color.</p> <p>3 = Rating unit exhibits a high degree of visual variety in terms of the landscape character elements of form, line, and texture; may also exhibit high degree of variety in landforms, vegetation, or color.</p>	<p>2</p>

UNITED STATES  
DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT

**RAWLINS FIELD OFFICE**

**VISUAL ABSORPTION CAPACITY RATING SHEET**

**SCORE**

**Topographical Diversity**

- 1 = Landform has low amount of topographic diversity and variety.  
2 = Landform has moderate amount of topographic diversity and variety.  
3 = Landform has high amount of topographic diversity and variety.

**3**

**Recovery Time**

- 1 = Long-term recovery time (greater than 5 years)  
2 = Medium recovery time (3 to 5 years)  
3 = High (rapid) recovery time (1 to 2 years)

**2**

**Overall Score**

**11**

**5 - 7 = Low**

**8 - 11 = Medium**

**12 - 15 = High**

**Visual Absorption Capacity  
(Low, Medium, High)**

**Medium**

**Rationale and Conclusion**

Higher visual variety of topography and vegetation. Most low-profile projects such as road-building or low structures would fit into this landscape without major visual impacts.

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VISUAL ABSORPTION CAPACITY RATING SHEET

Scenic Quality Rating Unit: North Laramie River

Date 8/20/2010

Unit Number: 97

Evaluators: CBrandt JLieen GLong

	SCORE
<p><b>Vegetation</b></p> <p>1 = Low, uniform vegetation or sparse vegetative cover; typically less than 3' in height; lacking in variety; uniform color; minimal screening capability; typically sagebrush, sagebrush/grass, or grass type vegetation.</p> <p>2 = Vegetation of moderate height (3–6'), some species variety (2 to 3 types), some variation in color, mostly continuous vegetative cover, effectively screens low-profile projects such as low-profile surface disturbance, sagebrush/grass, and intermingled shrubs.</p> <p>3 = Higher vegetation (&gt;6' height); lush, continuous vegetative cover; some variety of vegetative types is typical but not mandatory; provides significant screening capability of projects up to 15–20 feet in height; juniper woodlands, aspen, conifers.</p>	<p>2</p>
<p><b>Soil Contrast</b></p> <p>1 = Surface disturbance would expose a high degree of contrast in color with surrounding soil, rock, and vegetation.</p> <p>2 = Surface disturbance would expose a medium degree of contrast in color with surrounding soil, rock, and vegetation.</p> <p>3 = Surface disturbance would expose only a low degree of contrast in color with surrounding soil, rock, and vegetation.</p>	<p>2</p>
<p><b>Visual Variety</b></p> <p>1 = Rating unit exhibits a low degree of visual variety in terms of the landscape character elements of form, line, and texture; may also exhibit minimal variety in landforms, vegetation, or color.</p> <p>2 = Rating unit exhibits a medium degree of visual variety in terms of the landscape character elements of form, line, and texture; may also exhibit medium variety in landforms, vegetation, or color.</p> <p>3 = Rating unit exhibits a high degree of visual variety in terms of the landscape character elements of form, line, and texture; may also exhibit high degree of variety in landforms, vegetation, or color.</p>	<p>2</p>

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<b>Scenic Quality Rating Unit:</b> 97    North Laramie River			
<b>4. SCORE</b>			<b>SCENIC QUALITY CLASSIFICATION</b> (check one)  <input type="checkbox"/> <b>A – 19 or more</b>  <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> <b>B – 12 – 18</b>  <input type="checkbox"/> <b>C – 11 or less</b>
	<b>Rating</b>	<b>EXPLANATION OR RATIONALE</b>	
<b>a. Landform</b>	1.5	Valley bottom	
<b>b. Vegetation</b>	4	Diverse, lush	
<b>c. Water</b>	3	North Laramie River	
<b>d. Color</b>	3	Vibrant	
<b>e. Adjacent Scenery</b>	1	None of great note	
<b>f. Scarcity</b>	3	Distinctive	<input type="checkbox"/> <b>Rehab</b>  <input type="checkbox"/> <b>Special Area</b>
<b>g. Cultural Modification</b>	-0.5	Ranch activity	
<b>TOTAL</b>	15		

**Comments:**

Notable color and water feature.

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VISUAL ABSORPTION CAPACITY RATING SHEET

Scenic Quality Rating Unit: North Laramie Canyon

Date 8/23/2010

Unit Number: 98

Evaluators: CBrandt JLieen GLong

	SCORE
<p><b>Vegetation</b></p> <p>1 = Low, uniform vegetation or sparse vegetative cover; typically less than 3' in height; lacking in variety; uniform color; minimal screening capability; typically sagebrush, sagebrush/grass, or grass type vegetation.</p> <p>2 = Vegetation of moderate height (3–6'), some species variety (2 to 3 types), some variation in color, mostly continuous vegetative cover, effectively screens low-profile projects such as low-profile surface disturbance, sagebrush/grass, and intermingled shrubs.</p> <p>3 = Higher vegetation (&gt;6' height); lush, continuous vegetative cover; some variety of vegetative types is typical but not mandatory; provides significant screening capability of projects up to 15–20 feet in height; juniper woodlands, aspen, conifers.</p>	<p>1</p>
<p><b>Soil Contrast</b></p> <p>1 = Surface disturbance would expose a high degree of contrast in color with surrounding soil, rock, and vegetation.</p> <p>2 = Surface disturbance would expose a medium degree of contrast in color with surrounding soil, rock, and vegetation.</p> <p>3 = Surface disturbance would expose only a low degree of contrast in color with surrounding soil, rock, and vegetation.</p>	<p>2</p>
<p><b>Visual Variety</b></p> <p>1 = Rating unit exhibits a low degree of visual variety in terms of the landscape character elements of form, line, and texture; may also exhibit minimal variety in landforms, vegetation, or color.</p> <p>2 = Rating unit exhibits a medium degree of visual variety in terms of the landscape character elements of form, line, and texture; may also exhibit medium variety in landforms, vegetation, or color.</p> <p>3 = Rating unit exhibits a high degree of visual variety in terms of the landscape character elements of form, line, and texture; may also exhibit high degree of variety in landforms, vegetation, or color.</p>	<p>1</p>

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**RAWLINS FIELD OFFICE**

**VISUAL ABSORPTION CAPACITY RATING SHEET**

**SCORE**

**Topographical Diversity**

- 1 = Landform has low amount of topographic diversity and variety.
- 2 = Landform has moderate amount of topographic diversity and variety.
- 3 = Landform has high amount of topographic diversity and variety.

2

**Recovery Time**

- 1 = Long-term recovery time (greater than 5 years)
- 2 = Medium recovery time (3 to 5 years)
- 3 = High (rapid) recovery time (1 to 2 years)

2

**Overall Score**

8

- 5 - 7 = Low**
- 8 - 11 = Medium**
- 12 - 15 = High**

**Visual Absorption Capacity  
(Low, Medium, High)**

Medium

**Rationale and Conclusion**

Medium for traditional projects such as roads and low-profile structures such as oil & gas facilities. Large-scale facilities such as wind turbines would be visible at distances up to 20 miles.

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VISUAL ABSORPTION CAPACITY RATING SHEET

**Scenic Quality Rating Unit:** Transitional Foothills

**Date** 8/20/2010

**Unit Number:** 99

**Evaluators:** CBrandt JLieen GLong

	<b>SCORE</b>
<p><b>Vegetation</b></p> <p>1 = Low, uniform vegetation or sparse vegetative cover; typically less than 3' in height; lacking in variety; uniform color; minimal screening capability; typically sagebrush, sagebrush/grass, or grass type vegetation.</p> <p>2 = Vegetation of moderate height (3–6'), some species variety (2 to 3 types), some variation in color, mostly continuous vegetative cover, effectively screens low-profile projects such as low-profile surface disturbance, sagebrush/grass, and intermingled shrubs.</p> <p>3 = Higher vegetation (&gt;6' height); lush, continuous vegetative cover; some variety of vegetative types is typical but not mandatory; provides significant screening capability of projects up to 15–20 feet in height; juniper woodlands, aspen, conifers.</p>	<b>3</b>
<p><b>Soil Contrast</b></p> <p>1 = Surface disturbance would expose a high degree of contrast in color with surrounding soil, rock, and vegetation.</p> <p>2 = Surface disturbance would expose a medium degree of contrast in color with surrounding soil, rock, and vegetation.</p> <p>3 = Surface disturbance would expose only a low degree of contrast in color with surrounding soil, rock, and vegetation.</p>	<b>2</b>
<p><b>Visual Variety</b></p> <p>1 = Rating unit exhibits a low degree of visual variety in terms of the landscape character elements of form, line, and texture; may also exhibit minimal variety in landforms, vegetation, or color.</p> <p>2 = Rating unit exhibits a medium degree of visual variety in terms of the landscape character elements of form, line, and texture; may also exhibit medium variety in landforms, vegetation, or color.</p> <p>3 = Rating unit exhibits a high degree of visual variety in terms of the landscape character elements of form, line, and texture; may also exhibit high degree of variety in landforms, vegetation, or color.</p>	<b>2</b>

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**VISUAL ABSORPTION CAPACITY RATING SHEET**

**SCORE**

**Topographical Diversity**

- 1 = Landform has low amount of topographic diversity and variety.  
2 = Landform has moderate amount of topographic diversity and variety.  
3 = Landform has high amount of topographic diversity and variety.

**3**

**Recovery Time**

- 1 = Long-term recovery time (greater than 5 years)  
2 = Medium recovery time (3 to 5 years)  
3 = High (rapid) recovery time (1 to 2 years)

**1**

**Overall Score**

**11**

**5 - 7 = Low**  
**8 - 11 = Medium**  
**12 - 15 = High**

**Visual Absorption Capacity**  
**(Low, Medium, High)**

**Medium**

**Rationale and Conclusion**

Rugged terrain and extensive vegetative cover would screen most low-profile projects.

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VISUAL ABSORPTION CAPACITY RATING SHEET

**Scenic Quality Rating Unit:** Davidson Flats **Date:** 8/20/2010

**Unit Number:** 100

**Evaluators:** CBrandt JLieen GLong

	<b>SCORE</b>
<p><b>Vegetation</b></p> <p>1 = Low, uniform vegetation or sparse vegetative cover; typically less than 3' in height; lacking in variety; uniform color; minimal screening capability; typically sagebrush, sagebrush/grass, or grass type vegetation.</p> <p>2 = Vegetation of moderate height (3–6'), some species variety (2 to 3 types), some variation in color, mostly continuous vegetative cover, effectively screens low-profile projects such as low-profile surface disturbance, sagebrush/grass, and intermingled shrubs.</p> <p>3 = Higher vegetation (&gt;6' height); lush, continuous vegetative cover; some variety of vegetative types is typical but not mandatory; provides significant screening capability of projects up to 15–20 feet in height; juniper woodlands, aspen, conifers.</p>	<b>1</b>
<p><b>Soil Contrast</b></p> <p>1 = Surface disturbance would expose a high degree of contrast in color with surrounding soil, rock, and vegetation.</p> <p>2 = Surface disturbance would expose a medium degree of contrast in color with surrounding soil, rock, and vegetation.</p> <p>3 = Surface disturbance would expose only a low degree of contrast in color with surrounding soil, rock, and vegetation.</p>	<b>2</b>
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**VISUAL ABSORPTION CAPACITY RATING SHEET**

**SCORE**

**Topographical Diversity**

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3 = Landform has high amount of topographic diversity and variety.

**1**

**Recovery Time**

- 1 = Long-term recovery time (greater than 5 years)  
2 = Medium recovery time (3 to 5 years)  
3 = High (rapid) recovery time (1 to 2 years)

**3**

**Overall Score**

**8**

**5 - 7 = Low  
8 - 11 = Medium  
12 - 15 = High**

**Visual Absorption Capacity  
(Low, Medium, High)**

**Medium**

**Rationale and Conclusion**

Higher recovery time for disturbed areas, coupled with a medium rating for soil/vegetation contrast, produce a medium overall rating.

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VISUAL ABSORPTION CAPACITY RATING SHEET

**Scenic Quality Rating Unit:** Habitat Management Area

**Date:** 8/20/2010

**Unit Number:** 101

**Evaluators:** CBrandt JLieen GLong

	<b>SCORE</b>
<p><b>Vegetation</b></p> <p>1 = Low, uniform vegetation or sparse vegetative cover; typically less than 3' in height; lacking in variety; uniform color; minimal screening capability; typically sagebrush, sagebrush/grass, or grass type vegetation.</p> <p>2 = Vegetation of moderate height (3–6'), some species variety (2 to 3 types), some variation in color, mostly continuous vegetative cover, effectively screens low-profile projects such as low-profile surface disturbance, sagebrush/grass, and intermingled shrubs.</p> <p>3 = Higher vegetation (&gt;6' height); lush, continuous vegetative cover; some variety of vegetative types is typical but not mandatory; provides significant screening capability of projects up to 15–20 feet in height; juniper woodlands, aspen, conifers.</p>	<b>2</b>
<p><b>Soil Contrast</b></p> <p>1 = Surface disturbance would expose a high degree of contrast in color with surrounding soil, rock, and vegetation.</p> <p>2 = Surface disturbance would expose a medium degree of contrast in color with surrounding soil, rock, and vegetation.</p> <p>3 = Surface disturbance would expose only a low degree of contrast in color with surrounding soil, rock, and vegetation.</p>	<b>2</b>
<p><b>Visual Variety</b></p> <p>1 = Rating unit exhibits a low degree of visual variety in terms of the landscape character elements of form, line, and texture; may also exhibit minimal variety in landforms, vegetation, or color.</p> <p>2 = Rating unit exhibits a medium degree of visual variety in terms of the landscape character elements of form, line, and texture; may also exhibit medium variety in landforms, vegetation, or color.</p> <p>3 = Rating unit exhibits a high degree of visual variety in terms of the landscape character elements of form, line, and texture; may also exhibit high degree of variety in landforms, vegetation, or color.</p>	<b>3</b>

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**VISUAL ABSORPTION CAPACITY RATING SHEET**

**SCORE**

**Topographical Diversity**

- 1 = Landform has low amount of topographic diversity and variety.  
2 = Landform has moderate amount of topographic diversity and variety.  
3 = Landform has high amount of topographic diversity and variety.

**3**

**Recovery Time**

- 1 = Long-term recovery time (greater than 5 years)  
2 = Medium recovery time (3 to 5 years)  
3 = High (rapid) recovery time (1 to 2 years)

**1**

**Overall Score**

**11**

**5 - 7 = Low**  
**8 - 11 = Medium**  
**12 - 15 = High**

**Visual Absorption Capacity**  
**(Low, Medium, High)**

**Medium**

**Rationale and Conclusion**

Visual variety and topographic diversity combine to give this unit a high medium VAC.

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VISUAL ABSORPTION CAPACITY RATING SHEET

Scenic Quality Rating Unit: Laramie River

Date 8/20/2010

Unit Number: 102

Evaluators: CBrandt JLieen GLong

	SCORE
<p><b>Vegetation</b></p> <p>1 = Low, uniform vegetation or sparse vegetative cover; typically less than 3' in height; lacking in variety; uniform color; minimal screening capability; typically sagebrush, sagebrush/grass, or grass type vegetation.</p> <p>2 = Vegetation of moderate height (3–6'), some species variety (2 to 3 types), some variation in color, mostly continuous vegetative cover, effectively screens low-profile projects such as low-profile surface disturbance, sagebrush/grass, and intermingled shrubs.</p> <p>3 = Higher vegetation (&gt;6' height); lush, continuous vegetative cover; some variety of vegetative types is typical but not mandatory; provides significant screening capability of projects up to 15–20 feet in height; juniper woodlands, aspen, conifers.</p>	<p>2</p>
<p><b>Soil Contrast</b></p> <p>1 = Surface disturbance would expose a high degree of contrast in color with surrounding soil, rock, and vegetation.</p> <p>2 = Surface disturbance would expose a medium degree of contrast in color with surrounding soil, rock, and vegetation.</p> <p>3 = Surface disturbance would expose only a low degree of contrast in color with surrounding soil, rock, and vegetation.</p>	<p>2</p>
<p><b>Visual Variety</b></p> <p>1 = Rating unit exhibits a low degree of visual variety in terms of the landscape character elements of form, line, and texture; may also exhibit minimal variety in landforms, vegetation, or color.</p> <p>2 = Rating unit exhibits a medium degree of visual variety in terms of the landscape character elements of form, line, and texture; may also exhibit medium variety in landforms, vegetation, or color.</p> <p>3 = Rating unit exhibits a high degree of visual variety in terms of the landscape character elements of form, line, and texture; may also exhibit high degree of variety in landforms, vegetation, or color.</p>	<p>3</p>

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**VISUAL ABSORPTION CAPACITY RATING SHEET**

**SCORE**

**Topographical Diversity**

- 1 = Landform has low amount of topographic diversity and variety.  
2 = Landform has moderate amount of topographic diversity and variety.  
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**3**

**Recovery Time**

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2 = Medium recovery time (3 to 5 years)  
3 = High (rapid) recovery time (1 to 2 years)

**1**

**Overall Score**

**11**

**5 - 7 = Low**  
**8 - 11 = Medium**  
**12 - 15 = High**

**Visual Absorption Capacity**  
**(Low, Medium, High)**

**Medium**

**Rationale and Conclusion**

Visual variety and topographic diversity combine to raise the VAC rating to a high medium.

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VISUAL ABSORPTION CAPACITY RATING SHEET

Scenic Quality Rating Unit: Halleck Canyon

Date 8/20/2010

Unit Number: 103

Evaluators: CBrandt JLieen GLong

	SCORE
<p><b>Vegetation</b></p> <p>1 = Low, uniform vegetation or sparse vegetative cover; typically less than 3' in height; lacking in variety; uniform color; minimal screening capability; typically sagebrush, sagebrush/grass, or grass type vegetation.</p> <p>2 = Vegetation of moderate height (3–6'), some species variety (2 to 3 types), some variation in color, mostly continuous vegetative cover, effectively screens low-profile projects such as low-profile surface disturbance, sagebrush/grass, and intermingled shrubs.</p> <p>3 = Higher vegetation (&gt;6' height); lush, continuous vegetative cover; some variety of vegetative types is typical but not mandatory; provides significant screening capability of projects up to 15–20 feet in height; juniper woodlands, aspen, conifers.</p>	<p>3</p>
<p><b>Soil Contrast</b></p> <p>1 = Surface disturbance would expose a high degree of contrast in color with surrounding soil, rock, and vegetation.</p> <p>2 = Surface disturbance would expose a medium degree of contrast in color with surrounding soil, rock, and vegetation.</p> <p>3 = Surface disturbance would expose only a low degree of contrast in color with surrounding soil, rock, and vegetation.</p>	<p>1</p>
<p><b>Visual Variety</b></p> <p>1 = Rating unit exhibits a low degree of visual variety in terms of the landscape character elements of form, line, and texture; may also exhibit minimal variety in landforms, vegetation, or color.</p> <p>2 = Rating unit exhibits a medium degree of visual variety in terms of the landscape character elements of form, line, and texture; may also exhibit medium variety in landforms, vegetation, or color.</p> <p>3 = Rating unit exhibits a high degree of visual variety in terms of the landscape character elements of form, line, and texture; may also exhibit high degree of variety in landforms, vegetation, or color.</p>	<p>2</p>

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**VISUAL ABSORPTION CAPACITY RATING SHEET**

**SCORE**

**Topographical Diversity**

- 1 = Landform has low amount of topographic diversity and variety.  
2 = Landform has moderate amount of topographic diversity and variety.  
3 = Landform has high amount of topographic diversity and variety.

**3**

**Recovery Time**

- 1 = Long-term recovery time (greater than 5 years)  
2 = Medium recovery time (3 to 5 years)  
3 = High (rapid) recovery time (1 to 2 years)

**2**

**Overall Score**

**11**

**5 - 7 = Low**  
**8 - 11 = Medium**  
**12 - 15 = High**

**Visual Absorption Capacity**  
**(Low, Medium, High)**

**Medium**

**Rationale and Conclusion**

Recovery time in the bottom of the canyon would be short, and on the canyon walls would be longer than 50 years. Vegetation in the bottom is dramatically more lush and diverse.

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VISUAL ABSORPTION CAPACITY RATING SHEET

Scenic Quality Rating Unit: Poe Mountain

Date 8/20/2010

Unit Number: 104

Evaluators: CBrandt JLieen GLong

	SCORE
<p><b>Vegetation</b></p> <p>1 = Low, uniform vegetation or sparse vegetative cover; typically less than 3' in height; lacking in variety; uniform color; minimal screening capability; typically sagebrush, sagebrush/grass, or grass type vegetation.</p> <p>2 = Vegetation of moderate height (3–6'), some species variety (2 to 3 types), some variation in color, mostly continuous vegetative cover, effectively screens low-profile projects such as low-profile surface disturbance, sagebrush/grass, and intermingled shrubs.</p> <p>3 = Higher vegetation (&gt;6' height); lush, continuous vegetative cover; some variety of vegetative types is typical but not mandatory; provides significant screening capability of projects up to 15–20 feet in height; juniper woodlands, aspen, conifers.</p>	<p>1</p>
<p><b>Soil Contrast</b></p> <p>1 = Surface disturbance would expose a high degree of contrast in color with surrounding soil, rock, and vegetation.</p> <p>2 = Surface disturbance would expose a medium degree of contrast in color with surrounding soil, rock, and vegetation.</p> <p>3 = Surface disturbance would expose only a low degree of contrast in color with surrounding soil, rock, and vegetation.</p>	<p>2</p>
<p><b>Visual Variety</b></p> <p>1 = Rating unit exhibits a low degree of visual variety in terms of the landscape character elements of form, line, and texture; may also exhibit minimal variety in landforms, vegetation, or color.</p> <p>2 = Rating unit exhibits a medium degree of visual variety in terms of the landscape character elements of form, line, and texture; may also exhibit medium variety in landforms, vegetation, or color.</p> <p>3 = Rating unit exhibits a high degree of visual variety in terms of the landscape character elements of form, line, and texture; may also exhibit high degree of variety in landforms, vegetation, or color.</p>	<p>2</p>

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**SCORE**

**Topographical Diversity**

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2 = Landform has moderate amount of topographic diversity and variety.  
3 = Landform has high amount of topographic diversity and variety.

**3**

**Recovery Time**

- 1 = Long-term recovery time (greater than 5 years)  
2 = Medium recovery time (3 to 5 years)  
3 = High (rapid) recovery time (1 to 2 years)

**1**

**Overall Score**

**9**

**5 - 7 = Low**  
**8 - 11 = Medium**  
**12 - 15 = High**

**Visual Absorption Capacity**  
**(Low, Medium, High)**

**Medium**

**Rationale and Conclusion**

Except for topographical diversity, all rating factors are low or medium.

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VISUAL ABSORPTION CAPACITY RATING SHEET

Scenic Quality Rating Unit: Sybille Canyon

Date 8/20/2010

Unit Number: 105

Evaluators: CBrandt JLieen GLong

	SCORE
<p><b>Vegetation</b></p> <p>1 = Low, uniform vegetation or sparse vegetative cover; typically less than 3' in height; lacking in variety; uniform color; minimal screening capability; typically sagebrush, sagebrush/grass, or grass type vegetation.</p> <p>2 = Vegetation of moderate height (3–6'), some species variety (2 to 3 types), some variation in color, mostly continuous vegetative cover, effectively screens low-profile projects such as low-profile surface disturbance, sagebrush/grass, and intermingled shrubs.</p> <p>3 = Higher vegetation (&gt;6' height); lush, continuous vegetative cover; some variety of vegetative types is typical but not mandatory; provides significant screening capability of projects up to 15–20 feet in height; juniper woodlands, aspen, conifers.</p>	<p>2</p>
<p><b>Soil Contrast</b></p> <p>1 = Surface disturbance would expose a high degree of contrast in color with surrounding soil, rock, and vegetation.</p> <p>2 = Surface disturbance would expose a medium degree of contrast in color with surrounding soil, rock, and vegetation.</p> <p>3 = Surface disturbance would expose only a low degree of contrast in color with surrounding soil, rock, and vegetation.</p>	<p>1</p>
<p><b>Visual Variety</b></p> <p>1 = Rating unit exhibits a low degree of visual variety in terms of the landscape character elements of form, line, and texture; may also exhibit minimal variety in landforms, vegetation, or color.</p> <p>2 = Rating unit exhibits a medium degree of visual variety in terms of the landscape character elements of form, line, and texture; may also exhibit medium variety in landforms, vegetation, or color.</p> <p>3 = Rating unit exhibits a high degree of visual variety in terms of the landscape character elements of form, line, and texture; may also exhibit high degree of variety in landforms, vegetation, or color.</p>	<p>2</p>

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DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT

**RAWLINS FIELD OFFICE**

**VISUAL ABSORPTION CAPACITY RATING SHEET**

**SCORE**

**Topographical Diversity**

- 1 = Landform has low amount of topographic diversity and variety.  
2 = Landform has moderate amount of topographic diversity and variety.  
3 = Landform has high amount of topographic diversity and variety.

2

**Recovery Time**

- 1 = Long-term recovery time (greater than 5 years)  
2 = Medium recovery time (3 to 5 years)  
3 = High (rapid) recovery time (1 to 2 years)

1

**Overall Score**

8

5 - 7 = Low  
8 - 11 = Medium  
12 - 15 = High

**Visual Absorption Capacity**  
(Low, Medium, High)

Medium

**Rationale and Conclusion**

With the exception of activities in canyon bottom, most anything would be readily seen. Minimal vegetative screening, high soil contrast, and long recovery time.

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RAWLINS FIELD OFFICE

VISUAL ABSORPTION CAPACITY RATING SHEET

Scenic Quality Rating Unit: Middle Sybille Creek

Date 8/20/2010

Unit Number: 106

Evaluators: CBrandt JLieen GLong

	SCORE
<p><b>Vegetation</b></p> <p>1 = Low, uniform vegetation or sparse vegetative cover; typically less than 3' in height; lacking in variety; uniform color; minimal screening capability; typically sagebrush, sagebrush/grass, or grass type vegetation.</p> <p>2 = Vegetation of moderate height (3–6'), some species variety (2 to 3 types), some variation in color, mostly continuous vegetative cover, effectively screens low-profile projects such as low-profile surface disturbance, sagebrush/grass, and intermingled shrubs.</p> <p>3 = Higher vegetation (&gt;6' height); lush, continuous vegetative cover; some variety of vegetative types is typical but not mandatory; provides significant screening capability of projects up to 15–20 feet in height; juniper woodlands, aspen, conifers.</p>	<p>1</p>
<p><b>Soil Contrast</b></p> <p>1 = Surface disturbance would expose a high degree of contrast in color with surrounding soil, rock, and vegetation.</p> <p>2 = Surface disturbance would expose a medium degree of contrast in color with surrounding soil, rock, and vegetation.</p> <p>3 = Surface disturbance would expose only a low degree of contrast in color with surrounding soil, rock, and vegetation.</p>	<p>2</p>
<p><b>Visual Variety</b></p> <p>1 = Rating unit exhibits a low degree of visual variety in terms of the landscape character elements of form, line, and texture; may also exhibit minimal variety in landforms, vegetation, or color.</p> <p>2 = Rating unit exhibits a medium degree of visual variety in terms of the landscape character elements of form, line, and texture; may also exhibit medium variety in landforms, vegetation, or color.</p> <p>3 = Rating unit exhibits a high degree of visual variety in terms of the landscape character elements of form, line, and texture; may also exhibit high degree of variety in landforms, vegetation, or color.</p>	<p>1</p>

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**RAWLINS FIELD OFFICE**

**VISUAL ABSORPTION CAPACITY RATING SHEET**

**SCORE**

**Topographical Diversity**

- 1 = Landform has low amount of topographic diversity and variety.
- 2 = Landform has moderate amount of topographic diversity and variety.
- 3 = Landform has high amount of topographic diversity and variety.

2

**Recovery Time**

- 1 = Long-term recovery time (greater than 5 years)
- 2 = Medium recovery time (3 to 5 years)
- 3 = High (rapid) recovery time (1 to 2 years)

2

**Overall Score**

8

- 5 - 7 = Low
- 8 - 11 = Medium
- 12 - 15 = High

**Visual Absorption Capacity  
(Low, Medium, High)**

Medium

**Rationale and Conclusion**

Mostly low, uniform vegetation; lacks visual variety. Sufficient topographic variety, relatively low soil/vegetation contrast, rapid enough recovery time to absorb visual impacts, especially small-scale and primarily involving surface disturbance.

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VISUAL ABSORPTION CAPACITY RATING SHEET

**Scenic Quality Rating Unit:** Foote Creek Basin

**Date:** 8/17/2010

**Unit Number:** 107

**Evaluators:** CBrandt JLieen GLong

	<b>SCORE</b>
<p><b>Vegetation</b></p> <p>1 = Low, uniform vegetation or sparse vegetative cover; typically less than 3' in height; lacking in variety; uniform color; minimal screening capability; typically sagebrush, sagebrush/grass, or grass type vegetation.</p> <p>2 = Vegetation of moderate height (3–6'), some species variety (2 to 3 types), some variation in color, mostly continuous vegetative cover, effectively screens low-profile projects such as low-profile surface disturbance, sagebrush/grass, and intermingled shrubs.</p> <p>3 = Higher vegetation (&gt;6' height); lush, continuous vegetative cover; some variety of vegetative types is typical but not mandatory; provides significant screening capability of projects up to 15–20 feet in height; juniper woodlands, aspen, conifers.</p>	<div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 5px; width: 40px; margin: 0 auto;">1</div>
<p><b>Soil Contrast</b></p> <p>1 = Surface disturbance would expose a high degree of contrast in color with surrounding soil, rock, and vegetation.</p> <p>2 = Surface disturbance would expose a medium degree of contrast in color with surrounding soil, rock, and vegetation.</p> <p>3 = Surface disturbance would expose only a low degree of contrast in color with surrounding soil, rock, and vegetation.</p>	<div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 5px; width: 40px; margin: 0 auto;">2</div>
<p><b>Visual Variety</b></p> <p>1 = Rating unit exhibits a low degree of visual variety in terms of the landscape character elements of form, line, and texture; may also exhibit minimal variety in landforms, vegetation, or color.</p> <p>2 = Rating unit exhibits a medium degree of visual variety in terms of the landscape character elements of form, line, and texture; may also exhibit medium variety in landforms, vegetation, or color.</p> <p>3 = Rating unit exhibits a high degree of visual variety in terms of the landscape character elements of form, line, and texture; may also exhibit high degree of variety in landforms, vegetation, or color.</p>	<div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 5px; width: 40px; margin: 0 auto;">1</div>

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**RAWLINS FIELD OFFICE**

**VISUAL ABSORPTION CAPACITY RATING SHEET**

**SCORE**

**Topographical Diversity**

- 1 = Landform has low amount of topographic diversity and variety.  
2 = Landform has moderate amount of topographic diversity and variety.  
3 = Landform has high amount of topographic diversity and variety.

**1**

**Recovery Time**

- 1 = Long-term recovery time (greater than 5 years)  
2 = Medium recovery time (3 to 5 years)  
3 = High (rapid) recovery time (1 to 2 years)

**1**

**Overall Score**

**6**

**5 - 7 = Low**  
**8 - 11 = Medium**  
**12 - 15 = High**

**Visual Absorption Capacity**  
**(Low, Medium, High)**

**Low**

**Rationale and Conclusion**

Lacks visual variety; low vegetation and high recovery time. A typical wide-open landscape with low, uniform vegetation, minimal topographic diversity and a resulting low VAC.

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VISUAL ABSORPTION CAPACITY RATING SHEET

Scenic Quality Rating Unit: Foote Creek Rim

Date 8/17/2010

Unit Number: 108

Evaluators: CBrandt JLieen GLong

	SCORE
<p><b>Vegetation</b></p> <p>1 = Low, uniform vegetation or sparse vegetative cover; typically less than 3' in height; lacking in variety; uniform color; minimal screening capability; typically sagebrush, sagebrush/grass, or grass type vegetation.</p> <p>2 = Vegetation of moderate height (3–6'), some species variety (2 to 3 types), some variation in color, mostly continuous vegetative cover, effectively screens low-profile projects such as low-profile surface disturbance, sagebrush/grass, and intermingled shrubs.</p> <p>3 = Higher vegetation (&gt;6' height); lush, continuous vegetative cover; some variety of vegetative types is typical but not mandatory; provides significant screening capability of projects up to 15–20 feet in height; juniper woodlands, aspen, conifers.</p>	<p>1</p>
<p><b>Soil Contrast</b></p> <p>1 = Surface disturbance would expose a high degree of contrast in color with surrounding soil, rock, and vegetation.</p> <p>2 = Surface disturbance would expose a medium degree of contrast in color with surrounding soil, rock, and vegetation.</p> <p>3 = Surface disturbance would expose only a low degree of contrast in color with surrounding soil, rock, and vegetation.</p>	<p>2</p>
<p><b>Visual Variety</b></p> <p>1 = Rating unit exhibits a low degree of visual variety in terms of the landscape character elements of form, line, and texture; may also exhibit minimal variety in landforms, vegetation, or color.</p> <p>2 = Rating unit exhibits a medium degree of visual variety in terms of the landscape character elements of form, line, and texture; may also exhibit medium variety in landforms, vegetation, or color.</p> <p>3 = Rating unit exhibits a high degree of visual variety in terms of the landscape character elements of form, line, and texture; may also exhibit high degree of variety in landforms, vegetation, or color.</p>	<p>1</p>

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**VISUAL ABSORPTION CAPACITY RATING SHEET**

**SCORE**

**Topographical Diversity**

- 1 = Landform has low amount of topographic diversity and variety.  
2 = Landform has moderate amount of topographic diversity and variety.  
3 = Landform has high amount of topographic diversity and variety.

**2**

**Recovery Time**

- 1 = Long-term recovery time (greater than 5 years)  
2 = Medium recovery time (3 to 5 years)  
3 = High (rapid) recovery time (1 to 2 years)

**2**

**Overall Score**

**8**

**5 - 7 = Low**  
**8 - 11 = Medium**  
**12 - 15 = High**

**Visual Absorption Capacity**  
**(Low, Medium, High)**

**Medium**

**Rationale and Conclusion**

Mostly a wide-open landscape where everything is readily seen. Recent projects provide support for conclusion that recovery time is medium. The area has little capability to screen large-scale projects such as wind farms.

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VISUAL ABSORPTION CAPACITY RATING SHEET

Scenic Quality Rating Unit: Rock Creek

Date 8/17/2010

Unit Number: 109

Evaluators: CBrandt JLieen GLong

	SCORE
<p><b>Vegetation</b></p> <p>1 = Low, uniform vegetation or sparse vegetative cover; typically less than 3' in height; lacking in variety; uniform color; minimal screening capability; typically sagebrush, sagebrush/grass, or grass type vegetation.</p> <p>2 = Vegetation of moderate height (3–6'), some species variety (2 to 3 types), some variation in color, mostly continuous vegetative cover, effectively screens low-profile projects such as low-profile surface disturbance, sagebrush/grass, and intermingled shrubs.</p> <p>3 = Higher vegetation (&gt;6' height); lush, continuous vegetative cover; some variety of vegetative types is typical but not mandatory; provides significant screening capability of projects up to 15–20 feet in height; juniper woodlands, aspen, conifers.</p>	<p>2</p>
<p><b>Soil Contrast</b></p> <p>1 = Surface disturbance would expose a high degree of contrast in color with surrounding soil, rock, and vegetation.</p> <p>2 = Surface disturbance would expose a medium degree of contrast in color with surrounding soil, rock, and vegetation.</p> <p>3 = Surface disturbance would expose only a low degree of contrast in color with surrounding soil, rock, and vegetation.</p>	<p>3</p>
<p><b>Visual Variety</b></p> <p>1 = Rating unit exhibits a low degree of visual variety in terms of the landscape character elements of form, line, and texture; may also exhibit minimal variety in landforms, vegetation, or color.</p> <p>2 = Rating unit exhibits a medium degree of visual variety in terms of the landscape character elements of form, line, and texture; may also exhibit medium variety in landforms, vegetation, or color.</p> <p>3 = Rating unit exhibits a high degree of visual variety in terms of the landscape character elements of form, line, and texture; may also exhibit high degree of variety in landforms, vegetation, or color.</p>	<p>2</p>

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**VISUAL ABSORPTION CAPACITY RATING SHEET**

**SCORE**

**Topographical Diversity**

- 1 = Landform has low amount of topographic diversity and variety.  
2 = Landform has moderate amount of topographic diversity and variety.  
3 = Landform has high amount of topographic diversity and variety.

**1**

**Recovery Time**

- 1 = Long-term recovery time (greater than 5 years)  
2 = Medium recovery time (3 to 5 years)  
3 = High (rapid) recovery time (1 to 2 years)

**3**

**Overall Score**

**11**

**5 - 7 = Low**  
**8 - 11 = Medium**  
**12 - 15 = High**

**Visual Absorption Capacity**  
**(Low, Medium, High)**

**Medium**

**Rationale and Conclusion**

Lack of topographic diversity and visual variety in much of the area limit AC. Otherwise the area would rate as high VAC.

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VISUAL ABSORPTION CAPACITY RATING SHEET

**Scenic Quality Rating Unit:** Pine Ridge **Date:** 8/19/2010

**Unit Number:** 110

**Evaluators:** CBrandt JLieen GLong

	<b>SCORE</b>
<p><b>Vegetation</b></p> <p>1 = Low, uniform vegetation or sparse vegetative cover; typically less than 3' in height; lacking in variety; uniform color; minimal screening capability; typically sagebrush, sagebrush/grass, or grass type vegetation.</p> <p>2 = Vegetation of moderate height (3–6'), some species variety (2 to 3 types), some variation in color, mostly continuous vegetative cover, effectively screens low-profile projects such as low-profile surface disturbance, sagebrush/grass, and intermingled shrubs.</p> <p>3 = Higher vegetation (&gt;6' height); lush, continuous vegetative cover; some variety of vegetative types is typical but not mandatory; provides significant screening capability of projects up to 15–20 feet in height; juniper woodlands, aspen, conifers.</p>	<div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 5px; width: 40px; margin: 0 auto;">2</div>
<p><b>Soil Contrast</b></p> <p>1 = Surface disturbance would expose a high degree of contrast in color with surrounding soil, rock, and vegetation.</p> <p>2 = Surface disturbance would expose a medium degree of contrast in color with surrounding soil, rock, and vegetation.</p> <p>3 = Surface disturbance would expose only a low degree of contrast in color with surrounding soil, rock, and vegetation.</p>	<div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 5px; width: 40px; margin: 0 auto;">2</div>
<p><b>Visual Variety</b></p> <p>1 = Rating unit exhibits a low degree of visual variety in terms of the landscape character elements of form, line, and texture; may also exhibit minimal variety in landforms, vegetation, or color.</p> <p>2 = Rating unit exhibits a medium degree of visual variety in terms of the landscape character elements of form, line, and texture; may also exhibit medium variety in landforms, vegetation, or color.</p> <p>3 = Rating unit exhibits a high degree of visual variety in terms of the landscape character elements of form, line, and texture; may also exhibit high degree of variety in landforms, vegetation, or color.</p>	<div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 5px; width: 40px; margin: 0 auto;">2</div>

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**VISUAL ABSORPTION CAPACITY RATING SHEET**

**SCORE**

**Topographical Diversity**

- 1 = Landform has low amount of topographic diversity and variety.  
2 = Landform has moderate amount of topographic diversity and variety.  
3 = Landform has high amount of topographic diversity and variety.

2

**Recovery Time**

- 1 = Long-term recovery time (greater than 5 years)  
2 = Medium recovery time (3 to 5 years)  
3 = High (rapid) recovery time (1 to 2 years)

1

**Overall Score**

9

**5 - 7 = Low**

**8 - 11 = Medium**

**12 - 15 = High**

**Visual Absorption Capacity  
(Low, Medium, High)**

Medium

**Rationale and Conclusion**

Medium VAC due to largely rougher topography, medium soil/vegetation contrast. From any given viewpoint much of the rating unit cannot be seen.

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VISUAL ABSORPTION CAPACITY RATING SHEET

Scenic Quality Rating Unit: Laramie Plains

Date 8/17/2010

Unit Number: 111

Evaluators: CBrandt JLieen GLong

	SCORE
<p><b>Vegetation</b></p> <p>1 = Low, uniform vegetation or sparse vegetative cover; typically less than 3' in height; lacking in variety; uniform color; minimal screening capability; typically sagebrush, sagebrush/grass, or grass type vegetation.</p> <p>2 = Vegetation of moderate height (3–6'), some species variety (2 to 3 types), some variation in color, mostly continuous vegetative cover, effectively screens low-profile projects such as low-profile surface disturbance, sagebrush/grass, and intermingled shrubs.</p> <p>3 = Higher vegetation (&gt;6' height); lush, continuous vegetative cover; some variety of vegetative types is typical but not mandatory; provides significant screening capability of projects up to 15–20 feet in height; juniper woodlands, aspen, conifers.</p>	<p>1</p>
<p><b>Soil Contrast</b></p> <p>1 = Surface disturbance would expose a high degree of contrast in color with surrounding soil, rock, and vegetation.</p> <p>2 = Surface disturbance would expose a medium degree of contrast in color with surrounding soil, rock, and vegetation.</p> <p>3 = Surface disturbance would expose only a low degree of contrast in color with surrounding soil, rock, and vegetation.</p>	<p>2</p>
<p><b>Visual Variety</b></p> <p>1 = Rating unit exhibits a low degree of visual variety in terms of the landscape character elements of form, line, and texture; may also exhibit minimal variety in landforms, vegetation, or color.</p> <p>2 = Rating unit exhibits a medium degree of visual variety in terms of the landscape character elements of form, line, and texture; may also exhibit medium variety in landforms, vegetation, or color.</p> <p>3 = Rating unit exhibits a high degree of visual variety in terms of the landscape character elements of form, line, and texture; may also exhibit high degree of variety in landforms, vegetation, or color.</p>	<p>1</p>

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**VISUAL ABSORPTION CAPACITY RATING SHEET**

**SCORE**

**Topographical Diversity**

- 1 = Landform has low amount of topographic diversity and variety.  
2 = Landform has moderate amount of topographic diversity and variety.  
3 = Landform has high amount of topographic diversity and variety.

**1**

**Recovery Time**

- 1 = Long-term recovery time (greater than 5 years)  
2 = Medium recovery time (3 to 5 years)  
3 = High (rapid) recovery time (1 to 2 years)

**1**

**Overall Score**

**6**

**5 - 7 = Low**  
**8 - 11 = Medium**  
**12 - 15 = High**

**Visual Absorption Capacity**  
**(Low, Medium, High)**

**Low**

**Rationale and Conclusion**

Wide-open spaces translate to low VAC. The Laramie Plains have as low visual variety as any place in Wyoming.

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VISUAL ABSORPTION CAPACITY RATING SHEET

**Scenic Quality Rating Unit:** Laramie Irrigated Agricultural Lands **Date** 8/17/2010

**Unit Number:** 112

**Evaluators:** CBrandt JLie n GLong

	<b>SCORE</b>
<p><b>Vegetation</b></p> <p>1 = Low, uniform vegetation or sparse vegetative cover; typically less than 3' in height; lacking in variety; uniform color; minimal screening capability; typically sagebrush, sagebrush/grass, or grass type vegetation.</p> <p>2 = Vegetation of moderate height (3–6'), some species variety (2 to 3 types), some variation in color, mostly continuous vegetative cover, effectively screens low-profile projects such as low-profile surface disturbance, sagebrush/grass, and intermingled shrubs.</p> <p>3 = Higher vegetation (&gt;6' height); lush, continuous vegetative cover; some variety of vegetative types is typical but not mandatory; provides significant screening capability of projects up to 15–20 feet in height; juniper woodlands, aspen, conifers.</p>	<b>1</b>
<p><b>Soil Contrast</b></p> <p>1 = Surface disturbance would expose a high degree of contrast in color with surrounding soil, rock, and vegetation.</p> <p>2 = Surface disturbance would expose a medium degree of contrast in color with surrounding soil, rock, and vegetation.</p> <p>3 = Surface disturbance would expose only a low degree of contrast in color with surrounding soil, rock, and vegetation.</p>	<b>2</b>
<p><b>Visual Variety</b></p> <p>1 = Rating unit exhibits a low degree of visual variety in terms of the landscape character elements of form, line, and texture; may also exhibit minimal variety in landforms, vegetation, or color.</p> <p>2 = Rating unit exhibits a medium degree of visual variety in terms of the landscape character elements of form, line, and texture; may also exhibit medium variety in landforms, vegetation, or color.</p> <p>3 = Rating unit exhibits a high degree of visual variety in terms of the landscape character elements of form, line, and texture; may also exhibit high degree of variety in landforms, vegetation, or color.</p>	<b>1</b>

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**VISUAL ABSORPTION CAPACITY RATING SHEET**

**SCORE**

**Topographical Diversity**

- 1 = Landform has low amount of topographic diversity and variety.  
2 = Landform has moderate amount of topographic diversity and variety.  
3 = Landform has high amount of topographic diversity and variety.

**1**

**Recovery Time**

- 1 = Long-term recovery time (greater than 5 years)  
2 = Medium recovery time (3 to 5 years)  
3 = High (rapid) recovery time (1 to 2 years)

**3**

**Overall Score**

**8**

**5 - 7 = Low  
8 - 11 = Medium  
12 - 15 = High**

**Visual Absorption Capacity  
(Low, Medium, High)**

**Medium**

**Rationale and Conclusion**

Irrigated lands promote high recovery rates. Otherwise most any activity would be readily seen in the area.

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VISUAL ABSORPTION CAPACITY RATING SHEET

Scenic Quality Rating Unit: Big Laramie River

Date 8/20/2010

Unit Number: 113

Evaluators: CBrandt JLieen GLong

	SCORE
<p><b>Vegetation</b></p> <p>1 = Low, uniform vegetation or sparse vegetative cover; typically less than 3' in height; lacking in variety; uniform color; minimal screening capability; typically sagebrush, sagebrush/grass, or grass type vegetation.</p> <p>2 = Vegetation of moderate height (3–6'), some species variety (2 to 3 types), some variation in color, mostly continuous vegetative cover, effectively screens low-profile projects such as low-profile surface disturbance, sagebrush/grass, and intermingled shrubs.</p> <p>3 = Higher vegetation (&gt;6' height); lush, continuous vegetative cover; some variety of vegetative types is typical but not mandatory; provides significant screening capability of projects up to 15–20 feet in height; juniper woodlands, aspen, conifers.</p>	<p>3</p>
<p><b>Soil Contrast</b></p> <p>1 = Surface disturbance would expose a high degree of contrast in color with surrounding soil, rock, and vegetation.</p> <p>2 = Surface disturbance would expose a medium degree of contrast in color with surrounding soil, rock, and vegetation.</p> <p>3 = Surface disturbance would expose only a low degree of contrast in color with surrounding soil, rock, and vegetation.</p>	<p>2</p>
<p><b>Visual Variety</b></p> <p>1 = Rating unit exhibits a low degree of visual variety in terms of the landscape character elements of form, line, and texture; may also exhibit minimal variety in landforms, vegetation, or color.</p> <p>2 = Rating unit exhibits a medium degree of visual variety in terms of the landscape character elements of form, line, and texture; may also exhibit medium variety in landforms, vegetation, or color.</p> <p>3 = Rating unit exhibits a high degree of visual variety in terms of the landscape character elements of form, line, and texture; may also exhibit high degree of variety in landforms, vegetation, or color.</p>	<p>2</p>

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**RAWLINS FIELD OFFICE**

**VISUAL ABSORPTION CAPACITY RATING SHEET**

**SCORE**

**Topographical Diversity**

- 1 = Landform has low amount of topographic diversity and variety.  
2 = Landform has moderate amount of topographic diversity and variety.  
3 = Landform has high amount of topographic diversity and variety.

**1**

**Recovery Time**

- 1 = Long-term recovery time (greater than 5 years)  
2 = Medium recovery time (3 to 5 years)  
3 = High (rapid) recovery time (1 to 2 years)

**3**

**Overall Score**

**11**

**5 - 7 = Low**

**8 - 11 = Medium**

**12 - 15 = High**

**Visual Absorption Capacity  
(Low, Medium, High)**

**Medium**

**Rationale and Conclusion**

Thus area would rate high VAC except for minimal topographic variability. The extensive riparian vegetation provides significant screening.

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VISUAL ABSORPTION CAPACITY RATING SHEET

Scenic Quality Rating Unit: Jelm Mountain

Date 8/20/2010

Unit Number: 114

Evaluators: CBrandt JLieen GLong

	SCORE
<p><b>Vegetation</b></p> <p>1 = Low, uniform vegetation or sparse vegetative cover; typically less than 3' in height; lacking in variety; uniform color; minimal screening capability; typically sagebrush, sagebrush/grass, or grass type vegetation.</p> <p>2 = Vegetation of moderate height (3–6'), some species variety (2 to 3 types), some variation in color, mostly continuous vegetative cover, effectively screens low-profile projects such as low-profile surface disturbance, sagebrush/grass, and intermingled shrubs.</p> <p>3 = Higher vegetation (&gt;6' height); lush, continuous vegetative cover; some variety of vegetative types is typical but not mandatory; provides significant screening capability of projects up to 15–20 feet in height; juniper woodlands, aspen, conifers.</p>	<p>3</p>
<p><b>Soil Contrast</b></p> <p>1 = Surface disturbance would expose a high degree of contrast in color with surrounding soil, rock, and vegetation.</p> <p>2 = Surface disturbance would expose a medium degree of contrast in color with surrounding soil, rock, and vegetation.</p> <p>3 = Surface disturbance would expose only a low degree of contrast in color with surrounding soil, rock, and vegetation.</p>	<p>2</p>
<p><b>Visual Variety</b></p> <p>1 = Rating unit exhibits a low degree of visual variety in terms of the landscape character elements of form, line, and texture; may also exhibit minimal variety in landforms, vegetation, or color.</p> <p>2 = Rating unit exhibits a medium degree of visual variety in terms of the landscape character elements of form, line, and texture; may also exhibit medium variety in landforms, vegetation, or color.</p> <p>3 = Rating unit exhibits a high degree of visual variety in terms of the landscape character elements of form, line, and texture; may also exhibit high degree of variety in landforms, vegetation, or color.</p>	<p>3</p>

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**RAWLINS FIELD OFFICE**

**VISUAL ABSORPTION CAPACITY RATING SHEET**

**SCORE**

**Topographical Diversity**

- 1 = Landform has low amount of topographic diversity and variety.  
2 = Landform has moderate amount of topographic diversity and variety.  
3 = Landform has high amount of topographic diversity and variety.

**3**

**Recovery Time**

- 1 = Long-term recovery time (greater than 5 years)  
2 = Medium recovery time (3 to 5 years)  
3 = High (rapid) recovery time (1 to 2 years)

**1**

**Overall Score**

**12**

**5 - 7 = Low**  
**8 - 11 = Medium**  
**12 - 15 = High**

**Visual Absorption Capacity**  
**(Low, Medium, High)**

**High**

**Rationale and Conclusion**

Topography and vegetation combine to produce high VAC.

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VISUAL ABSORPTION CAPACITY RATING SHEET

Scenic Quality Rating Unit: Boulder Ridge

Date 8/20/2010

Unit Number: 115

Evaluators: CBrandt JLieen GLong

	SCORE
<p><b>Vegetation</b></p> <p>1 = Low, uniform vegetation or sparse vegetative cover; typically less than 3' in height; lacking in variety; uniform color; minimal screening capability; typically sagebrush, sagebrush/grass, or grass type vegetation.</p> <p>2 = Vegetation of moderate height (3–6'), some species variety (2 to 3 types), some variation in color, mostly continuous vegetative cover, effectively screens low-profile projects such as low-profile surface disturbance, sagebrush/grass, and intermingled shrubs.</p> <p>3 = Higher vegetation (&gt;6' height); lush, continuous vegetative cover; some variety of vegetative types is typical but not mandatory; provides significant screening capability of projects up to 15–20 feet in height; juniper woodlands, aspen, conifers.</p>	<p>3</p>
<p><b>Soil Contrast</b></p> <p>1 = Surface disturbance would expose a high degree of contrast in color with surrounding soil, rock, and vegetation.</p> <p>2 = Surface disturbance would expose a medium degree of contrast in color with surrounding soil, rock, and vegetation.</p> <p>3 = Surface disturbance would expose only a low degree of contrast in color with surrounding soil, rock, and vegetation.</p>	<p>1</p>
<p><b>Visual Variety</b></p> <p>1 = Rating unit exhibits a low degree of visual variety in terms of the landscape character elements of form, line, and texture; may also exhibit minimal variety in landforms, vegetation, or color.</p> <p>2 = Rating unit exhibits a medium degree of visual variety in terms of the landscape character elements of form, line, and texture; may also exhibit medium variety in landforms, vegetation, or color.</p> <p>3 = Rating unit exhibits a high degree of visual variety in terms of the landscape character elements of form, line, and texture; may also exhibit high degree of variety in landforms, vegetation, or color.</p>	<p>2</p>

UNITED STATES  
DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT

**RAWLINS FIELD OFFICE**

**VISUAL ABSORPTION CAPACITY RATING SHEET**

**SCORE**

**Topographical Diversity**

- 1 = Landform has low amount of topographic diversity and variety.  
2 = Landform has moderate amount of topographic diversity and variety.  
3 = Landform has high amount of topographic diversity and variety.

**3**

**Recovery Time**

- 1 = Long-term recovery time (greater than 5 years)  
2 = Medium recovery time (3 to 5 years)  
3 = High (rapid) recovery time (1 to 2 years)

**1**

**Overall Score**

**10**

**5 - 7 = Low  
8 - 11 = Medium  
12 - 15 = High**

**Visual Absorption Capacity  
(Low, Medium, High)**

**Medium**

**Rationale and Conclusion**

Rugged surface and forest cover combine to produce medium VAC.

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VISUAL ABSORPTION CAPACITY RATING SHEET

**Scenic Quality Rating Unit:** Laramie Mountain Front

**Date:** 8/20/2010

**Unit Number:** 116

**Evaluators:** CBrandt JLieen GLong

	<b>SCORE</b>
<p><b>Vegetation</b></p> <p>1 = Low, uniform vegetation or sparse vegetative cover; typically less than 3' in height; lacking in variety; uniform color; minimal screening capability; typically sagebrush, sagebrush/grass, or grass type vegetation.</p> <p>2 = Vegetation of moderate height (3–6'), some species variety (2 to 3 types), some variation in color, mostly continuous vegetative cover, effectively screens low-profile projects such as low-profile surface disturbance, sagebrush/grass, and intermingled shrubs.</p> <p>3 = Higher vegetation (&gt;6' height); lush, continuous vegetative cover; some variety of vegetative types is typical but not mandatory; provides significant screening capability of projects up to 15–20 feet in height; juniper woodlands, aspen, conifers.</p>	<div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 5px; width: 40px; margin: 0 auto;">2</div>
<p><b>Soil Contrast</b></p> <p>1 = Surface disturbance would expose a high degree of contrast in color with surrounding soil, rock, and vegetation.</p> <p>2 = Surface disturbance would expose a medium degree of contrast in color with surrounding soil, rock, and vegetation.</p> <p>3 = Surface disturbance would expose only a low degree of contrast in color with surrounding soil, rock, and vegetation.</p>	<div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 5px; width: 40px; margin: 0 auto;">2</div>
<p><b>Visual Variety</b></p> <p>1 = Rating unit exhibits a low degree of visual variety in terms of the landscape character elements of form, line, and texture; may also exhibit minimal variety in landforms, vegetation, or color.</p> <p>2 = Rating unit exhibits a medium degree of visual variety in terms of the landscape character elements of form, line, and texture; may also exhibit medium variety in landforms, vegetation, or color.</p> <p>3 = Rating unit exhibits a high degree of visual variety in terms of the landscape character elements of form, line, and texture; may also exhibit high degree of variety in landforms, vegetation, or color.</p>	<div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 5px; width: 40px; margin: 0 auto;">2</div>

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**RAWLINS FIELD OFFICE**

**VISUAL ABSORPTION CAPACITY RATING SHEET**

**SCORE**

**Topographical Diversity**

- 1 = Landform has low amount of topographic diversity and variety.  
2 = Landform has moderate amount of topographic diversity and variety.  
3 = Landform has high amount of topographic diversity and variety.

**3**

**Recovery Time**

- 1 = Long-term recovery time (greater than 5 years)  
2 = Medium recovery time (3 to 5 years)  
3 = High (rapid) recovery time (1 to 2 years)

**1**

**Overall Score**

**10**

**5 - 7 = Low**

**8 - 11 = Medium**

**12 - 15 = High**

**Visual Absorption Capacity  
(Low, Medium, High)**

**Medium**

**Rationale and Conclusion**

High topographic variability, medium vegetation, soil, and visual variety. Most small-scale projects could be absorbed. Large-scale projects (limestone quarries, wind turbines) would create significant long-term visual impacts.

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VISUAL ABSORPTION CAPACITY RATING SHEET

**Scenic Quality Rating Unit:** Laramie Mountain Range **Date:** 8/24/2010

**Unit Number:** 117

**Evaluators:** CBrandt JLieen GLong

	<b>SCORE</b>
<p><b>Vegetation</b></p> <p>1 = Low, uniform vegetation or sparse vegetative cover; typically less than 3' in height; lacking in variety; uniform color; minimal screening capability; typically sagebrush, sagebrush/grass, or grass type vegetation.</p> <p>2 = Vegetation of moderate height (3–6'), some species variety (2 to 3 types), some variation in color, mostly continuous vegetative cover, effectively screens low-profile projects such as low-profile surface disturbance, sagebrush/grass, and intermingled shrubs.</p> <p>3 = Higher vegetation (&gt;6' height); lush, continuous vegetative cover; some variety of vegetative types is typical but not mandatory; provides significant screening capability of projects up to 15–20 feet in height; juniper woodlands, aspen, conifers.</p>	<div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 5px; width: 40px; margin: 0 auto;">1</div>
<p><b>Soil Contrast</b></p> <p>1 = Surface disturbance would expose a high degree of contrast in color with surrounding soil, rock, and vegetation.</p> <p>2 = Surface disturbance would expose a medium degree of contrast in color with surrounding soil, rock, and vegetation.</p> <p>3 = Surface disturbance would expose only a low degree of contrast in color with surrounding soil, rock, and vegetation.</p>	<div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 5px; width: 40px; margin: 0 auto;">2</div>
<p><b>Visual Variety</b></p> <p>1 = Rating unit exhibits a low degree of visual variety in terms of the landscape character elements of form, line, and texture; may also exhibit minimal variety in landforms, vegetation, or color.</p> <p>2 = Rating unit exhibits a medium degree of visual variety in terms of the landscape character elements of form, line, and texture; may also exhibit medium variety in landforms, vegetation, or color.</p> <p>3 = Rating unit exhibits a high degree of visual variety in terms of the landscape character elements of form, line, and texture; may also exhibit high degree of variety in landforms, vegetation, or color.</p>	<div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 5px; width: 40px; margin: 0 auto;">2</div>

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**RAWLINS FIELD OFFICE**

**VISUAL ABSORPTION CAPACITY RATING SHEET**

**SCORE**

**Topographical Diversity**

- 1 = Landform has low amount of topographic diversity and variety.  
2 = Landform has moderate amount of topographic diversity and variety.  
3 = Landform has high amount of topographic diversity and variety.

**2**

**Recovery Time**

- 1 = Long-term recovery time (greater than 5 years)  
2 = Medium recovery time (3 to 5 years)  
3 = High (rapid) recovery time (1 to 2 years)

**2**

**Overall Score**

**9**

**5 - 7 = Low**  
**8 - 11 = Medium**  
**12 - 15 = High**

**Visual Absorption Capacity**  
**(Low, Medium, High)**

**Medium**

**Rationale and Conclusion**

An extensive, mostly private land area with rugged rolling hills, occasional stands of timber and rock outcrops. Could absorb properly sited projects that are in scale with the surroundings.

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VISUAL ABSORPTION CAPACITY RATING SHEET

Scenic Quality Rating Unit: Iron Mountain

Date 8/24/2010

Unit Number: 118

Evaluators: CBrandt JLieen GLong

	SCORE
<p><b>Vegetation</b></p> <p>1 = Low, uniform vegetation or sparse vegetative cover; typically less than 3' in height; lacking in variety; uniform color; minimal screening capability; typically sagebrush, sagebrush/grass, or grass type vegetation.</p> <p>2 = Vegetation of moderate height (3–6'), some species variety (2 to 3 types), some variation in color, mostly continuous vegetative cover, effectively screens low-profile projects such as low-profile surface disturbance, sagebrush/grass, and intermingled shrubs.</p> <p>3 = Higher vegetation (&gt;6' height); lush, continuous vegetative cover; some variety of vegetative types is typical but not mandatory; provides significant screening capability of projects up to 15–20 feet in height; juniper woodlands, aspen, conifers.</p>	<p>1</p>
<p><b>Soil Contrast</b></p> <p>1 = Surface disturbance would expose a high degree of contrast in color with surrounding soil, rock, and vegetation.</p> <p>2 = Surface disturbance would expose a medium degree of contrast in color with surrounding soil, rock, and vegetation.</p> <p>3 = Surface disturbance would expose only a low degree of contrast in color with surrounding soil, rock, and vegetation.</p>	<p>1</p>
<p><b>Visual Variety</b></p> <p>1 = Rating unit exhibits a low degree of visual variety in terms of the landscape character elements of form, line, and texture; may also exhibit minimal variety in landforms, vegetation, or color.</p> <p>2 = Rating unit exhibits a medium degree of visual variety in terms of the landscape character elements of form, line, and texture; may also exhibit medium variety in landforms, vegetation, or color.</p> <p>3 = Rating unit exhibits a high degree of visual variety in terms of the landscape character elements of form, line, and texture; may also exhibit high degree of variety in landforms, vegetation, or color.</p>	<p>2</p>

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**VISUAL ABSORPTION CAPACITY RATING SHEET**

**SCORE**

**Topographical Diversity**

- 1 = Landform has low amount of topographic diversity and variety.  
2 = Landform has moderate amount of topographic diversity and variety.  
3 = Landform has high amount of topographic diversity and variety.

2

**Recovery Time**

- 1 = Long-term recovery time (greater than 5 years)  
2 = Medium recovery time (3 to 5 years)  
3 = High (rapid) recovery time (1 to 2 years)

1

**Overall Score**

7

5 - 7 = Low  
8 - 11 = Medium  
12 - 15 = High

**Visual Absorption Capacity**  
(Low, Medium, High)

Low

**Rationale and Conclusion**

Overall exposed slopes, low vegetation, and slow recovery time cause the area to rate low for VAC.

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VISUAL ABSORPTION CAPACITY RATING SHEET

Scenic Quality Rating Unit: Horse Creek

Date 8/24/2010

Unit Number: 119

Evaluators: CBrandt JLieen GLong

	SCORE
<p><b>Vegetation</b></p> <p>1 = Low, uniform vegetation or sparse vegetative cover; typically less than 3' in height; lacking in variety; uniform color; minimal screening capability; typically sagebrush, sagebrush/grass, or grass type vegetation.</p> <p>2 = Vegetation of moderate height (3–6'), some species variety (2 to 3 types), some variation in color, mostly continuous vegetative cover, effectively screens low-profile projects such as low-profile surface disturbance, sagebrush/grass, and intermingled shrubs.</p> <p>3 = Higher vegetation (&gt;6' height); lush, continuous vegetative cover; some variety of vegetative types is typical but not mandatory; provides significant screening capability of projects up to 15–20 feet in height; juniper woodlands, aspen, conifers.</p>	<p>2</p>
<p><b>Soil Contrast</b></p> <p>1 = Surface disturbance would expose a high degree of contrast in color with surrounding soil, rock, and vegetation.</p> <p>2 = Surface disturbance would expose a medium degree of contrast in color with surrounding soil, rock, and vegetation.</p> <p>3 = Surface disturbance would expose only a low degree of contrast in color with surrounding soil, rock, and vegetation.</p>	<p>2</p>
<p><b>Visual Variety</b></p> <p>1 = Rating unit exhibits a low degree of visual variety in terms of the landscape character elements of form, line, and texture; may also exhibit minimal variety in landforms, vegetation, or color.</p> <p>2 = Rating unit exhibits a medium degree of visual variety in terms of the landscape character elements of form, line, and texture; may also exhibit medium variety in landforms, vegetation, or color.</p> <p>3 = Rating unit exhibits a high degree of visual variety in terms of the landscape character elements of form, line, and texture; may also exhibit high degree of variety in landforms, vegetation, or color.</p>	<p>2</p>

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**VISUAL ABSORPTION CAPACITY RATING SHEET**

**SCORE**

**Topographical Diversity**

- 1 = Landform has low amount of topographic diversity and variety.  
2 = Landform has moderate amount of topographic diversity and variety.  
3 = Landform has high amount of topographic diversity and variety.

**1**

**Recovery Time**

- 1 = Long-term recovery time (greater than 5 years)  
2 = Medium recovery time (3 to 5 years)  
3 = High (rapid) recovery time (1 to 2 years)

**3**

**Overall Score**

**10**

**5 - 7 = Low**  
**8 - 11 = Medium**  
**12 - 15 = High**

**Visual Absorption Capacity**  
**(Low, Medium, High)**

**Medium**

**Rationale and Conclusion**

The valley would have a rapid recovery rate.

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VISUAL ABSORPTION CAPACITY RATING SHEET

**Scenic Quality Rating Unit:** Lodgepole Creeks

**Date** 8/24/2010

**Unit Number:** 120

**Evaluators:** CBrandt JLieen GLong

	<b>SCORE</b>
<p><b>Vegetation</b></p> <p>1 = Low, uniform vegetation or sparse vegetative cover; typically less than 3' in height; lacking in variety; uniform color; minimal screening capability; typically sagebrush, sagebrush/grass, or grass type vegetation.</p> <p>2 = Vegetation of moderate height (3–6'), some species variety (2 to 3 types), some variation in color, mostly continuous vegetative cover, effectively screens low-profile projects such as low-profile surface disturbance, sagebrush/grass, and intermingled shrubs.</p> <p>3 = Higher vegetation (&gt;6' height); lush, continuous vegetative cover; some variety of vegetative types is typical but not mandatory; provides significant screening capability of projects up to 15–20 feet in height; juniper woodlands, aspen, conifers.</p>	<div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 5px; width: 40px; margin: 0 auto;">3</div>
<p><b>Soil Contrast</b></p> <p>1 = Surface disturbance would expose a high degree of contrast in color with surrounding soil, rock, and vegetation.</p> <p>2 = Surface disturbance would expose a medium degree of contrast in color with surrounding soil, rock, and vegetation.</p> <p>3 = Surface disturbance would expose only a low degree of contrast in color with surrounding soil, rock, and vegetation.</p>	<div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 5px; width: 40px; margin: 0 auto;">2</div>
<p><b>Visual Variety</b></p> <p>1 = Rating unit exhibits a low degree of visual variety in terms of the landscape character elements of form, line, and texture; may also exhibit minimal variety in landforms, vegetation, or color.</p> <p>2 = Rating unit exhibits a medium degree of visual variety in terms of the landscape character elements of form, line, and texture; may also exhibit medium variety in landforms, vegetation, or color.</p> <p>3 = Rating unit exhibits a high degree of visual variety in terms of the landscape character elements of form, line, and texture; may also exhibit high degree of variety in landforms, vegetation, or color.</p>	<div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 5px; width: 40px; margin: 0 auto;">2</div>

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**VISUAL ABSORPTION CAPACITY RATING SHEET**

**SCORE**

**Topographical Diversity**

- 1 = Landform has low amount of topographic diversity and variety.  
2 = Landform has moderate amount of topographic diversity and variety.  
3 = Landform has high amount of topographic diversity and variety.

**2**

**Recovery Time**

- 1 = Long-term recovery time (greater than 5 years)  
2 = Medium recovery time (3 to 5 years)  
3 = High (rapid) recovery time (1 to 2 years)

**2**

**Overall Score**

**11**

**5 - 7 = Low**  
**8 - 11 = Medium**  
**12 - 15 = High**

**Visual Absorption Capacity**  
**(Low, Medium, High)**

**Medium**

**Rationale and Conclusion**

Topography and vegetation combine with medium recovery time to produce medium VAC.

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RAWLINS FIELD OFFICE

VISUAL ABSORPTION CAPACITY RATING SHEET

Scenic Quality Rating Unit: North Laramie County

Date 8/23/2010

Unit Number: 121

Evaluators: CBrandt JLieen GLong

	SCORE
<p><b>Vegetation</b></p> <p>1 = Low, uniform vegetation or sparse vegetative cover; typically less than 3' in height; lacking in variety; uniform color; minimal screening capability; typically sagebrush, sagebrush/grass, or grass type vegetation.</p> <p>2 = Vegetation of moderate height (3–6'), some species variety (2 to 3 types), some variation in color, mostly continuous vegetative cover, effectively screens low-profile projects such as low-profile surface disturbance, sagebrush/grass, and intermingled shrubs.</p> <p>3 = Higher vegetation (&gt;6' height); lush, continuous vegetative cover; some variety of vegetative types is typical but not mandatory; provides significant screening capability of projects up to 15–20 feet in height; juniper woodlands, aspen, conifers.</p>	<b>1</b>
<p><b>Soil Contrast</b></p> <p>1 = Surface disturbance would expose a high degree of contrast in color with surrounding soil, rock, and vegetation.</p> <p>2 = Surface disturbance would expose a medium degree of contrast in color with surrounding soil, rock, and vegetation.</p> <p>3 = Surface disturbance would expose only a low degree of contrast in color with surrounding soil, rock, and vegetation.</p>	<b>2</b>
<p><b>Visual Variety</b></p> <p>1 = Rating unit exhibits a low degree of visual variety in terms of the landscape character elements of form, line, and texture; may also exhibit minimal variety in landforms, vegetation, or color.</p> <p>2 = Rating unit exhibits a medium degree of visual variety in terms of the landscape character elements of form, line, and texture; may also exhibit medium variety in landforms, vegetation, or color.</p> <p>3 = Rating unit exhibits a high degree of visual variety in terms of the landscape character elements of form, line, and texture; may also exhibit high degree of variety in landforms, vegetation, or color.</p>	<b>1</b>

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**VISUAL ABSORPTION CAPACITY RATING SHEET**

**SCORE**

**Topographical Diversity**

- 1 = Landform has low amount of topographic diversity and variety.  
2 = Landform has moderate amount of topographic diversity and variety.  
3 = Landform has high amount of topographic diversity and variety.

2

**Recovery Time**

- 1 = Long-term recovery time (greater than 5 years)  
2 = Medium recovery time (3 to 5 years)  
3 = High (rapid) recovery time (1 to 2 years)

2

**Overall Score**

8

5 - 7 = Low  
8 - 11 = Medium  
12 - 15 = High

**Visual Absorption Capacity**  
(Low, Medium, High)

Medium

**Rationale and Conclusion**

Medium VAC is valid for traditional projects such as roads and low-profile structures such as oil & gas facilities. Large-scale facilities such as wind turbines would be visible in a unit such as this at distances up to 20 miles.

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VISUAL ABSORPTION CAPACITY RATING SHEET

Scenic Quality Rating Unit: Laramie County

Date 8/23/2010

Unit Number: 122

Evaluators: CBrandt JLieen GLong

	SCORE
<p><b>Vegetation</b></p> <p>1 = Low, uniform vegetation or sparse vegetative cover; typically less than 3' in height; lacking in variety; uniform color; minimal screening capability; typically sagebrush, sagebrush/grass, or grass type vegetation.</p> <p>2 = Vegetation of moderate height (3–6'), some species variety (2 to 3 types), some variation in color, mostly continuous vegetative cover, effectively screens low-profile projects such as low-profile surface disturbance, sagebrush/grass, and intermingled shrubs.</p> <p>3 = Higher vegetation (&gt;6' height); lush, continuous vegetative cover; some variety of vegetative types is typical but not mandatory; provides significant screening capability of projects up to 15–20 feet in height; juniper woodlands, aspen, conifers.</p>	<p>1</p>
<p><b>Soil Contrast</b></p> <p>1 = Surface disturbance would expose a high degree of contrast in color with surrounding soil, rock, and vegetation.</p> <p>2 = Surface disturbance would expose a medium degree of contrast in color with surrounding soil, rock, and vegetation.</p> <p>3 = Surface disturbance would expose only a low degree of contrast in color with surrounding soil, rock, and vegetation.</p>	<p>2</p>
<p><b>Visual Variety</b></p> <p>1 = Rating unit exhibits a low degree of visual variety in terms of the landscape character elements of form, line, and texture; may also exhibit minimal variety in landforms, vegetation, or color.</p> <p>2 = Rating unit exhibits a medium degree of visual variety in terms of the landscape character elements of form, line, and texture; may also exhibit medium variety in landforms, vegetation, or color.</p> <p>3 = Rating unit exhibits a high degree of visual variety in terms of the landscape character elements of form, line, and texture; may also exhibit high degree of variety in landforms, vegetation, or color.</p>	<p>1</p>

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**RAWLINS FIELD OFFICE**

**VISUAL ABSORPTION CAPACITY RATING SHEET**

**SCORE**

**Topographical Diversity**

- 1 = Landform has low amount of topographic diversity and variety.  
2 = Landform has moderate amount of topographic diversity and variety.  
3 = Landform has high amount of topographic diversity and variety.

**1**

**Recovery Time**

- 1 = Long-term recovery time (greater than 5 years)  
2 = Medium recovery time (3 to 5 years)  
3 = High (rapid) recovery time (1 to 2 years)

**2**

**Overall Score**

**7**

**5 - 7 = Low**

**8 - 11 = Medium**

**12 - 15 = High**

**Visual Absorption Capacity  
(Low, Medium, High)**

**Low**

**Rationale and Conclusion**

Such a vast landscape with limited visual variety, very low and uniform vegetation, and limited topographic variation has little ability to absorb visual impacts.

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VISUAL ABSORPTION CAPACITY RATING SHEET

Scenic Quality Rating Unit: Pine Bluffs

Date 8/23/2010

Unit Number: 123

Evaluators: CBrandt JLieen GLong

	SCORE
<p><b>Vegetation</b></p> <p>1 = Low, uniform vegetation or sparse vegetative cover; typically less than 3' in height; lacking in variety; uniform color; minimal screening capability; typically sagebrush, sagebrush/grass, or grass type vegetation.</p> <p>2 = Vegetation of moderate height (3–6'), some species variety (2 to 3 types), some variation in color, mostly continuous vegetative cover, effectively screens low-profile projects such as low-profile surface disturbance, sagebrush/grass, and intermingled shrubs.</p> <p>3 = Higher vegetation (&gt;6' height); lush, continuous vegetative cover; some variety of vegetative types is typical but not mandatory; provides significant screening capability of projects up to 15–20 feet in height; juniper woodlands, aspen, conifers.</p>	<p>3</p>
<p><b>Soil Contrast</b></p> <p>1 = Surface disturbance would expose a high degree of contrast in color with surrounding soil, rock, and vegetation.</p> <p>2 = Surface disturbance would expose a medium degree of contrast in color with surrounding soil, rock, and vegetation.</p> <p>3 = Surface disturbance would expose only a low degree of contrast in color with surrounding soil, rock, and vegetation.</p>	<p>2</p>
<p><b>Visual Variety</b></p> <p>1 = Rating unit exhibits a low degree of visual variety in terms of the landscape character elements of form, line, and texture; may also exhibit minimal variety in landforms, vegetation, or color.</p> <p>2 = Rating unit exhibits a medium degree of visual variety in terms of the landscape character elements of form, line, and texture; may also exhibit medium variety in landforms, vegetation, or color.</p> <p>3 = Rating unit exhibits a high degree of visual variety in terms of the landscape character elements of form, line, and texture; may also exhibit high degree of variety in landforms, vegetation, or color.</p>	<p>2</p>

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**VISUAL ABSORPTION CAPACITY RATING SHEET**

**SCORE**

**Topographical Diversity**

- 1 = Landform has low amount of topographic diversity and variety.  
2 = Landform has moderate amount of topographic diversity and variety.  
3 = Landform has high amount of topographic diversity and variety.

2

**Recovery Time**

- 1 = Long-term recovery time (greater than 5 years)  
2 = Medium recovery time (3 to 5 years)  
3 = High (rapid) recovery time (1 to 2 years)

2

**Overall Score**

11

5 - 7 = Low

8 - 11 = Medium

12 - 15 = High

**Visual Absorption Capacity**  
(Low, Medium, High)

Medium

**Rationale and Conclusion**

Heavy vegetative cover (ponderosa pine) would provide significant screening for most low-profile projects. Medium factors for soil, topography, and recovery.