

Rawlins Resource Management Plan Amendment

Visual Resource Inventory Terminology

A Visual Resource Inventory (VRI) provides a snapshot in time of the current scenic values of an area using:

- Scenic Quality – the visual appeal of an area rated A (high quality), B (mid quality), or C (low quality)
- Sensitivity Levels – the public's concern for scenic quality rated high, medium, or low
- Distance Zones – the relative visible distance from travel routes or observation points, categorized as foreground-midground, background, and seldom seen

Ratings for scenic quality, sensitivity level, and distance zones are used to develop VRI Classes:

- VRI Class I – Most valued*
- VRI Class II – Highly valued
- VRI Class III – Moderately valued
- VRI Class IV – Less valued

A VRI was completed for the Rawlins Field Office in 2011. The VRI focuses solely on visual quality without consideration to other management issues or resources, such as:

- Manageability – Ability for BLM to manage visual quality where limitations, such as jurisdiction, are a factor
- Other Resource Values – Protection of other resource values, such as wildlife habitats or cultural resources
- Resource Conflicts – Conflicts with resource uses, such as oil and gas, wind energy, or utilities, and areas that are already leased or approved, but undeveloped

** VRI Class I is reserved only for special areas such as wilderness areas, the wild segments of national wild and scenic rivers, and other congressionally and administratively designated areas where decisions have been made to preserve a natural landscape*

