



Explanation of Map Symbols

The main symbols on the map consist of a visual unit name, a scenic distinction ranking score, and a visual vulnerability ranking. Each visual term is discussed more fully in the box below. The symbols are as follows:

- Tumbler Ridge (50) — Visual unit name
Scenic distinction ranking score
- M — Visual vulnerability rank
- Visual unit boundary
- - - Indistinct visual unit boundary
- - - Visibility sector boundary
- Portal in visual unit boundary
- Portal in visibility sector
- - - Vulnerability sector boundary

- Visual vulnerability rank
- H High
- M Moderate
- L Low

Rim sector, land surface foreshortened or invisible from unit floor

Prominent topographic eminence, widely visible from unit floor

Prominent peak

Outstanding scenic element

Lakes

Visual units mapped but no other evaluation of visual characteristics has been attempted

Scenic Distinction Ranking Score (0-200)

- Low scenic distinction 0 - 39
- Moderate scenic distinction 40 - 79
- High scenic distinction 80 - 119
- Very high scenic distinction 120 - 159
- Outstanding scenic distinction 160 - 200

Definition of Visual Terms

VISUAL ANALYSIS

The visual analysis has been designed to distinguish between landscapes of relatively higher or lower visual quality and between land surfaces of relatively higher or lower vulnerability to visual impacts from corridor development. In the analysis of alignment alternatives, priority is given to protecting landscapes with the highest visual quality ratings by directing development to areas with low or moderate ratings. Within designated corridors, development is further directed to those land surfaces with low or moderate visual vulnerability ratings.

SCENIC QUALITY

The basic principle for the interpretation of scenic quality is that values are high where visual variety occurs within a distinct and unified landscape. Visual variety is a function of the combination of landscape elements or features which occur in visual association. These elements and their inter-relationships are evaluated in terms of form, line, colour, texture, and scale.

VISUAL UNIT

To structure the evaluation of scenic quality and to make possible interpretations suitable for visual management purposes the landscape has been subdivided into "visual units". These are defined as a portion of the landscape which is enclosed and defined by topography which bounds the observers field of view, thereby assisting him to form and accumulate a unified impression of his surroundings. Each visual unit has its own distinct visual character and degree of unity, its specific scenic distinction is created by the combination of landscape elements within it or bounding it. Most visual units represent recognizable valley forms where enclosing ridges limit the field of view.

SCENIC DISTINCTION RANKING

To arrive at a scenic distinction ranking score for each of the visual units a selection of landscape characteristics found within the study area have been identified as indicators of scenic quality. Twenty such indicators or "scenic distinction factors" have been identified. Each visual unit is evaluated for each scenic distinction factor. The scores for each factor are added together to provide the summary ranking score which appears on the map. Taken together the scenic distinction factors evaluate the special dimensions and character of the unit, the extent and character of its water forms, its distinctive features and accents, its linkages with other units and any existing degrading contrasts. Ranking scores range from 0 - 200.

VISUAL VULNERABILITY

Visual vulnerability is a measure of the degree to which a given landscape is capable of absorbing man's impacts without significant modification of its positive visual qualities. High vulnerability indicates that natural conditions are easily disturbed, and that such disturbance would be highly visible in the event of development. Low vulnerability conditions permit development to be absorbed with less evident alteration to the landscape. Generally areas with steep slopes and uniform surface patterns receive high vulnerability ratings while areas with gentle slopes and varied surface patterns receive low vulnerability ratings.

VULNERABILITY SECTOR

Land surfaces with uniform visual vulnerability ratings.

PORTAL

Visual units are seldom completely enclosed. It is common to find at least one or two openings or portals where the skyline dips to provide a threshold for drainage, access or views outward. Portals are important for observer orientation and for potential movement into or through a unit.

VISIBILITY SECTOR

Visibility sectors may be identified in some visual units. They are defined by variations in topography that impede the field of view. A side valley opening into the main visual unit, a change in the direction of a valley or a break in the level of a valley floor are examples of topographic variations which would warrant delineation as visibility sectors.

SCENIC ELEMENTS

Scenic elements or features of locally high contrast, such as waterfalls, rapids, rock outcrops, distinctive peaks, or glaciers, are recorded individually on the visual unit maps. Lakes are also indicated, in recognition of the visual importance of waterbodies.

References

The following reference should be used along with this map:
Visual Resources of the Northeast Coal Study Area, 1976 - 1977. Prepared by R. J. Tetlow and S. R. J. Sheppard. Resource Analysis Branch, B. C. Ministry of Environment, Victoria, B. C. 102 p. plus appendices.

The methodology of visual unit analysis and mapping are discussed in Appendix A. Appendix C contains scenic distinction ranking forms for each visual unit. The use and application of visual unit analysis for land management and planning are also discussed in the report.

Credits

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Topographic base provided by - Surveys and Mapping Branch, B. C. Ministry of Environment