Scenery Management

Scenery Management System Process

Process Steps:

1. Scenic Character Descriptions:
   written descriptions of the attributes, qualities, and traits of a landscape that give it an image and make it identifiable or unique.
2. Existing Scenic Integrity Levels:
   current state of the landscape, considering previous human alterations.
3. Scenic Attractiveness:
   scenic importance of a landscape based on human perceptions of the intrinsic beauty of the landscape.
4. Concern Levels:
   the degree of public importance placed on a landscape as viewed from travelways and use areas.
5. Scenic Classes:
   the importance or value of a particular landscape or portion of the landscape.
6. Scenic Integrity Objectives:
   desired state of the landscpe, used to determine acceptable levels of human alterations.

Scenic Integrity Objectives Overview

Scenic Integrity Definition:

State of naturalness or, conversely, the state of disturbance created by human activities or alteration. Integrity is stated in degrees of deviation from the existing scenic character in a national forest.

Scenic Integrity Measurement Criteria:

1. **dominace** of the scenic character versus management action deviation
2. **degree of the deviation** from the scenic charcter
3. **intactness** of the scenic character.

Criteria	Scenic Integrity Objective			
	Very High	High	Moderate	Low
Dominance	Scenic Character	Scenic Character	Scenic Character	Deviation
Degree of Deviation	None	Not Evident	Evident but Not Dominant	Dominant
Intactness	Fully	Largely	Moderately	Lowly

Questions or to Comment on the Draft Forest Plan:

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Manti-La Sal National Forest

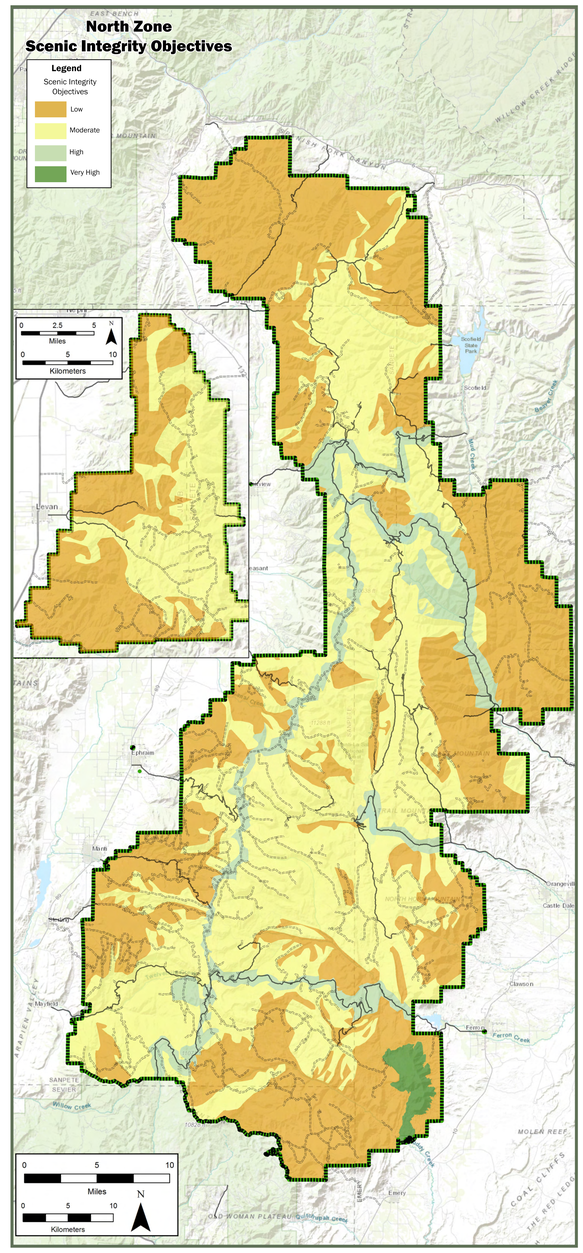
United States Department of Agriculture

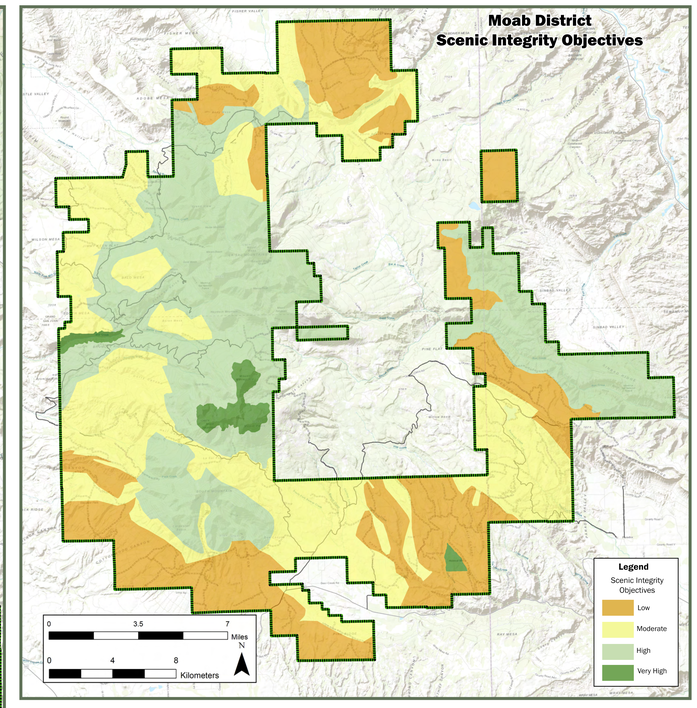
When the current forest plan was signed...

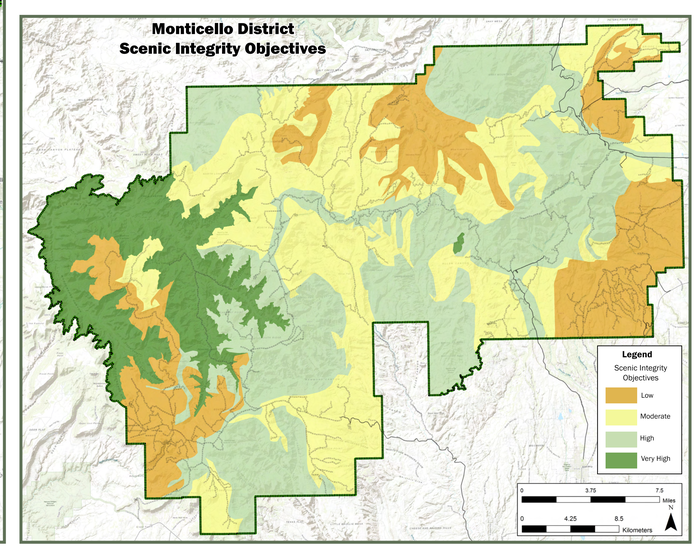
About 400,000 people/year visited 15 year old Arches National Park.
Now about 1.6 million people/year visit the 50 year old National Park.

What else has changed?

- Increased Forest Visitation
- Increased Population in Adjacent Communities with Forest Views
- Increased Expectations of a Scenic Forest
- IIncreased Recreational Use







The Scenery Management System replaced the Visual Management System as guidance and direction for management of the scenery resource in 1995. Adoption of the new system should occur with revision of the forest plan.

Scenery Mangement:

Desired Conditions:

- High-quality scenery and scenic attractiveness are protected in areas the public values highly for scenery, such as scenic byways, major roads and trails, designated wilderness areas, inventoried roadless areas, developed recreation sites and geographic areas with scenic values.
- The Manti-La Sal's scenery, as described by the scenic integrity objectives positively contributes to the quality of life of local communities and visitors while reflecting a range of allowable alterations that balances social and economic values, ecosystem health, landscape dynamics, resilient landscapes, and sustainability.
- The La Sal, Abajo, and Elk Ridge landscapes continue to be valued as scenic backdrops to the surrounding National Parks and Monuments.
- Dark sky nights are a valued quality across the Forest.

Standards and Guidelines:

- Management activities should be consistent with scenic integrity objectives and visibility of the activities should diminish over time.
- Vegetation management activities should be designed to reflect natural disturbance regimes and processes to meet or exceed the scenic integrity objectives and maintain the desired scenic character.
- Consider dark sky night best management practices in all new facilities.