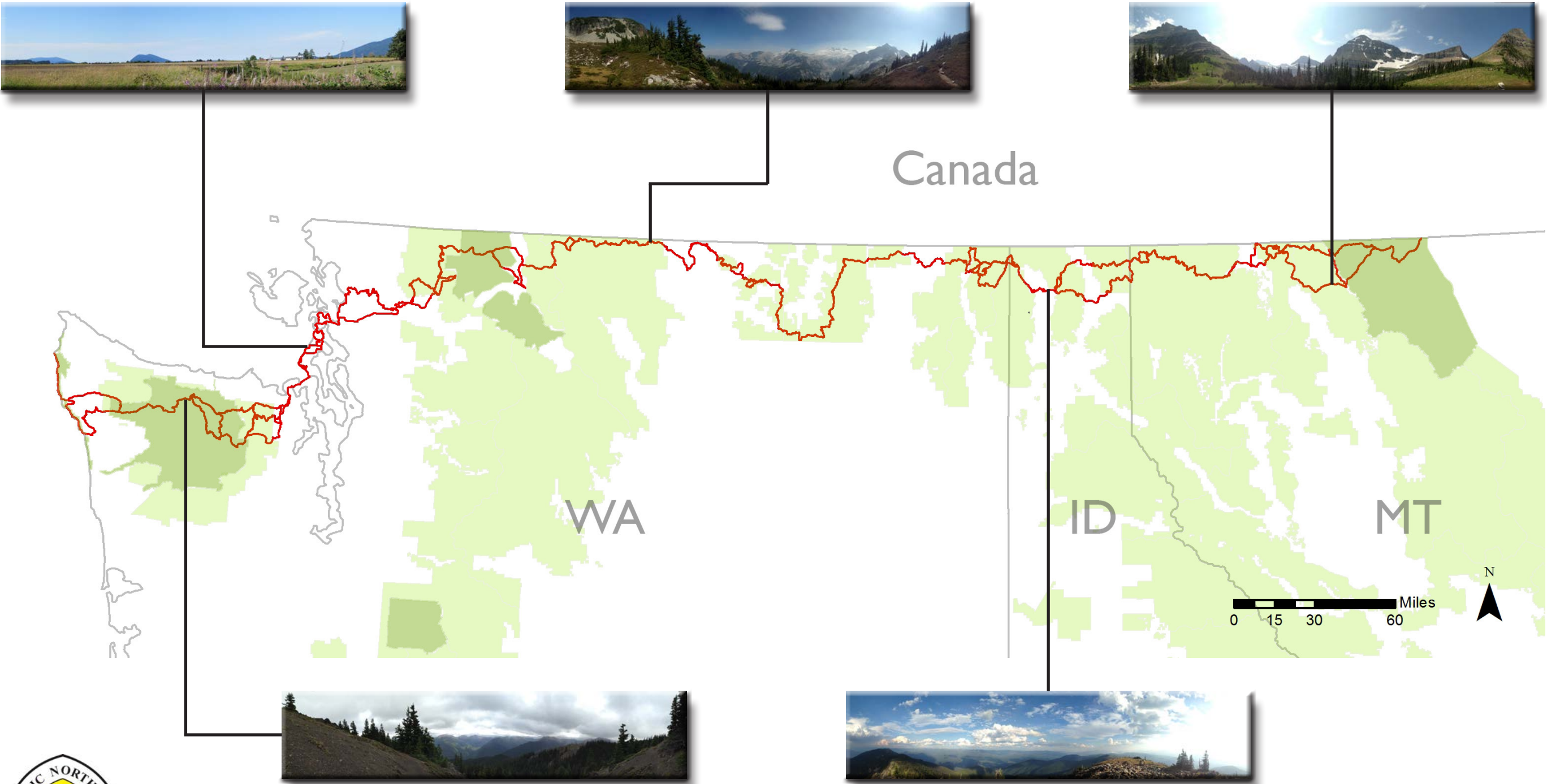


# Long Distance Transect:

A Scenic Inventory of the Pacific Northwest National Scenic Trail



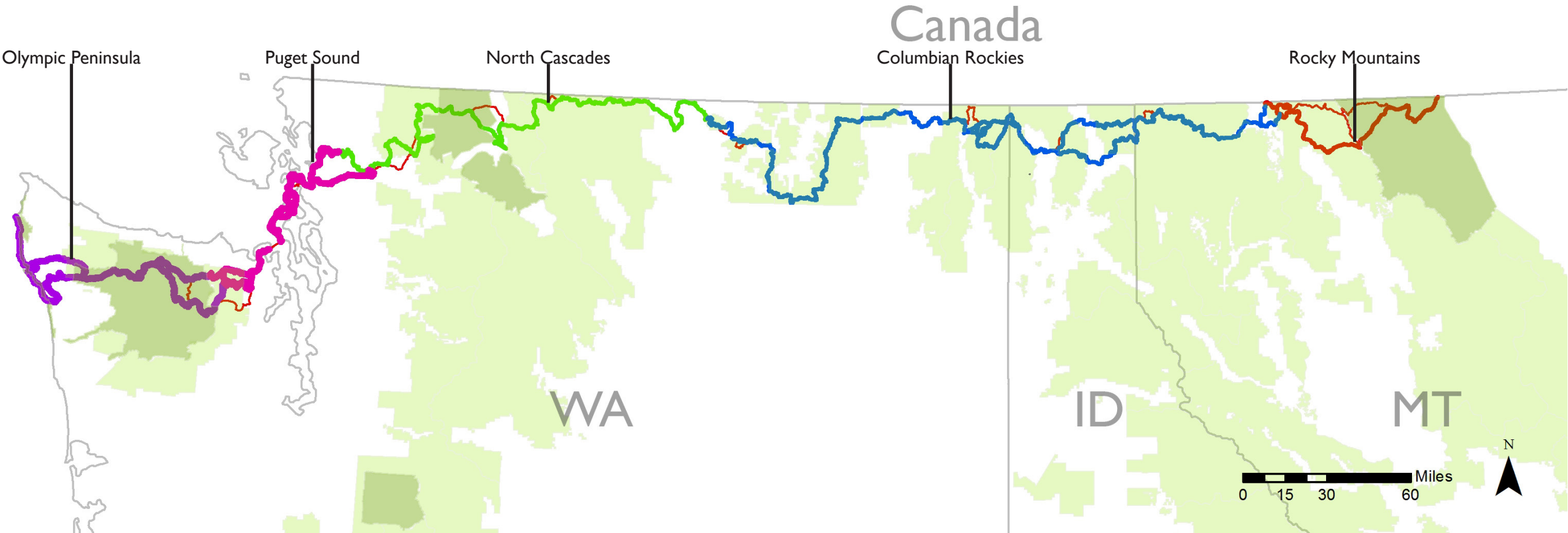
Pacific Northwest National Scenic Trail

Prepared by: Byron Stringham, David Fothergill, and Matt Ramich



for the greatest good

# Index:



Introductory Section  
Pg: I - IV

Rocky Mountains  
Pg: I- 19

Columbian Rockies  
Pg: 20 - 88

North Cascades  
Pg: 89 - 133

Puget Sound  
Pg: 134 - 152

Olympic Peninsula  
Pg: 153 - 175



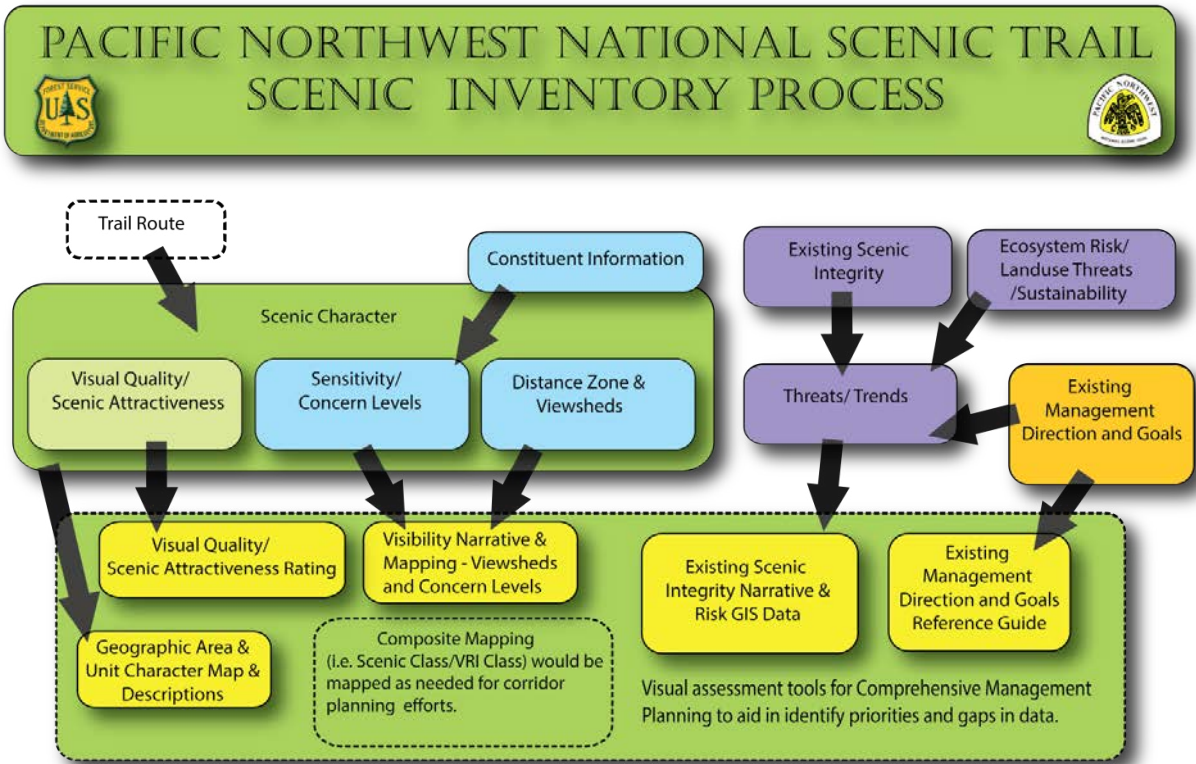


Introduction

The Pacific Northwest National Scenic Trail (PNNST) was designated by congress in 2009 and is over 1,200 miles long. The purpose of the trail includes Section 2(a) of the National Trails System Act (1968) “to provide for the ever-increasing outdoor recreation needs of an expanding population and in order to promote the preservation of, public access to, travel within, and enjoyment and appreciation of the open-air, outdoor areas and historic resources of the Nation”

The scenic inventory was conducted in the summer of 2015 to document the visual resources and existing conditions of the congressionally designated trail in preparation for the comprehensive plan. The scenic inventory will help in the development of specific objectives and practices to be observed in the management of the trail, support a protection plan for the long-term future of the trail, add aid in the development of plans for potential future enhancements, and also help to refine the congressional route location.

The scenic inventory process consisted of a detailed evaluation of the 1200 miles of trail. The inventory is consistent with the principles of the U.S. Forest Service Scenery Management System (SMS) (1995) and components of the BLM Visual Resource Management (VRM). Terminology used, primarily references current U.S. Forest Service Landscape Management and Landscape Aesthetics, Agriculture Handbook 701 for scenery analysis and BLM Manual of Visual Resource Inventory, Manual H-8410-1. Data were primarily collected via extensive ground reconnaissance and photo documentation, but existing mapped data and aerial photography interpretation were also employed. The following diagram summarized the scenic inventory process:



Spatial Framework

The PNNST transects the Pacific Northwest region of the United States directly south of the international border in Montana, Idaho, and, Washington. The trail traverses a large swath of diverse country between Glacier National Park and the west coast. For scenic inventory purposes, the trail was organized into units. Each unit is defined by the unique landscape character and viewshed traversed by trail segments. Landscape character is the combination of attributes that imbue an area with its identity or sense of place. A viewshed is the aggregation of seen areas from the trail.

Unit delineation and landscape character description is directly derived from the Environmental Protection Agency’s Ecoregion Framework, James M. Omernik and others. Ecoregions are “areas that exhibit similar patterns of biotic, abiotic, terrestrial, and, aquatic components, recognizing that humans are a part of the biota”.

The PNNST is organized into 5 major divisions that are derived from level 3 ecoregions: Olympic Peninsula, Puget Sound, Cascades, Columbian Rockies, and Rocky Mountains. These major divisions are further subdivided into the basic trail units that are derived from level 4 ecoregions. The number of units vary between trail alignment alternatives.

Units are spatially explicit and able to be mapped. Lengthwise, units are delineated by edges with adjacent units ( edges of landscape character). The width of units vary, delineated by either the viewshed or an agreed upon distance determined to contribute to the trail experience. For example, high elevation units have expansive widths that often extend into adjacent ecoregions. Units, constrained by topography such as valley bottoms, are comparatively narrow.

It is important to note that while graphically each unit is a neat discrete polygon, actual edges of units are muddled. Units erratically intergrade rather than abruptly transition into one another. Also because ecoregions are scattered across the landscape, some ecoregions are encountered in multiple locations- disconnected from one another. For purposes of this inventory, when an ecoregion is encountered multiple times along the trail, it is considered a unique unit. An example of this exists in Glacier National Park where a high elevation ecoregion is transected twice in two locations, once at Stony Indian Pass and again at Brown Pass. Both areas belong to the same level 4 ecoregion, the Crestal Alpine- Subalpine Zone, and share similar attributes. However to recognize the geographical uniqueness of both locations, they were considered 2 separate units. In other instances, where ecoregions are transected for short distances, the smaller area is often subsumed into an adjacent larger one. An example of this happens along the Kettle Crest near Sherman Pass. A small area of the Okanogan Highland Dry Forest is transected by the trail and therefore subsumed into the adjacent Kettle Crest North.



The following descriptions for the 5 major division for which the PNNST passes through have been borrowed from Omernik et al.



**Olympic Peninsula** - This region is characterized by low mountains covered by highly productive, rain-drenched coniferous forests. Sitka spruce forests originally dominated the fog-shrouded coast, while a mosaic of western red cedar, western hemlock, and seral Douglas-fir blanketed inland areas. Today Douglas-fir plantations are prevalent on the intensively logged and managed landscape.

Imbedded in the middle of the peninsula are the steep, glaciated Olympic Mountains that reach elevations of 8000 feet. This mountainous region is characterized by rock outcrops, tarns, persistent snow pack, alpine glaciers, and high-gradient, glacial-fed streams. Its vegetation includes subalpine fir, mountain hemlock and Pacific silver fir forests as well as alpine meadows.



**Puget Sound** - This region is a broad rolling lowland that is characterized by a mild maritime climate. It occupies a continental glacial trough and is composed of many islands, peninsulas, and bays in the Puget Sound area. Coniferous forest originally grew on the ecoregion's ground moraines, outwash plains, floodplains, and terraces. The distribution of forest species is affected by the rain shadow from the Olympic Mtns.



**Cascades** - The terrain of the North Cascades is composed of high, rugged mountains that have been sculpted by alpine glaciations. It contains the greatest concentration of active alpine glaciers in the conterminous United States and has a variety of climatic zones. A dry continental climate occurs in the east, and mild, maritime, rainforest conditions are found in the west that support highly productive coniferous forests. Subalpine meadows and rocky alpine zones occur at high elevations. The region is underlain by sedimentary, metamorphic, and igneous rock.



**Columbian Rockies** - This region is mountainous and rugged. Climate, trees, and understory species are characteristically maritime-influenced. Douglas-fir, subalpine fir, Engelmann spruce, western larch, lodgepole pine, and ponderosa pine as well as Pacific indicators such as western redcedar, western hemlock, mountain hemlock, and grand fir occur. Alpine areas exist, but as a whole, the region has lower elevations, less perennial snow and ice, and fewer glacial lakes than the adjacent Rocky Mountains. Metasedimentary rocks are common. Granitic rocks are localized. Logging and mining are common and have caused stream water quality problems in the region. Recreational uses are also important.



**Rocky Mountains** - This region is generally high in elevation, and covered in snow and ice in the winter months. Western portions are strongly influenced by moist maritime air masses. Melting snow and rainfall are abundant at the higher elevations. Some surplus water is stored in glacial deposits, unconsolidated mountain valley fill, and permeable sedimentary rocks. However, areas underlain by crystalline rocks lack sufficient groundwater storage capacity to prevent overland runoff or to develop groundwater supplies; in these places, base flow is meager and high elevation streams generally flow only during rain and snow melt periods. The highest elevations are treeless, glaciated alpine areas. The potential natural vegetation is mostly subalpine fir, Douglas-fir, and Engelmann spruce. Soils are thin or absent on upper mountain slopes but become deeper and more developed below, especially west of the Continental Divide. Recreation, forestry, and mining are common land uses.





# Scenic Inventory

Scenic Character is a combination of the physical, biological, and cultural images that gives an area its scenic identity and contributes to its sense of place. Scenic character provides a frame of reference from which to determine scenic attractiveness and to measure scenic integrity. It is important to note that generally positive attributes are included in the scenic character description. Human caused deviations are described in the Existing Scenic Integrity. The trail units described in the spatial framework, are used as a starting point for describing the physical and biological attributes of the landscape. Ecoregion mapping and descriptions for the state of Montana, Idaho and Washington is the base of reference to help describe the bio-physical character. In addition to describing the landscape's bio-physical attributes (geology, vegetation, soils, water features, disturbance regimes, and topography), cultural features within the trail corridor are identified. These are typically historic structures (fire lookouts, cabins, ghost towns, or Civilian Conservation Corps camps), or features that contribute to the area's sense of place (old town centers, rolling hay fields, reservoirs, etc.). A narrative describes each unit's scenic character- the sense of place, nearby community identities and ecological features- which captures the seen experience of hikers. Additionally, representational photos from each unit exemplify the scenic character.

Visual Quality/ Scenic Attractiveness measures the scenic importance of a landscape based upon human perceptions of the intrinsic beauty of landform, rock form, vegetative patterns, water characteristics and cultural land use. Higher levels occur in landscapes with positive combinations of variety, vividness, mystery, intactness, coherence, harmony, uniqueness, pattern, and balance. Visual Quality/ Scenic Attractiveness is divided into 3 categories: A = distinctive or unique, B = typical or common, C = indistinctive.

Visual Quality/ Scenic Attractiveness ratings were inventoried and documented using a field survey. For each trail unit, a map was produced showing the "room" or extent of the described landscape (see spatial framework). The trail character units were analyzed individually and given a rating relative to all of the trail units along the entire trail corridor. Seven key factors for determining a rating were evaluated (borrowed from the BLM VMR process) including: Landform, Vegetation, Water, Scarcity, and Cultural Modification.

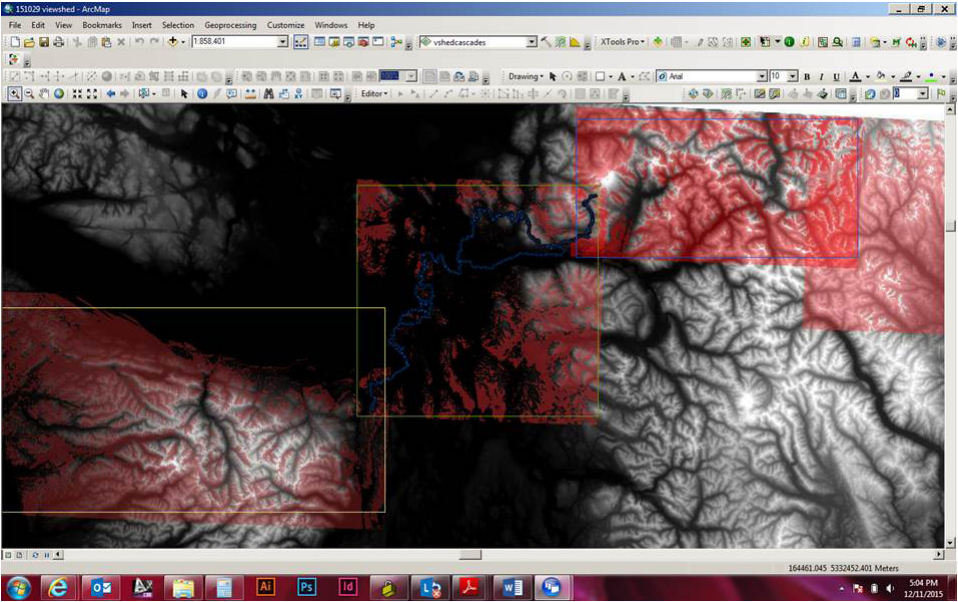
The Visual Quality/ Scenic Attractiveness rating is the result of totaling the scores of the seven key factors noted on the forms and assigning the rating based on points according to the following scale:

- Class A = a score of 19 points or more
- Class B = a score of 12 to 18 points
- Class C = a score of 11 points or less

Sensitivity/Concern Level measure the degree of public importance placed on landscapes from travel ways and use areas. Sensitivity and concern levels are sometimes used in combination with distance zones to describe landscape visibility. Sensitivity/Concern Levels are divided into three categories: 1 = High, 2 = Moderate, 3 = Low. Because the majority of the scenic trail corridor would have high sensitivity, subcategories may be developed to better distinguish areas of very high concern such as iconic views and very high concentrations of public viewers. The sensitive areas were mapped using existing GIS data and through field verification.

Distance Zones are the classification of landscapes into the distances from the observer(s). This is used as a frame of reference to discuss landscape attributes or the effects of proposed landscape activities or changes in scenery. Distance zones can be used independently or in combination with sensitivity/concern levels to describe Landscape Visibility. Distance zones for this analysis are defined below.

- Immediate Foreground = up to 300' from the viewer Foreground = up to 1/2 mile from viewer
- Middleground = 1/2 mile less than 4 miles from viewer
- Background = more than 4 miles from viewer



Viewsheds are visible portions of the landscape seen from the trail and nearby use areas. A viewshed model was completed for segments of the trail. Mapped viewsheds depict areas not screened by topography using a GIS 10-meter digital elevation model (DEM). Conversely, the viewshed maps show areas completely screened by topography (i.e., a standing individual in these areas would not have a view from the trail). However, seen areas depicted in viewshed maps may be partially screened by vegetation (DEM does not account for vegetation), structures, or by topography not represented within the limits of the DEM accuracy (e.g... a 12' boulder next to the trail may screen portions of the viewshed but not be captured in the model). The viewshed maps help identify large portions of land area that are not visible from the trail and thus help to focus future analysis on the seen area within the corridor. The viewshed may also be described in the narrative as to the openness or closed (screened) experience a hiker may experience in the seen environment as they hike the trail. A short narrative of the visibility is documented on the form for each character units, which serve as the frame of reference for these descriptions.





Visibility also addresses the relative importance and sensitivity of what is seen and perceived in the landscape. It includes: the context of the viewers (e.g. walking in town or hiking a mountain ridge); the duration of the view; screening- the degree of discernible detail; seasonal variations; and the number of viewers. Concern Levels data will be used to identify areas of high concern along the trail. These are also identified on the character unit maps.

Existing Scenic Integrity (ESI) is the existing condition (degree of intactness) of attributes described in the scenic character. It conveys current conditions. It serves as an important benchmark for corridor management planning, project-level design, mitigation, and monitoring. ESI was described in narrative and the level is defined as follows:

Very High	Landscape is intact with only minor changes from the valued landscape character associated with significant scenic landscapes.
High	Management activities are unnoticed and the landscape character appears unaltered.
Moderate	Management activities are noticeable but are subordinate to the landscape character. The landscape appears slightly altered
Low	The landscape appears altered. Management activities are evident and sometimes dominate the landscape character but are designed to blend with surroundings by repeating form, line, color, and texture of attributes described in the landscape character.
Very Low	Management activities create a “heavily altered landscape”. Changes strongly dominate the landscape.

(Note: Scenic Integrity may also influence the previously mentioned Visual Quality/Scenic Attractiveness due to the use of the BLM form method, which includes cultural modifications. The Scenic Integrity narrative may include a more detailed description, particularly altered landscapes.)

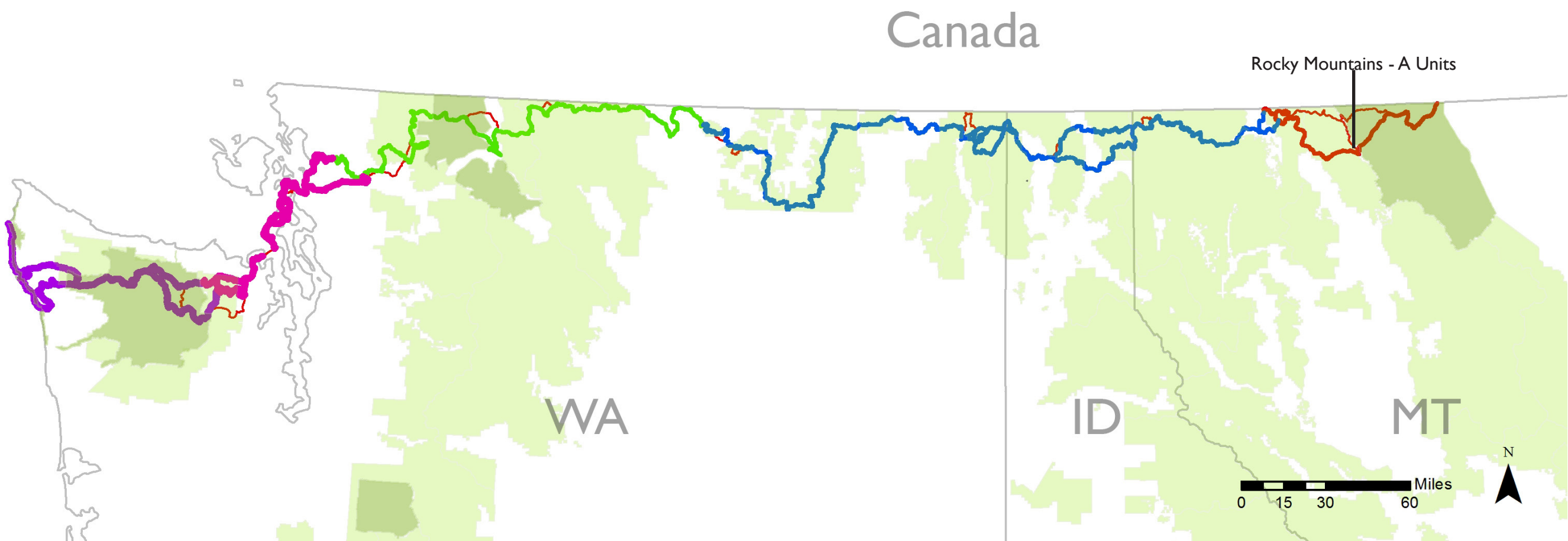
Several thousand photographs were taken and collected as part of the documentation of the of the trail. The majority of these photos that were taken are geo-referenced or have coordinate system embedded in the digital photo file. Additional several contacts were made of professional and amateur photographers that have documented portions of the trail. Links to the photos and websites can be found in Appendix A. Geo-referenced Photos.

Existing management direction and goals for visual resources across jurisdictions in Appendix B. Data Sources for PNNST management area direction references available GIS data locations. Agency goals and municipalities planning and zoning ordinances are also reference for future comprehensive management planning or for project level planning along the trail corridor.

Scenic Sustainability identifies the “risk” for change of the scenic character. GIS data searches uncovered existing National Gap Analysis Program data and can also be used to identify risk to scenery from existing land cover and protected areas data set, which correlates ecological data layers as well as potential environmental trends and land use and ownership, as well as agency goals. Additionally additional regional data set were identified that could be used to identify risk for change in scenery. An Appendix C. Threat Assessment Strategy is included referencing the links to GIS data.



# Rocky Mountains Index:



A1 - Belly River Valley  
Pg: 2 - 3

A2 - Stony Indian Pass  
Pg: 4 - 5

A3 - Waterton Lake  
Pg: 6 - 7

A4 - Brown Pass  
Pg: 8 - 9

A5 - Bowman Lake  
Pg: 10 - 11

A6 - North Fork of the  
Flathead - Pg: 12 - 13

A7 - Whitefish Range -  
Hay Creek - Pg: 14 - 15

A8 - Whitefish Divide  
Pg: 16 - 17

A9 - Whitefish Range -  
Ten Lakes Area - Pg: 18 - 19





SCENIC CHARACTER

The Belly River Valley lies east of the Continental Divide in the rain shadow of the Rocky Mountains. The most eastern section of the PNNST coincides with an alternate route of the Continental Divide National Scenic Trail. The broad Belly River Valley extends into Canada cradling the north flowing river. Nestled along the Rocky Mountain Front, here the Rocky Mountains dramatically uplift from the vast prairie to the east. Open meadows intersperse with aspen groves and mixed coniferous forest. Riparian corridors carve through rolling hills. Glacially scoured Cosley and Glens Lakes display clear, azure water and are linked together by the Mokawanis River. High quality water abounds in many shades and forms. Expansive views of the surrounding Lewis Range are abundant.

Chief Mountain presides over the valley, a landscape sacred to the Black-foot Nation. The Belly River Ranger Station stands testament to National Park Service management and the primary land use of recreation. Wildlife is abundant with most of the entire suite of species still extant, including lynx and grizzly bears. Non-native plant species, such as Timothy grass, have been introduced.

Aerial Overview



UNIT MAP



VISUAL QUALITY/SCENIC ATTRACTIVENESS

	Rating	Explanation or Rationale
Landform	4	Dramatic, glaciated mountains and valleys of Lewis Range.
Vegetation	3	Mixed coniferous forest; meadow; riparian corridor; aspen groves.
Water	5	Abundant in many forms: river; streams; lakes high quality water.
Color	3	Meadow flowers; aspen; clear cerulean water.
Adjacent Scenery	3	Rocky, jagged mountains including iconic Chief Mountain.
Scarcity	5	Exceptional; national significance.
Cultural Modification	3	Excellent trails and campgrounds; Belly River Ranger Station and associated facilities.
Total	26	RATING = A

Visual Inventory Form

Zone: 5 - Rocky Mountains  
Unit #A1 Belly River Valley

Date: 07/06/2015  
Jurisdiction (s): National Park

LOCATION MAP



VISIBILITY

Viewsheds/ Screening/ Distance Zone	Views are filtered by vegetation in sections but mostly far reaching into Middleground and Background of surrounding Lewis Range.
Sensitivity/ Concern Level	Very high concern levels because of high use and portal access to Glacier National Park.

SCENIC INTEGRITY

Level of Naturalness	Very High except introduced pasture grass
Wholeness	Very High



PACIFIC NORTHWEST NATIONAL SCENIC TRAIL





Viewpoint - Panorama #01



Viewpoint #02



Viewpoint #03





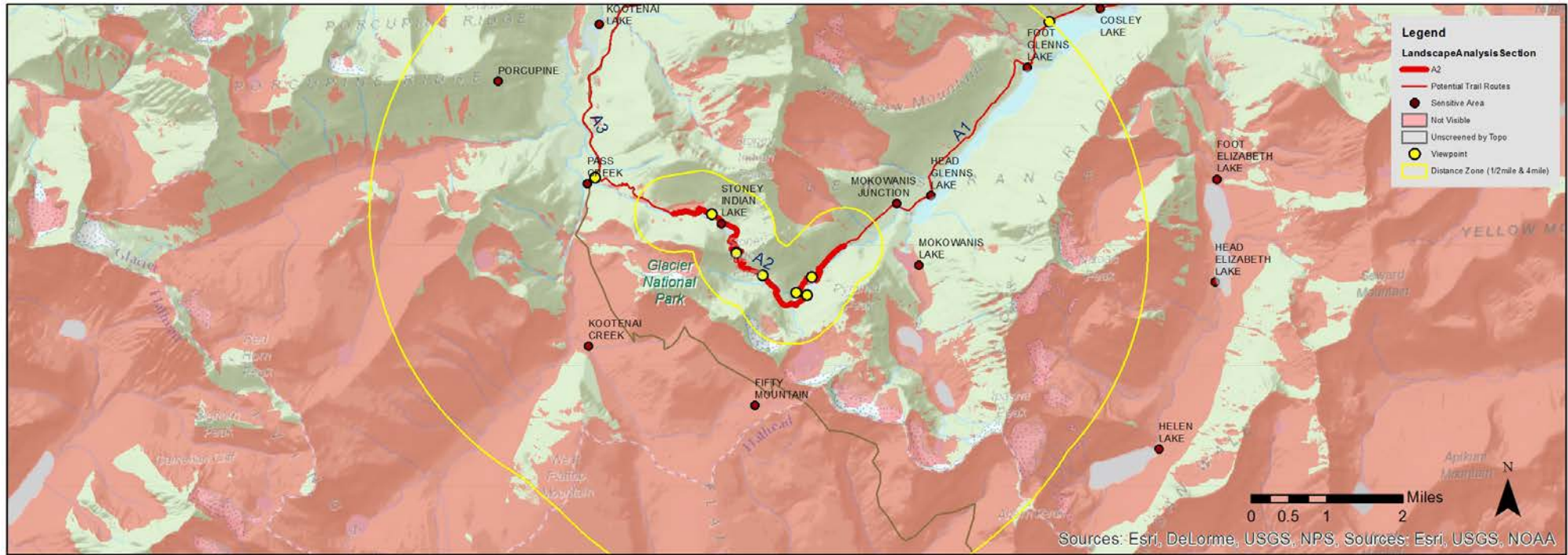
SCENIC CHARACTER

Residing in the heart of the Lewis Range, the high elevation of Stony Indian Pass imbues it with a microclimate where precipitation is frequent. Rocky landform has been sculpted by glaciation. Active glaciers are still visible. Tarns, such as Stony Indian and Atsina Lakes, dot cirque basins. Numerous waterfalls cascade down from persistent snowpack. Disturbance from unstable slopes and avalanches continue to shape the landscape. Trees are patchy in distribution and stunted by harsh growing conditions. Some exhibit contorted Krummholz growth forms. Diverse and robust meadows contain rich assemblages of textures and color. Subalpine plant communities give way to exposed rock- talus, scree, and, cliff bands. Expansive views extend into the background. Complex, jagged mountain peaks captivate viewer’s attention.

Aerial Overview



UNIT MAP



VISUAL QUALITY/SCENIC ATTRACTIVENESS

	Rating	Explanation or Rationale
Landform	5	Jagged, glaciated peaks of the Lewis Range; glacial features
Vegetation	5	Subalpine meadows; stunted high elevation patches of trees.
Water	5	Water is common in high-gradient streams; colorful tarns; cascading waterfalls.
Color	5	Rich meadows; tarns; patches of snow; argillite rock; evergreen trees.
Adjacent Scenery	5	Spectacular mountain tops of Lewis and Livingston Ranges; valley bottoms.
Scarcity	5	Nationally significant.
Cultural Modification	3	Strong sense of place; spiritual; other than trail not much modification.
Total	33	RATING = A+

Visual Inventory Form

Zone: 5 - Rocky Mountains  
Unit #A2 Stony Indian Pass

Date: 07/06/2015  
Jurisdiction (s): National Park

LOCATION MAP



VISIBILITY

Viewsheds/ Screening/ Distance Zone	Far reaching views into the background, internal to Glacier National Park.
Sensitivity/ Concern Level	Very High concern levels, popular backpacking and mountaineering destination.

SCENIC INTEGRITY

Level of Naturalness	Very High
Wholeness	Very High



PACIFIC NORTHWEST NATIONAL SCENIC TRAIL





Viewpoint - Panorama #01



Viewpoint #02



Viewpoint #03





for the greatest good



SCENIC CHARACTER

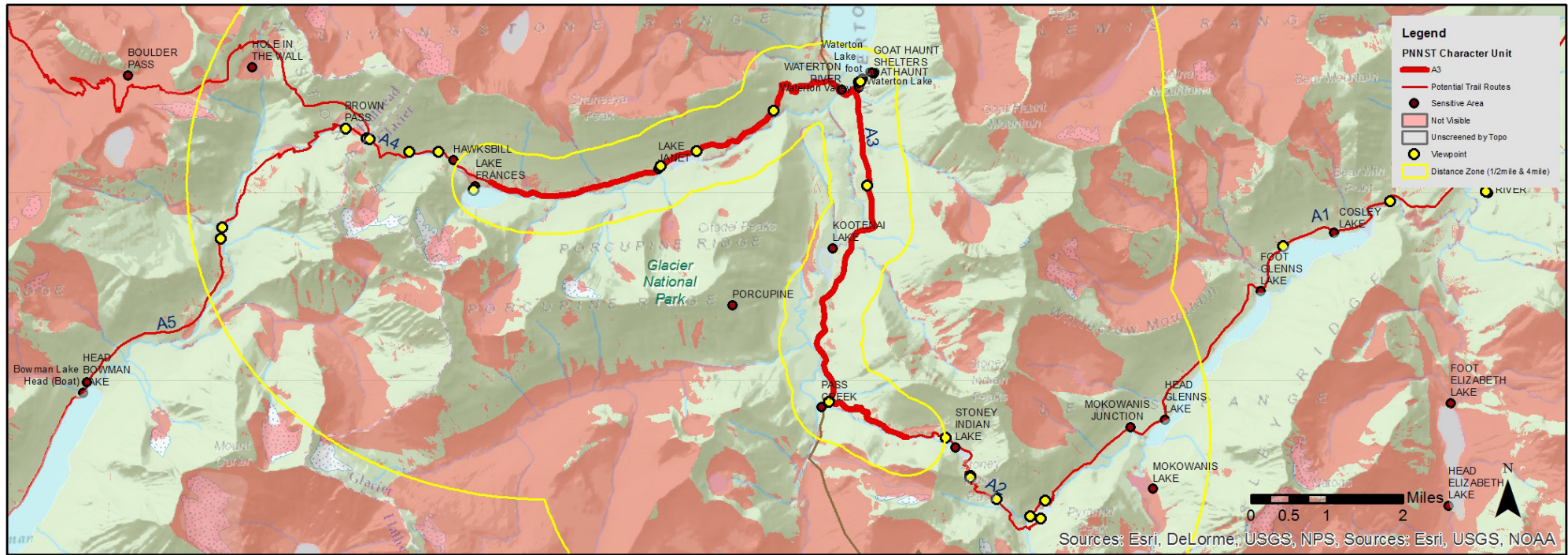
The Waterton Lake unit is formed by the Olson Creek and Waterton River Valleys. The head of Waterton Lake ties the valleys together. This large, glacial lake reaches across the Canadian border. Centered between the Lewis and Livingston Ranges, broad valley bottoms are flanked by high, rocky, jagged mountains. Meadows and shrub communities occupy avalanche chutes. Less disturbed ground harbors dense, large diameter forests of spruce, fir, and, pine. Poorly drained valley floors create wetland communities and lakes, such as Lake Janet and the Kootenai Lakes. Wildlife, such as moose and deer, abounds. Often screened by vegetation, views extend into the middleground and background at forest openings.

Goat Haunt Ranger Station and associated facilities serve as an international border station. A tourist boat makes daily visits for sight-seers during the short, summer months. Here, the Continental Divide Trail’s northern terminus coincides with the Pacific Northwest Trail for a few miles as they parallel the Waterton River.

Aerial Overview



UNIT MAP



VISUAL QUALITY/SCENIC ATTRACTIVENESS

	Rating	Explanation or Rationale
Landform	3	River Valley; glacially carved lakes.
Vegetation	4	Aspen groves; avalanche chute shrubs; meadow; wetlands; mixed conifer forest; riparian corridor.
Water	3	Lakes; river; streams; wetland.
Color	3	Evergreen forest; meadow; shrubs; water.
Adjacent Scenery	5	Jagged, glaciated mountains; long glaciated Waterton Lake Valley.
Scarcity	5	National significance.
Cultural Modification	1	Goat Haunt Ranger Station and international border.
Total	26	RATING = A

Visual Inventory Form

Zone: 5 - Rocky Mountains  
Unit # A3 Waterton Lake

Date: 07/06/2015  
Jurisdiction (s): National Park

LOCATION MAP



VISIBILITY

Viewsheds/ Screening/ Distance Zone	Mostly constrained to foreground by vegetation, but middleground visible at lake edges, avalanche chutes, meadows.
Sensitivity/ Concern Level	Very High concern levels because of the high use and portal access to Glacier National Park.

SCENIC INTEGRITY

Level of Naturalness	Very High
Wholeness	Very High



PACIFIC NORTHWEST NATIONAL SCENIC TRAIL





Viewpoint - Panorama #01



Viewpoint #02



Viewpoint #03

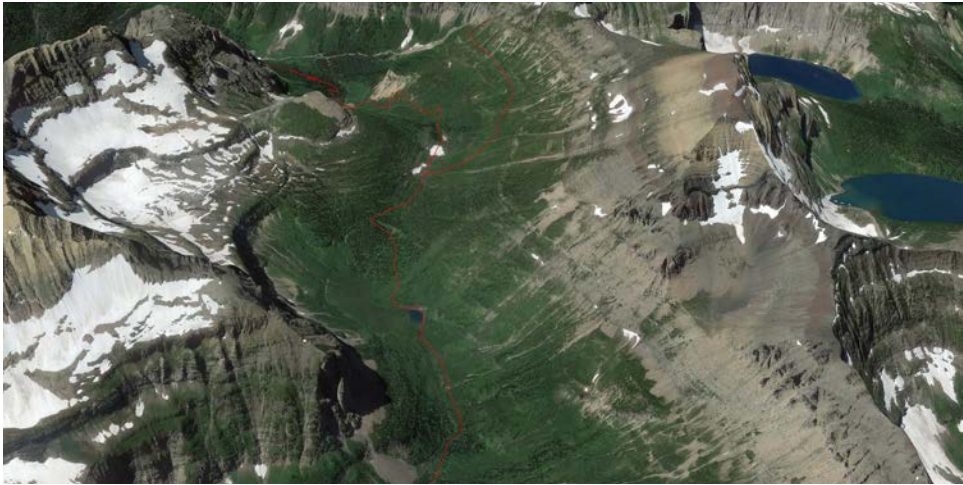




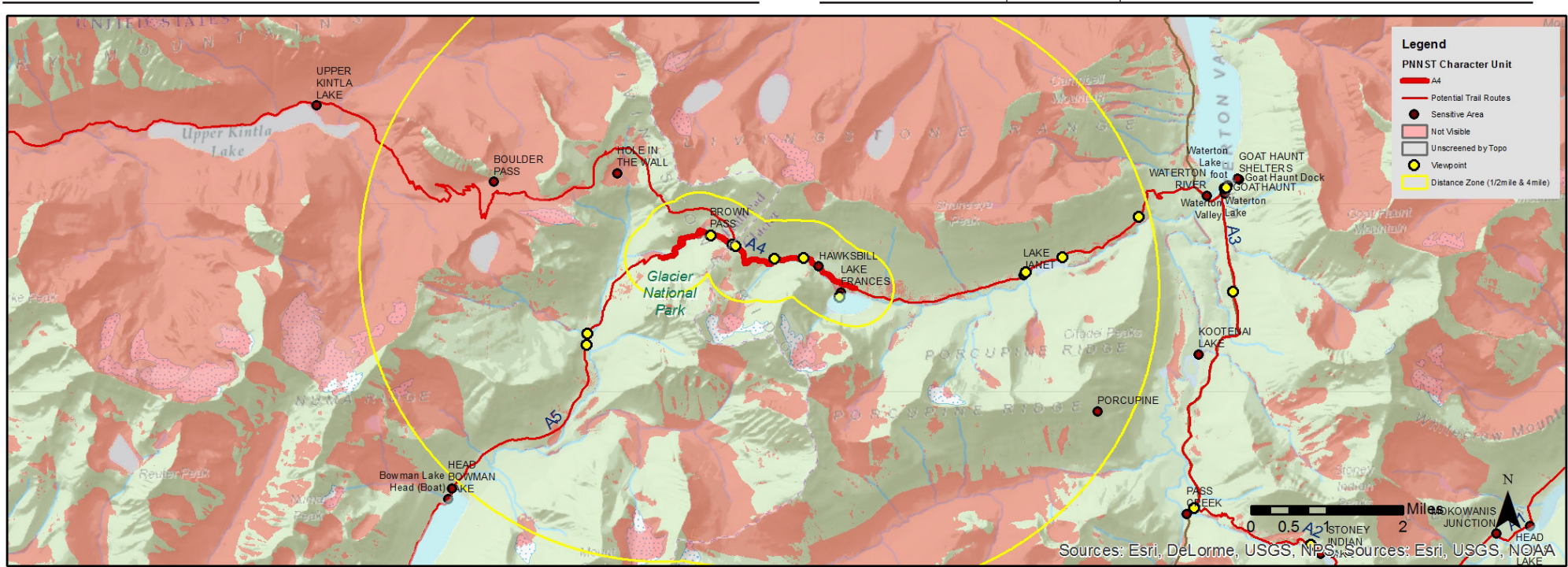
SCENIC CHARACTER

Brown Pass crests the Continental Divide at a high elevation saddle in the Livingston Range. Set in a wet, cool microclimate, landform expresses a full spectrum of glacial features. Lakes, such as Lake Frances, are saturated with hues of jade by glacial milk. Cirques have impressive headwalls, sharp aretes, and hidden hanging valleys. Active glaciers preside in middleground distance zones. Patches of stunted trees punctuate meadow. Meadows exhibit panache with vibrant wildflowers and grass. Avalanche chutes and bare rock remind visitors of the constant, dynamic forces at work. Numerous waterfalls cascade down cliff bands. The vantage from here offers views down to deep valleys and across rugged peaks. The openness of the vegetation facilitates wildlife viewing. in the subalpine meadows.

Aerial Overview



UNIT MAP



VISUAL QUALITY/SCENIC ATTRACTIVENESS

	Rating	Explanation or Rationale
Landform	5	Glacial: cirques, headwalls, hanging valleys, rock bands, aretes.
Vegetation	5	Meadow; patches of stunted coniferous trees; shrubs.
Water	5	Tarns; waterfalls; glaciers.
Color	5	Colorful tarns with jade color of glacial silt; rich meadows; evergreen trees; snow pack; argillite rock.
Adjacent Scenery	5	Jagged, glaciated Livingston Range.
Scarcity	5	Very unique.
Cultural Modification	3	Other than trail and campgrounds, no other obvious cultural modifications.
Total	33	RATING = A+

Visual Inventory Form

Zone: 5 - Rocky Mountains  
Unit # A4 Brown Pass

Date: 07/06/2015  
Jurisdiction (s): National Park

LOCATION MAP



VISIBILITY

Viewsheds/ Screening/ Distance Zone	Expansive views of rugged mountains in middleground and background, mostly internal to Glacier National Park.
Sensitivity/ Concern Level	Very high concern levels, backpacking and mountaineering destination.

SCENIC INTEGRITY

Level of Naturalness	Very High
Wholeness	Very High



PACIFIC NORTHWEST NATIONAL SCENIC TRAIL





Viewpoint - Panorama #01



Viewpoint #02



Viewpoint #03





for the greatest good



SCENIC CHARACTER

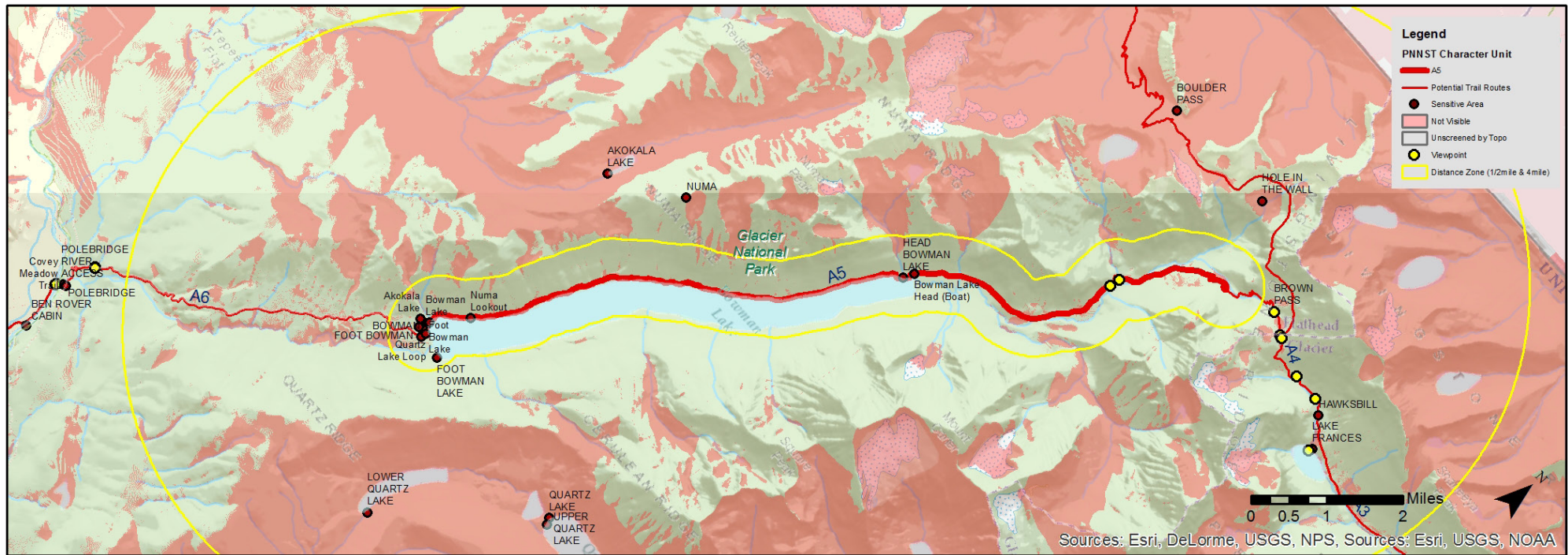
Characterized by a large lake nested in a broad, glacial trough, the Bowman Lake unit's has cold, clear, cerulean water. Bowman Creek plods along the valley bottom at a low gradient as it flows into the lake's inlet. A lush understory of shrubs and herbaceous vegetation, carpet the valley floor beneath the forest's canopy. Views are limited by dense, coniferous forests of larch, pine, fir, and, spruce. Disturbances, such as avalanche chutes and fallen trees, frame views of the impressive Livingston Range that looms on both sides of the valley. Lake edge offer more expansive views of the surrounding mountains.

The foot of the lake is a recreational destination with a boat launch, access road, campground, and, ranger station. Here the forest transitions into more contiguous lodgepole stands with an elk sedge and pinegrass understory. A rich history of national park management is evident.

Aerial Overview



UNIT MAP



VISUAL QUALITY/SCENIC ATTRACTIVENESS

	Rating	Explanation or Rationale
Landform	3	Valley bottom and glacial lake.
Vegetation	3	Mostly mixed coniferous forest with larch; avalanche chutes; riparian corridor; wetlands.
Water	5	Bowman lake; high gradient tributaries; waterfalls in adjacent high country.
Color	3	Larch gold fall color; evergreen mixed conifers; clear blue lake water.
Adjacent Scenery	5	Impressive Livingston Range.
Scarcity	3	Exceptional and nationally significant.
Cultural Modification	3	National park rustic architecture of developed recreation site and ranger station.
Total	25	RATING = A

Visual Inventory Form

Zone: 5 - Rocky Mountains  
Unit # A5 Bowman Lake

Date: 07/07/2015  
Jurisdiction (s): National Park

LOCATION MAP



VISIBILITY

Viewsheds/ Screening/ Distance Zone	Mostly foreground views because of screening vegetation; some vantages allow for more far reaching views.
Sensitivity/ Concern Level	Very high concern levels because of recreation destination by all types of visitors (road access).

SCENIC INTEGRITY

Level of Naturalness	Very High
Wholeness	Very High



PACIFIC NORTHWEST NATIONAL SCENIC TRAIL





Viewpoint - Panorama #01



Viewpoint #02



Viewpoint #03





SCENIC CHARACTER

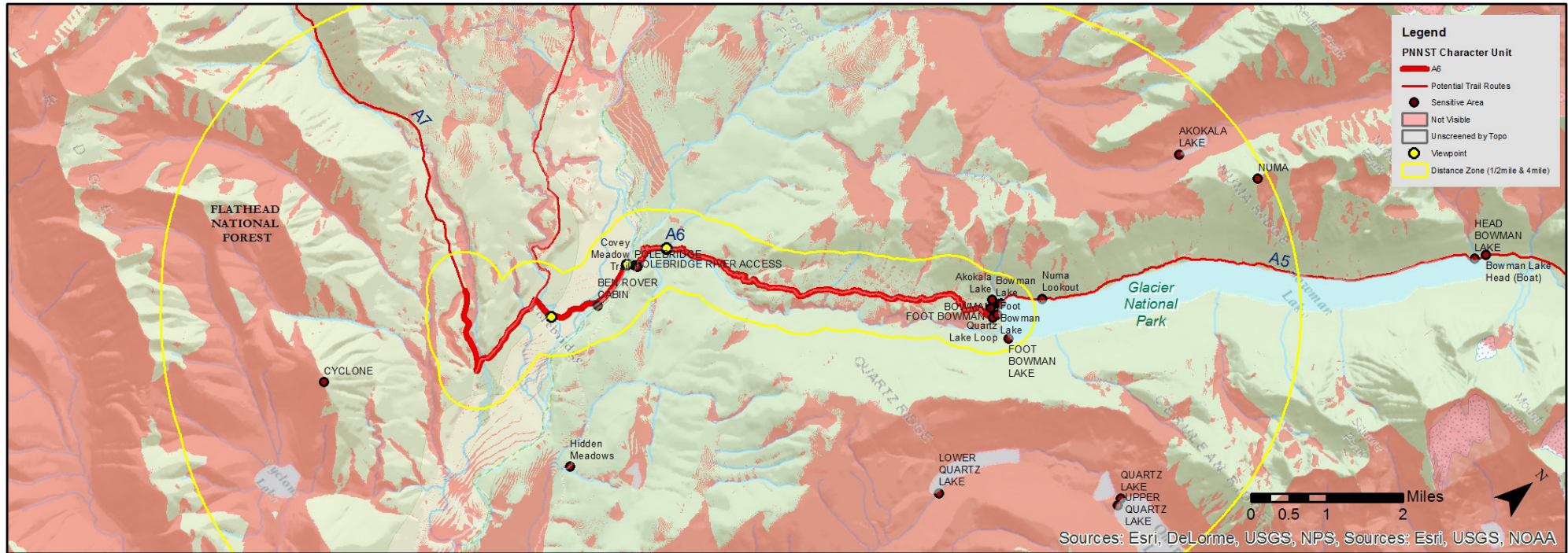
The North Fork of the Flathead River unit’s essence is the free flowing “North Fork”. Flowing from Canada, the river has carved a broad valley. River features come and go as they are constantly rearranged by unbridled river processes. Floodplain forests of cottonwood and willow, occupy frequently inundated soils. Higher ground supports conifers such as homogeneous stands of lodgepole pine that are prone to fire. Aspen groves add variety, such as color and motion. Shallow soils grow open prairie. The dramatic Livingston Range dominates the scene to the east. Expansive views are more common in burn areas, prairie, and along the river; otherwise they are frequently screened by dense vegetation.

The trail crosses the robust river near the community of Polebridge, a rest stop for weary travelers. The river’s clear, fast flowing water provides a national destination for water sport enthusiasts. Outside of Glacier National Park, logging is a major land use. Private land has been subdivided into rural residential tracts.

Aerial Overview



UNIT MAP



VISUAL QUALITY/SCENIC ATTRACTIVENESS

	Rating	Explanation or Rationale
Landform	5	Dynamic large free-flowing river
Vegetation	3	Riparian corridor, prairie; mixed conifer forest; larch; lodgepole stands; cultural plantings; introduced nonnative species.
Water	5	North Fork of the Flathead River.
Color	3	Burn units, prairie, broadleaf riparian vegetation, larch, distant mountains.
Adjacent Scenery	5	Riverine North Fork; Livingston Range and Glacier National Park to the east; Whitefish Mountains to the west.
Scarcity	4	Congressionally designated wild and scenic river; nationally unique.
Cultural Modification	-2/+3	Community of Polebridge and Glacier National Park have rustic architecture; low density residential subdivision detracts.
Total	26	RATING = A

Visual Inventory Form

Zone: 5 - Rocky Mountains  
Unit #A6 North Fork of the Flathead

Date: 07/07/2015  
Jurisdiction (s): National Park, County/Private

LOCATION MAP



VISIBILITY

Viewsheds/ Screening/ Distance Zone	Views constrained to foreground by vegetation; burned areas and river edge have far reaching views into the background.
Sensitivity/ Concern Level	Very high concern levels because of high recreational use: portal to Glacier National Park, and river recreation.

SCENIC INTEGRITY

Level of Naturalness	Mostly high but residential subdivision lowers in areas.
Wholeness	Moderate because fragmentation by roads and residential development.

PACIFIC NORTHWEST NATIONAL SCENIC TRAIL





Viewpoint - Panorama #01



Viewpoint #02



Viewpoint #03





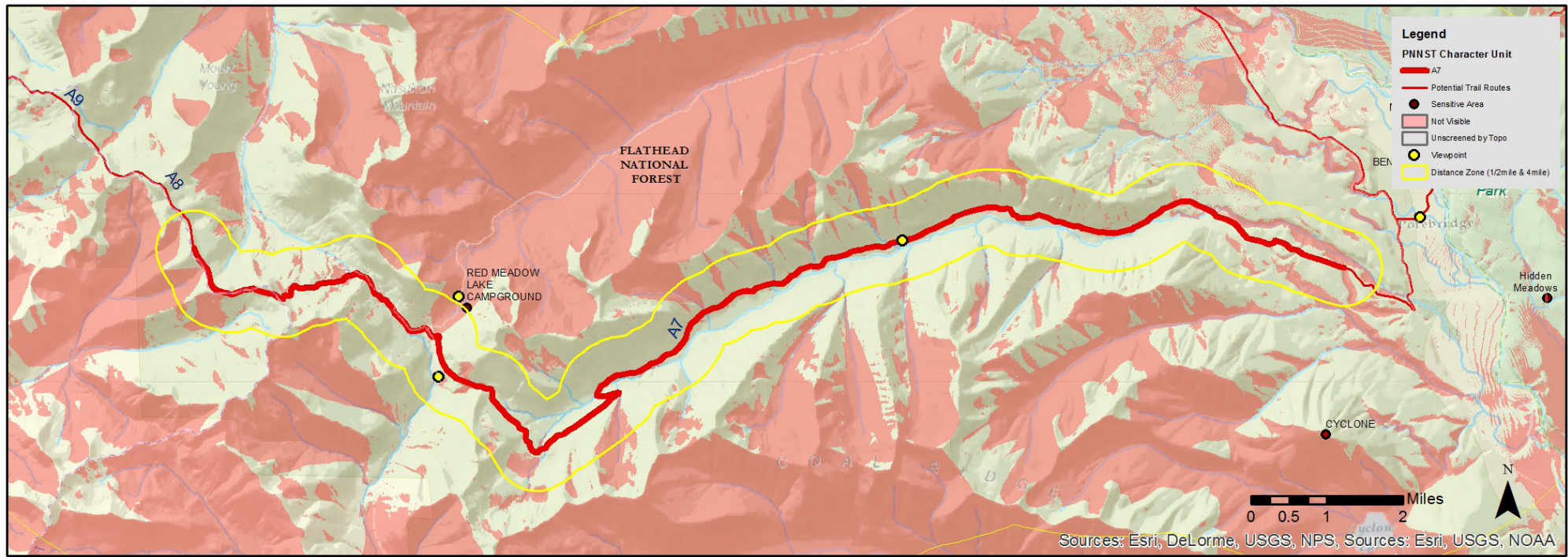
SCENIC CHARACTER

The Whitefish Range - Hay Creek unit climbs in elevation from the lower North Fork Valley to the east. Lakes, such as Hay Lake and Red Meadow Lake, dot the wet forested mountains. Dense, diverse mixed coniferous forest contain larch and grand fir. The trail parallels a riparian ribbon along Hay Creek. Vegetation screens most views but some vantages allow for windows to the east. Major land uses are wildlife habitat, recreation, logging, and, rural residential development.

Aerial Overview



UNIT MAP



VISUAL QUALITY/SCENIC ATTRACTIVENESS

	Rating	Explanation or Rationale
Landform	3	Montane slopes.
Vegetation	3	Mixed coniferous forest; riparian corridor.
Water	3	High-gradient Hay Creek.
Color	2	Fall color of larch and broadleaf riparian plants.
Adjacent Scenery	3	Limited windows east to Livingston Range and Glacier National Park.
Scarcity	2	Locally abundant.
Cultural Modification	0	Road is primary cultural modification.
Total	16	RATING = B

Visual Inventory Form

Zone: 5 - Rocky Mountains  
Unit #A7 Whitefish Range - Hay Creek

Date: 07/08/2015  
Jurisdiction (s): Forest Service

LOCATION MAP



VISIBILITY

Viewsheds/ Screening/ Distance Zone	Mostly screened to the foreground.
Sensitivity/ Concern Level	Moderate concern levels.

SCENIC INTEGRITY

Level of Naturalness	Moderate because of road sections.
Wholeness	Moderate because of roaded fragmentation.



PACIFIC NORTHWEST NATIONAL SCENIC TRAIL





Viewpoint #01



Viewpoint #03



Viewpoint #02



Viewpoint #04





SCENIC CHARACTER

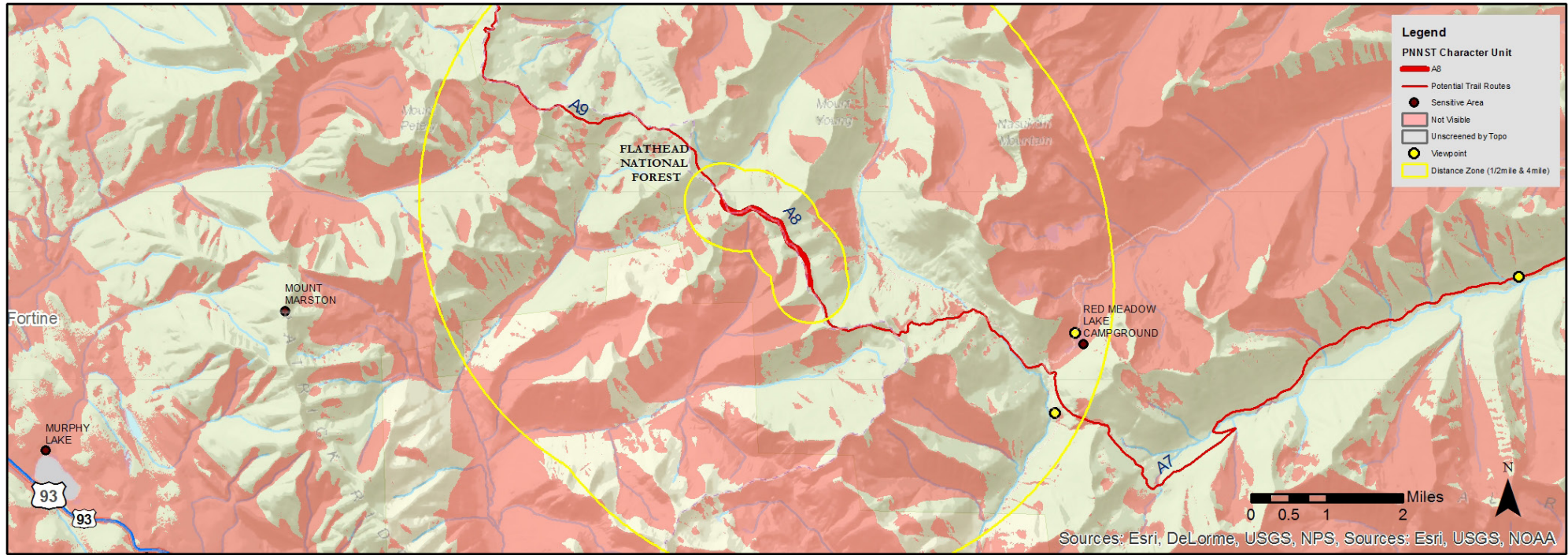
The Whitefish Divide unit, a high undulating ridge along the crest of the Whitefish Range, exhibits a history of glaciation in localized areas. Smaller diameter forest is broken infrequently by openings of meadow and rock outcrops. These openings provide spectacular vistas across the North Fork Valley to the Livingston Range and Glacier National Park. Otherwise, vegetation limits views. While precipitation is frequent, the ridge lacks much surface water. Patches of subalpine larch add interest to the ridge.

Recreation and wildlife habitat are the primary land uses. Logging is evident at lower elevations from certain vantage points. The country has high ecological integrity. Grizzly bears and other top predators roam the landscape.

Aerial Overview



UNIT MAP



VISUAL QUALITY/SCENIC ATTRACTIVENESS

	Rating	Explanation or Rationale
Landform	4	High elevation ridge.
Vegetation	3	Meadow; stunted mixed coniferous forest with subalpine larch.
Water	2	Rare.
Color	3	Meadow; snowpack; evergreen forest.
Adjacent Scenery	5	Background views.
Scarcity	2	Locally rare high country.
Cultural Modification	0	Cultural modifications are not obvious in the foreground; some in background.
Total	19	RATING = A

Visual Inventory Form

Zone: 5 - Rocky Mountains  
Unit # A8 Whitefish Divide

Date: 07/09/2015  
Jurisdiction (s): Forest Service

LOCATION MAP



VISIBILITY

Viewsheds/ Screening/ Distance Zone	Mostly confined to foreground views by vegetation; some distant background views from certain vantages.
Sensitivity/ Concern Level	Moderate concern levels.

SCENIC INTEGRITY

Level of Naturalness	Very High
Wholeness	Very High



PACIFIC NORTHWEST NATIONAL SCENIC TRAIL





**Viewpoint - Panorama #01**

**Lower Left Corner Photo Credit:**  
Uploaded by Art on Flickr.com  
May 16,2006  
<https://www.flickr.com/photos/artfoster/>

**Viewpoint #02**



**Viewpoint #03**





SCENIC CHARACTER

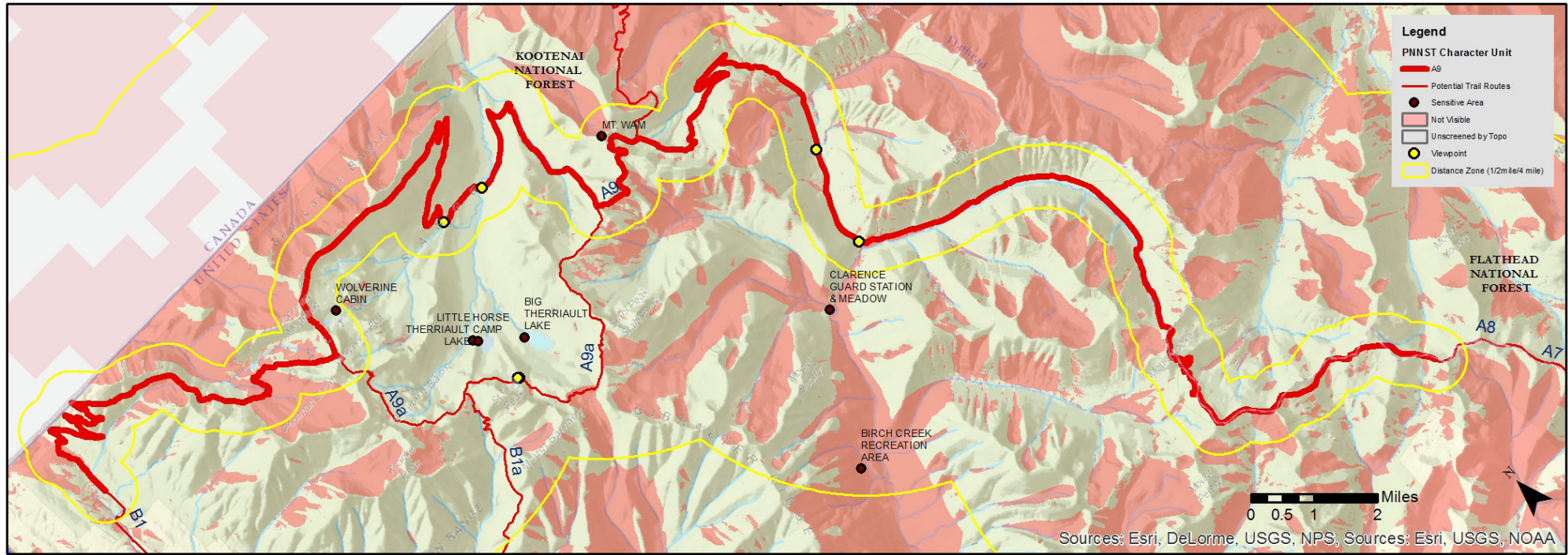
The large and diverse Whitefish Range- Ten Lakes Scenic Area spans a range of topography. Mt Locke’s high elevation, offers filtered views through forest. Bottomlands adjacent to creeks, such as Blue Sky Creek and Grave Creek, grow rich riparian habitat. Unless avalanche chutes or creeks open up dense wet forest, views are mostly in the foreground. High country bestows scenes of clear mountain lakes, such as Big, Little Therriault, and Wolverine Lakes. Localized glaciation has left rugged exposed rock. Here, lush meadows break up dark sub-alpine and Engelmann spruce forests. Expansive views contain the surrounding rolling Whitefish Range as it extends into Canada.

This gentle country has a long history of human occupation dating to pre-historic times and more recent use by Salish and Kootenai tribes. The lake basins are modern day retreats for recreationists. The international border is ostensible in the form of the 49th parallel boundary cut.

Aerial Overview



UNIT MAP



VISUAL QUALITY/SCENIC ATTRACTIVENESS

	Rating	Explanation or Rationale
Landform	3	Ten Lakes Scenic Area exhibits glaciation and exposed rock.
Vegetation	5	Rich meadows; riparian area; mixed coniferous forest; larch; avalanche chutes.
Water	5	Lakes; high-gradient streams.
Color	3	Meadow; evergreen forest; azure water; snow pack; argillite rock.
Adjacent Scenery	3	Rolling mountains.
Scarcity	3	Ten Lakes scenic area is unique.
Cultural Modification	3	FS facilities such as lookouts; cultural scars on trees are found but not obvious.
Total	24	RATING = A

Visual Inventory Form

Zone: 5 - Rocky Mountains  
Unit # A9 Whitefish Range - Ten Lakes Area

Date: 07/10/2015  
Jurisdiction (s): Forest Service

LOCATION MAP



VISIBILITY

Viewsheds/ Screening/ Distance Zone	Mostly screened by vegetation; Glaciated Ten Lakes Area, peaks offer distant views into background.
Sensitivity/ Concern Level	High in Ten Lakes Scenic Area, moderate in others.

SCENIC INTEGRITY

Level of Naturalness	High.
Wholeness	Moderate, fragmented by roads.



PACIFIC NORTHWEST NATIONAL SCENIC TRAIL





Viewpoint #01



Viewpoint #02



Viewpoint #03

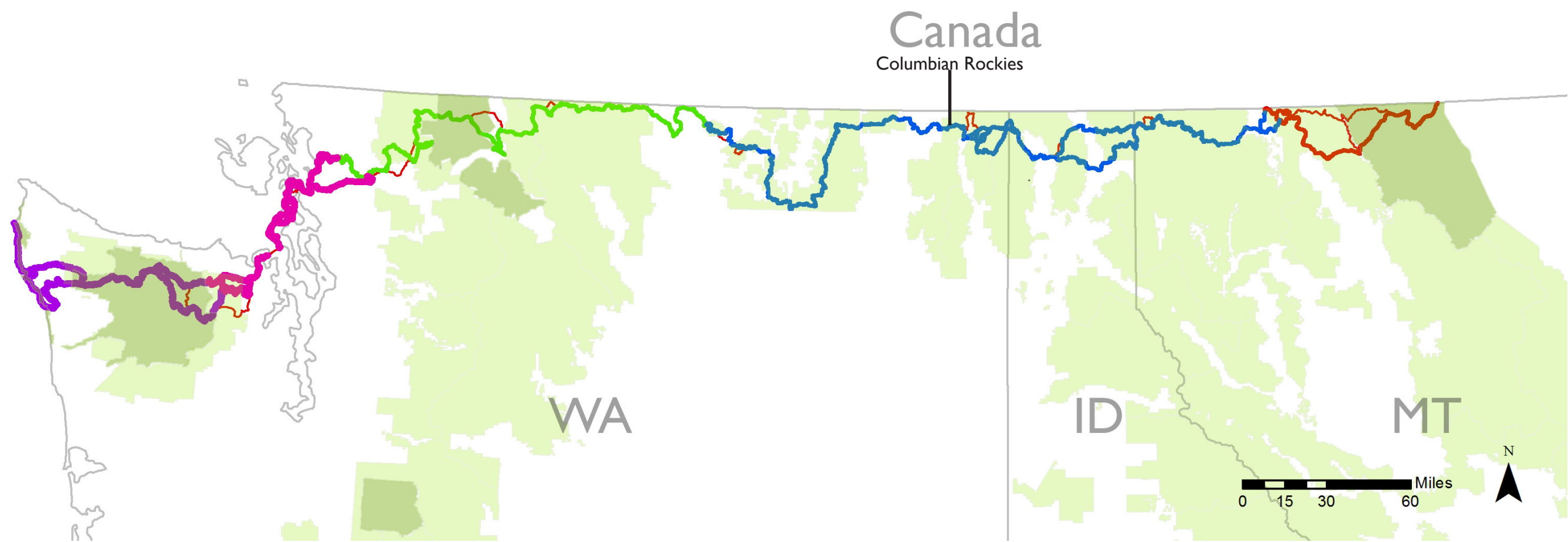


Viewpoint #04





# Columbian Rockies Index:



B1 - Tobacco Plains Pg: 21 - 22	B5 - Purcell Mtns - Ruby Ridge - Pg: 29 - 30	B8a - Kootenai Valley - Bonners Ferry - Pg: 39 - 40	B11 - Selkirks - Lions Head - Pg: 49 - 50	B16 - Pend Oreille River Pg: 59 - 60	B21 - O Hare Creek Pg: 69 - 70	B26 - Kettle Crest South Pg: 79 - 80
B2 - Lake Koocanusa Pg: 23 - 24	B6 - Bussard Mtn. Pg: 31 - 32	B9 - Selkirks - Parker Ridge - Pg: 41 - 42	B12 - Upper Priest Lake and River - Pg: 51 - 52	B17 - Flume Creek Pg: 61 - 62	B22 - Columbia River Valley - Pg: 71 - 72	B27 - Thirteenmile Mtn. Pg: 81 - 82
B3 - The Yaak Pg: 25 - 26	B7 - Purcell Mtns - Brush Lake - Pg: 33 - 34	B9a - Selkirks - Burton Peak - Pg: 43 - 44	B13 - Selkirks - Shedroof Pg: 53 - 54	B18 - Abercrombie Mtn. Pg: 63 - 64	B23 - Kettle River Pg: 73 - 74	B28 - Sanpoil River Pg: 83 - 84
B4 - NW Peak Pg: 27 - 28	B7a - Purcell Mtns - Buck- horn Ridge - Pg: 35 - 36	B10 - Selkirk Crest Pg: 45 - 46	B14 - Shedroof Divide Pg: 55 - 56	B19 - Silver Creek Pg: 65 - 66	B24 - Deer Creek (Ryan Hill) - Pg: 75 - 76	B29 - Okanogan High Forest - Pg: 85 - 86
	B8 - Kootenai Valley Pg: 37 - 38	B10a - Selkirk Crest - Cascade Ridge - Pg: 47 - 48	B15 - Sullivan Lake Pg: 57 - 58	B20 - Deep Creek Pg: 67 - 68	B25 - Kettle Crest North Pg: 77 - 78	B30 - Okanogan Escarpment - Pg: 87 - 88



for the greatest good

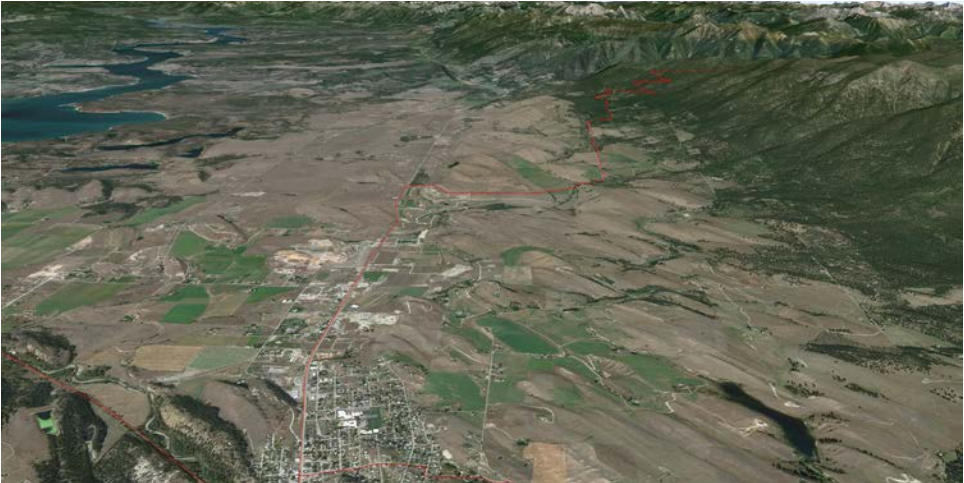


SCENIC CHARACTER

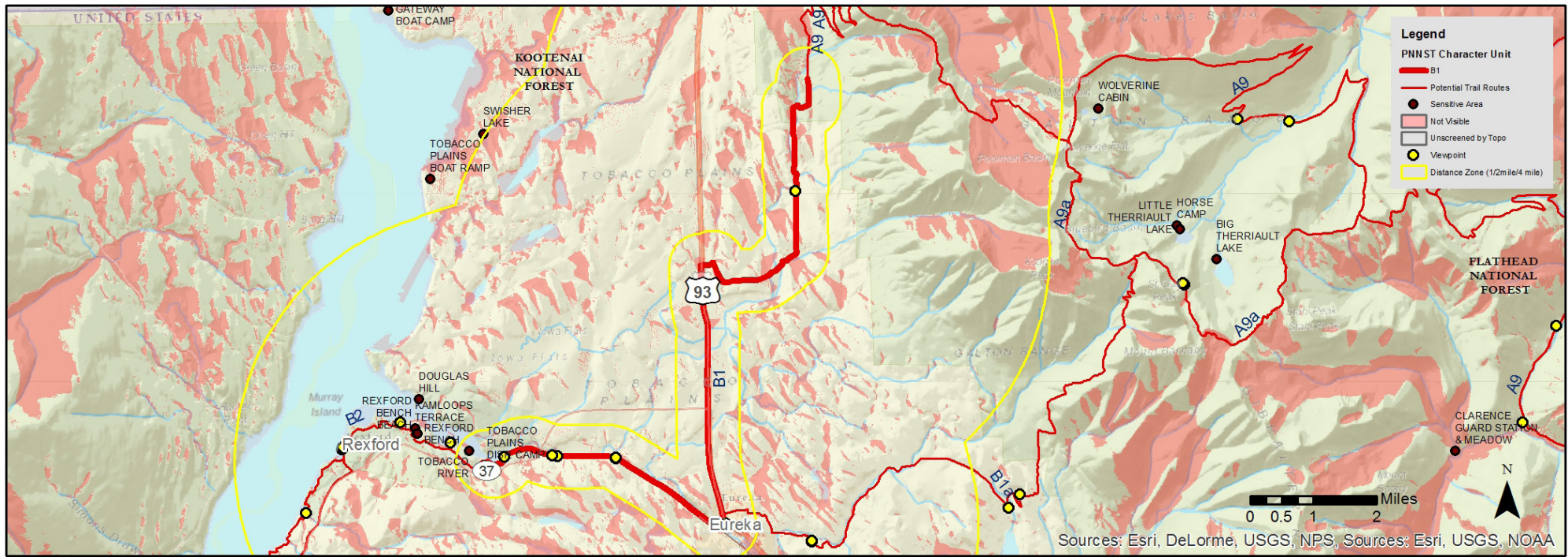
The Tobacco Plains unit is a broad valley sculpted by glaciation. Drumlins, or hills composed of glacial till, create low relief and well drained soils. The Tobacco River carves through the rolling landscape with rich riparian habitat replete with bird life. Land cover is largely treeless. Uplands, such as river terraces, supports dry, fragrant ponderosa pine forests. Pockets of aspen add to the pleasant mosaic. Suitable land has been converted to agriculture use, adding pastoral charm. Open expanses have distant views of the Whitefish and Salish Mountain ranges.

The convivial town of Eureka, a social oasis nestled in the Tobacco Plains, offers sustenance to weary travelers. Portions of the trail sample the residential and commercial fabric of this quiet community. The unit's geologic history renders it rich with sand and gravel deposits.

Aerial Overview



UNIT MAP



VISUAL QUALITY/SCENIC ATTRACTIVENESS

	Rating	Explanation or Rationale
Landform	3	Lowland hills; alluvial terraces; river bluffs.
Vegetation	3	Mostly treeless; ponderosa pine; aspen; riparian corridor; agricultural fields.
Water	3	Tobacco river; farm ponds.
Color	2	Fall color of aspen and broadleaf riparian plants; agriculture.
Adjacent Scenery	3	Broad agricultural valley; Whitefish Range to the east; Salish Mountains to the west.
Scarcity	1	Common agricultural landscape.
Cultural Modification	2	Historic rural farm houses; historic downtown Eureka.
Total	17	RATING = B

Visual Inventory Form

Zone: 4 - Columbian Rockies  
Unit # B1 Tobacco Plains

Date: 07/07/2015  
Jurisdiction (s): Private, US Forest Service

LOCATION MAP



VISIBILITY

Viewsheds/ Screening/ Distance Zone	Middleground views are open in the Ag land. Background is dominated by mountain ranges.
Sensitivity/ Concern Level	Very High concern levels because of proximity to Eureka.

SCENIC INTEGRITY

Level of Naturalness	Low level because landscape is altered for the majority of the unit.
Wholeness	Low level because agricultural land has continuity but other land is fragmented.

PACIFIC NORTHWEST NATIONAL SCENIC TRAIL





Viewpoint - Panorama #01



Viewpoint #02



Viewpoint #03





SCENIC CHARACTER

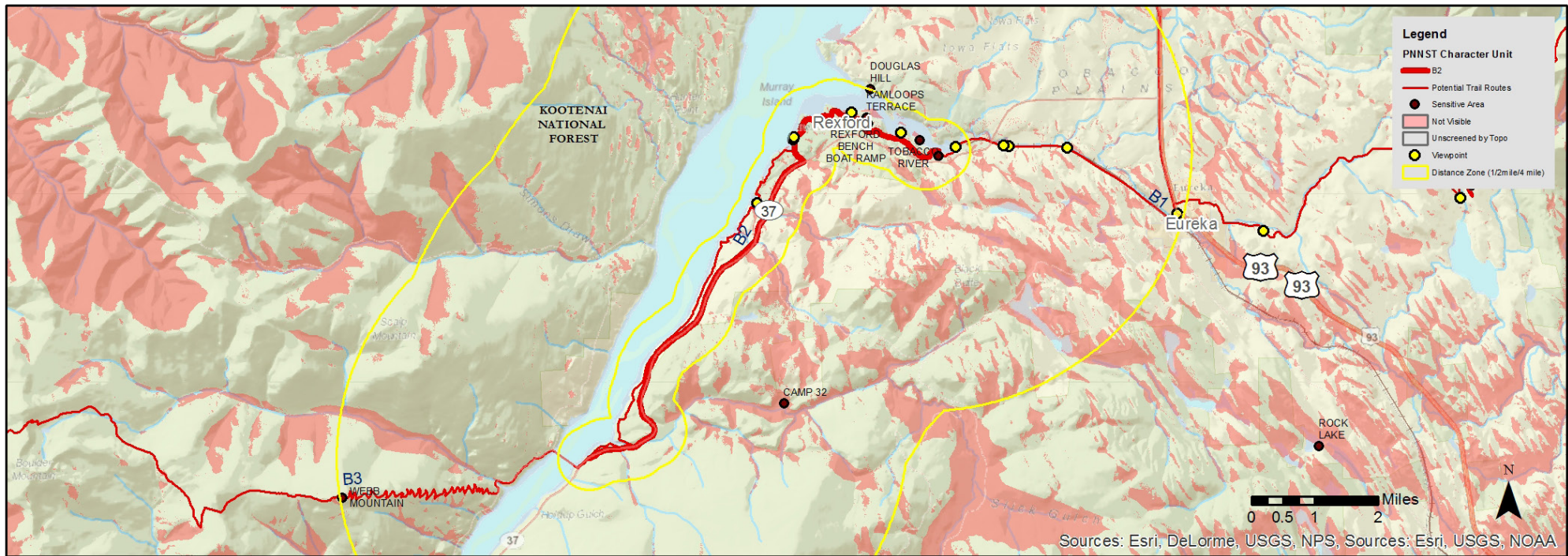
The Lake Koocanusa unit is dominated by the impounded Kootenai River. The lake has the shape of a swollen river, and its calm, slack water has the demeanor of a reservoir. The cut banks of the reservoir’s edge are bright and have high color contrasts with the surrounding evergreen forests. Ponderosa pine forest and savanna cover upland areas overlooking the lake to the east. The slopes of the Salish Mountains rise upward to the west with more diverse forests of large Doug fir and western larch. Wetlands are encountered infrequently, and forest is predominantly droughty and well drained.

Recreational use is conspicuous in the form of campgrounds, marinas, and residential development. The area is rich with natural resources and conducive to human occupation. Logging is another major land use.

Aerial Overview



UNIT MAP



VISUAL QUALITY/SCENIC ATTRACTIVENESS

	Rating	Explanation or Rationale
Landform	3	Dramatic lake shore with cut banks; otherwise low rolling hills; tributaries add relief.
Vegetation	4	Riparian vegetation; ponderosa pine forest and savanna; mixed coniferous forest in Salish MTs.
Water	4	Reservoir of Lake Koocanusa; tributaries.
Color	4	Blue lake; white cut banks; evergreen trees; seasonality of grass and broadleaf riparian vegetation.
Adjacent Scenery	4	Lake Koocannusa; Salish mountains to the west.
Scarcity	I	The lake is unique.
Cultural Modification	I	Trail and recreation facilities; rails to trails section; Rexford community.
Total	21	RATING = A-

Visual Inventory Form

Zone: 4 - Columbian Rockies  
Unit # B2 Lake Koocanusa

Date: 07/08/2015  
Jurisdiction (s): Private, US Forest Service

LOCATION MAP



VISIBILITY

Viewsheds/ Screening/ Distance Zone	Views are open near the lakeshore but screened by vegetation otherwise.
Sensitivity/ Concern Level	Very high concern levels because of high recreational use of reservoir.

SCENIC INTEGRITY

Level of Naturalness	Low level because landscape is altered with some natural areas such as riparian corridors.
Wholeness	Moderate sense of intactness and continuity; fragmentation of residential development



PACIFIC NORTHWEST NATIONAL SCENIC TRAIL





Viewpoint - Panorama #01



Viewpoint #02



Viewpoint #03



for the greatest good



SCENIC CHARACTER

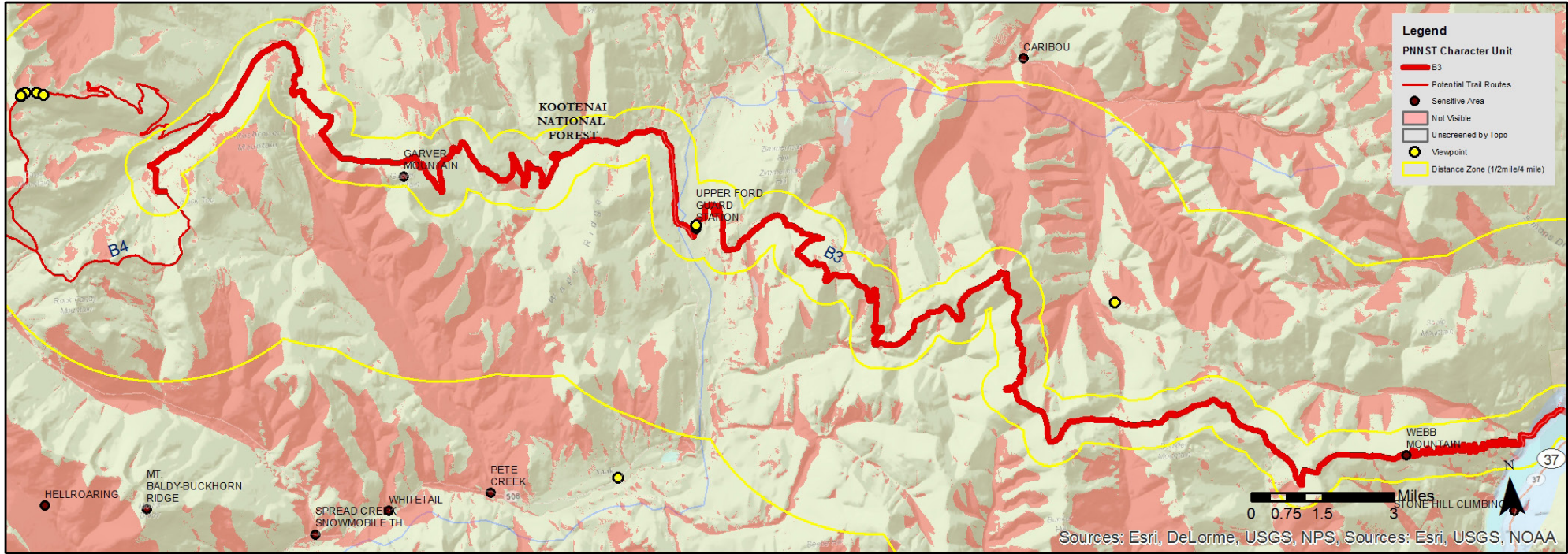
The Yaak unit, large and remote, is characterized by the Yaak River. This serpentine river cuts through the low, forested Salish Mountains. High country, such as Webb Mountain, Mount Henry, and, Garver Mountain, provides big views across the mixed coniferous canopy and out to background regions. Diverse, fragrant forests contain subalpine fir, Engelmann spruce, western larch, Doug fir, western red cedar, lodgepole pine and grand fir. Vegetation screens views from most viewing platforms outside of high country vantages. Wetlands dot valley floors, and springs seep from montane slopes. Creeks, such as Bunker Hill Creek, typically flow along high gradients with whitewater riffles and waterfalls. Meadows are robust and scattered throughout.

Visitation is low, and the rolling landform conceals landmarks, instilling solitude. Rustic Forest Service architecture, such as the Upper Ford Ranger Station, stands testament to the agency’s stewardship. The town of Yaak is the area’s social and cultural hub. Extensive logging is major land use, and wildlife is abundant.

Aerial Overview



UNIT MAP



VISUAL QUALITY/SCENIC ATTRACTIVENESS

	Rating	Explanation or Rationale
Landform	2	Low rolling mountains.
Vegetation	2	Diverse, mixed coniferous forest; wetlands; riparian habitat; rich meadow.
Water	2	High gradient tributaries; sluggish Yaak River.
Color	3	Evergreen forest; seasonality of riparian broadleaf plants and meadow.
Adjacent Scenery	2	Topography screens views from most platforms; few high points offer distant views of low rolling mountains.
Scarcity	2	Elements are fairly common.
Cultural Modification	1	Historic “Upper Ford” cabin; community of Yakk is nearby.
Total	14	RATING = B

Zone: 4 - Columbian Rockies  
Unit # B3 The Yaak

Date: 07/07/2015  
Jurisdiction (s): US Forest Service

LOCATION MAP



VISIBILITY

Viewsheds/ Screening/ Distance Zone	Views are generally restricted to the foreground. High points have views into background distance zone.
Sensitivity/ Concern Level	Lack of visitation renders concern levels moderate to low.

SCENIC INTEGRITY

Level of Naturalness	Mostly high.
Wholeness	Moderate level because fairly fragmented by roads.



PACIFIC NORTHWEST NATIONAL SCENIC TRAIL





Viewpoint - Panorama #01



Viewpoint #02



Viewpoint #03



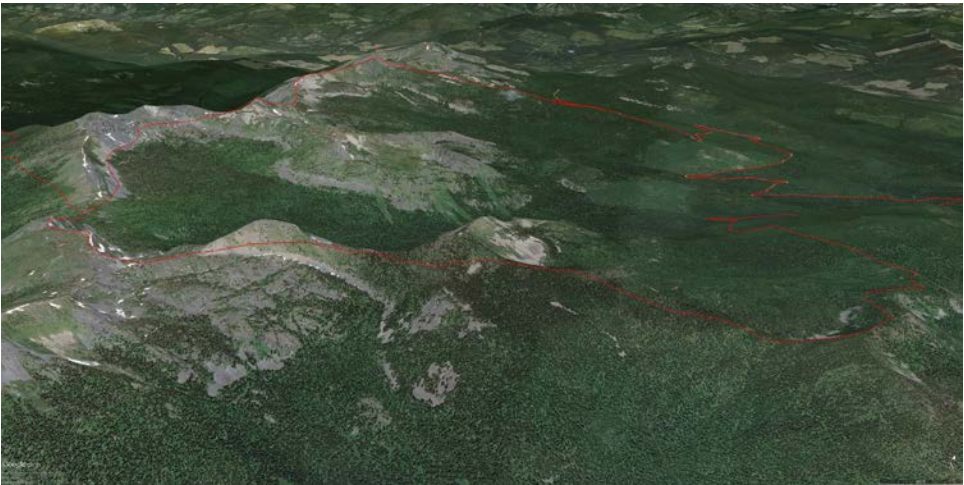


SCENIC CHARACTER

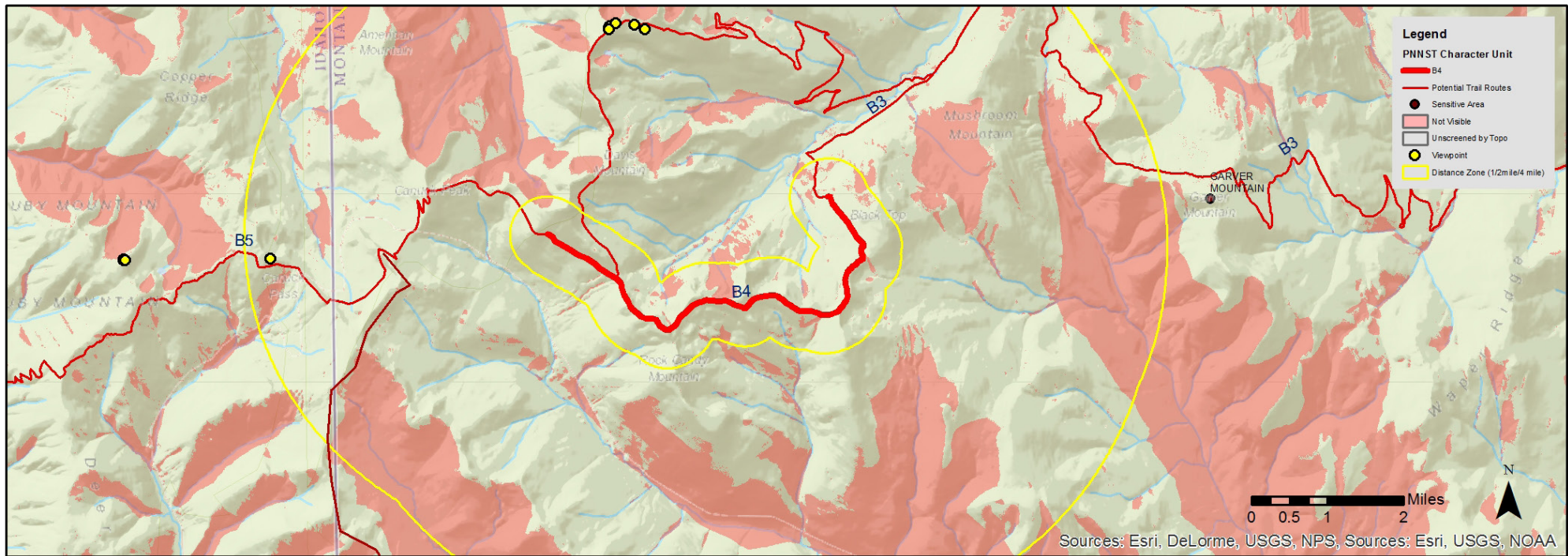
The Northwest Peak unit is a spot of glaciated, high country covered with rock and stunted subalpine vegetation. Rough, exposed rock juxtaposes with the surrounding lower forested mountains. High elevation imbues it with a cool, wet microclimate. With increasing elevation, dense Engelmann spruce and subalpine fir forest give way to rich meadow and subalpine larch that transitions to talus. Windswept and exposed, trees grow in contorted form. Cirques cradle tarns. Davis and Northwest Peak are notable high points. A knife edge ridge connects the two peaks. The latter contains a Forest Service lookout dutifully anchored into granite rock. Colorful green lichens sprinkle the weathered rock.

Trail has been meticulously constructed through large talus. Encompassing views vary in elements. In the foreground and middleground, interesting glacial features and vegetation captivate. Background views contain long, sprawling mountains cloaked in dark forest. Logging is evident in the surrounding lower mountains.

Aerial Overview



UNIT MAP



VISUAL QUALITY/SCENIC ATTRACTIVENESS

	Rating	Explanation or Rationale
Landform	4	Talus slopes; sharp, glaciated, angular Davis and Northwest Peaks; low sprawling mountains.
Vegetation	4	Englemann spruce and subalpine fir forest; rich meadow, lichen; stunted forest; subalpine larch.
Water	2	Alpine lakes.
Color	3	Earth tones from exposed rock and evergreen trees; chartreuse lichen; colorful meadow.
Adjacent Scenery	4	Expansive, heavily forested ridges; Davis Peak dominates.
Scarcity	4	Locally unique.
Cultural Modification	1	Lookout.
Total	22	RATING = A-

Visual Inventory Form

Zone: 4 - Columbian Rockies  
Unit # B4 NW Peak

Date: 07/06/2015  
Jurisdiction (s): US Forest Service

LOCATION MAP



VISIBILITY

Viewsheds/ Screening/ Distance Zone	High elevation renders views into all distance zones.
Sensitivity/ Concern Level	Very high concern; Scenic Area designation.

SCENIC INTEGRITY

Level of Naturalness	High
Wholeness	High



PACIFIC NORTHWEST NATIONAL SCENIC TRAIL





Viewpoint - Panorama #01



Viewpoint #02



Viewpoint #03





SCENIC CHARACTER

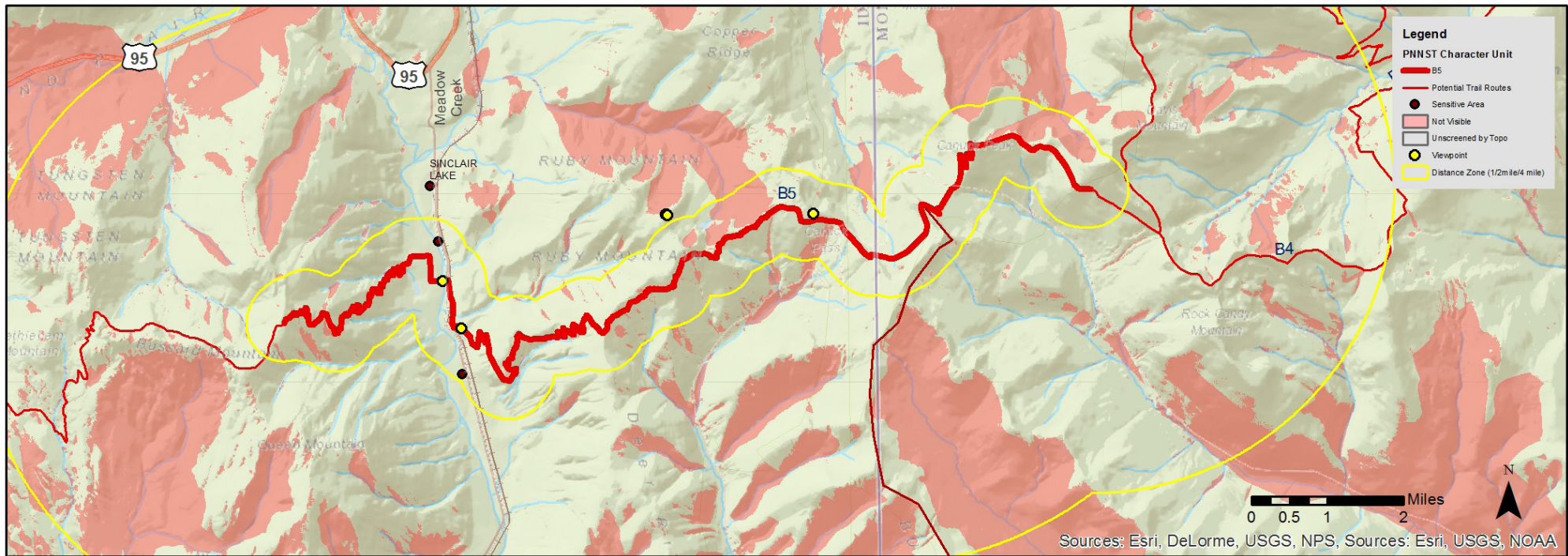
A high broad ridge and narrow river valley characterize the Purcell Mountains- Ruby Ridge unit. Both, Purcell Mountains and steep-sided Moyie River Valley, extend into adjacent Canada. The PNT transects lower, rounded portions of the mountain range with long, sprawling ridges. While vegetation is characterized by wet, forest of mixed conifers, surface water is rare. Parks with rich assemblages of forbs and grasses encompass rock outcrops along ridgelines. Canuck Peak and Ruby Peak are notable high points. The jagged outline of the Selkirk Crest and the Northwest Peak area are seen from these vantages. The low gradient Moyie River has an idyllic setting. Here, the dry forest contains larch, and views are limited by topography and forest.

The high and lonely Ruby Ridge has occasional motorized recreational traffic. The Moyie river valley is sparsely inhabited but a well utilized recreation venue. Logging has necessitated road building and the transportation network creates a fragmented feeling in areas. Decaying structures dot the landscape.

Aerial Overview



UNIT MAP



VISUAL QUALITY/SCENIC ATTRACTIVENESS

	Rating	Explanation or Rationale
Landform	2	Rounded long sprawling ridges; outcrops of rock.
Vegetation	3	Dense forest at lower elevations; subalpine fir, englemann spruce, lodgepole pine, and huckleberry are broken by meadow at higher elevations.
Water	2	Rare - Spruce Lake seen in middleground.
Color	3	Earth tones; lichen and rock, meadow.
Adjacent Scenery	3	Rounded Purcell Mountains; Davis Peak; Selkirk Crest in the background.
Scarcity	2	Fairly common.
Cultural Modification	1	Relic decrepit structures.
Total	16	RATING = B

Visual Inventory Form

Zone: 5 - Rocky Mountains  
Unit # B5 Purcell Mountains - Ruby Ridge

Date: 07/05/2015  
Jurisdiction (s): US Forest Service

LOCATION MAP



VISIBILITY

Viewsheds/ Screening/ Distance Zone	Middleground and background views are seen from high points but mostly screened by vegetation.
Sensitivity/ Concern Level	Moderate concern. levels

SCENIC INTEGRITY

Level of Naturalness	Landscape is natural appearing for the most part. Some evidence of timber harvesting.
Wholeness	High



PACIFIC NORTHWEST NATIONAL SCENIC TRAIL





Viewpoint - Panorama #01



Viewpoint #02



Viewpoint #03





SCENIC CHARACTER

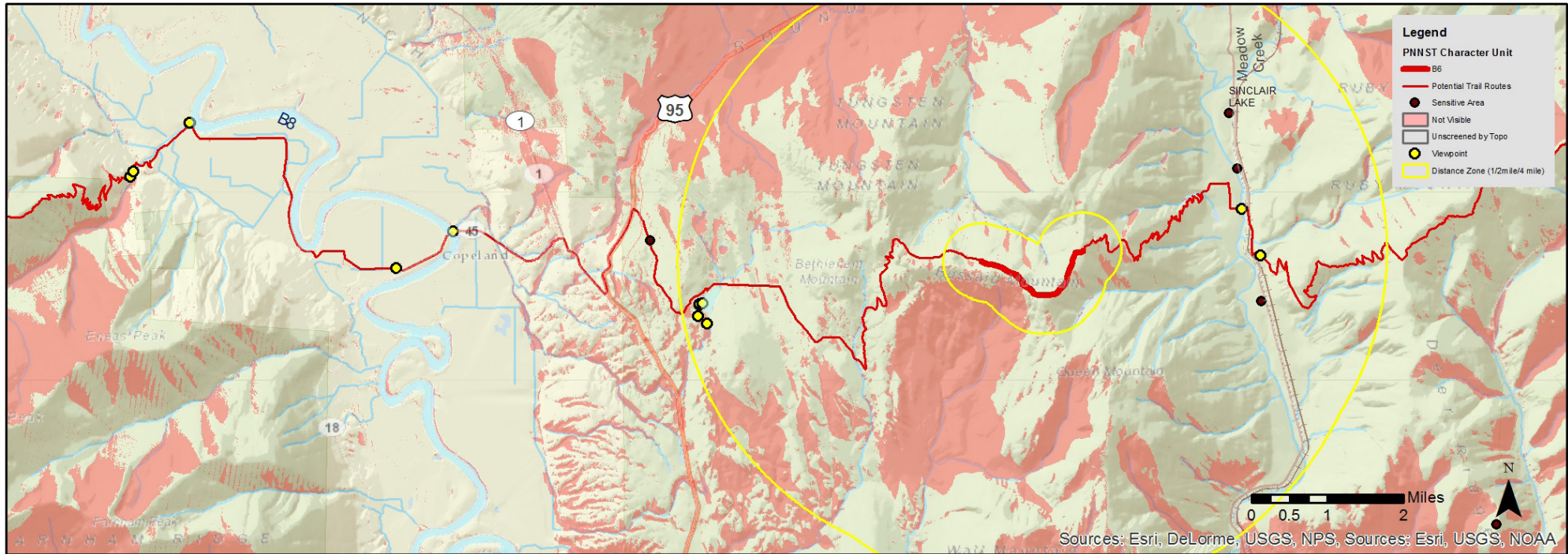
On the western edge of the Purcell Mountains, the high vantage of Bussard Peak has an expansive view. Rocky outcrops are encompassed in dry parks dominated by grass. Dense coniferous forests surround the open parkland and patches of trees punctuate the grassy openings. The dry country has little water. Brushlands occupy thin, rocky soils and exposed slopes. To the west, the Selkirks loom over the wide, agricultural Kootenai River Valley. To the east, forested low mountains with little distinguishing landmarks sprawl in a mass of forest.

The ridge drops precipitously down to lower elevations. Motorized recreational traffic is occasional. Logging and agriculture land uses are seen in middleground and background distance zones.

Aerial Overview



UNIT MAP



VISUAL QUALITY/SCENIC ATTRACTIVENESS

	Rating	Explanation or Rationale
Landform	3	Rounded long sprawling ridges; outcrops of exposed rock.
Vegetation	3	At lower elevations, there is dense forest of mixed coniferous forest. At high elevation, parks with patches of stunted trees and rock.
Water	1	Dry ridge with seeps.
Color	3	Meadow; lichen; rock.
Adjacent Scenery	3	Kootenai Valley and Selkirk Crest to the west; low rolling Purcells to the east.
Scarcity	3	Unique vantage.
Cultural Modification	0	Not much modification other than trail.
Total	16	RATING = B+

Visual Inventory Form

Zone: 4 - Columbian Rockies  
Unit # B6 Bussard Mountain

Date: 07/06/2015  
Jurisdiction (s): US Forest Service

LOCATION MAP



VISIBILITY

Viewsheds/ Screening/ Distance Zone	High vantage provides views into all distance zones.
Sensitivity/ Concern Level	Moderate concern levels.

SCENIC INTEGRITY

Level of Naturalness	Foreground landscape is natural appearing; lower elevations have been altered.
Wholeness	High

PACIFIC NORTHWEST NATIONAL SCENIC TRAIL





Viewpoint - Panorama #01



Viewpoint #02



Viewpoint #03



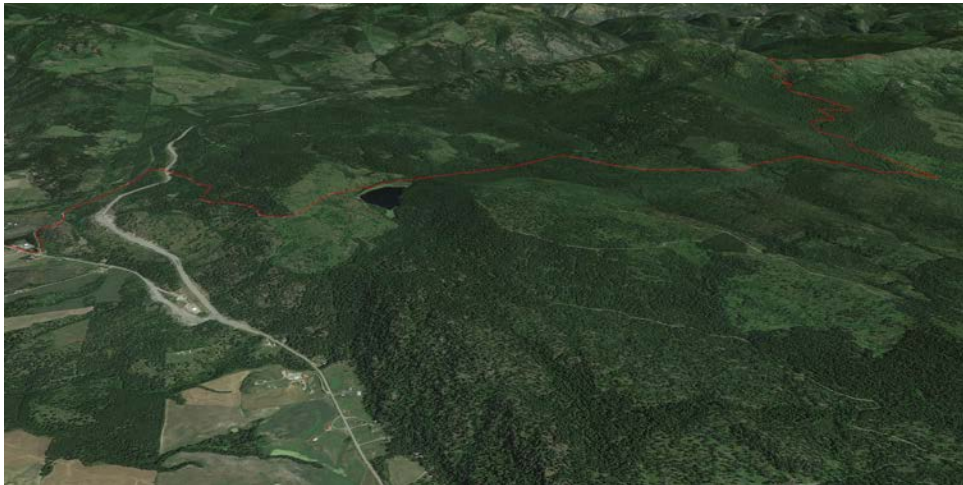


SCENIC CHARACTER

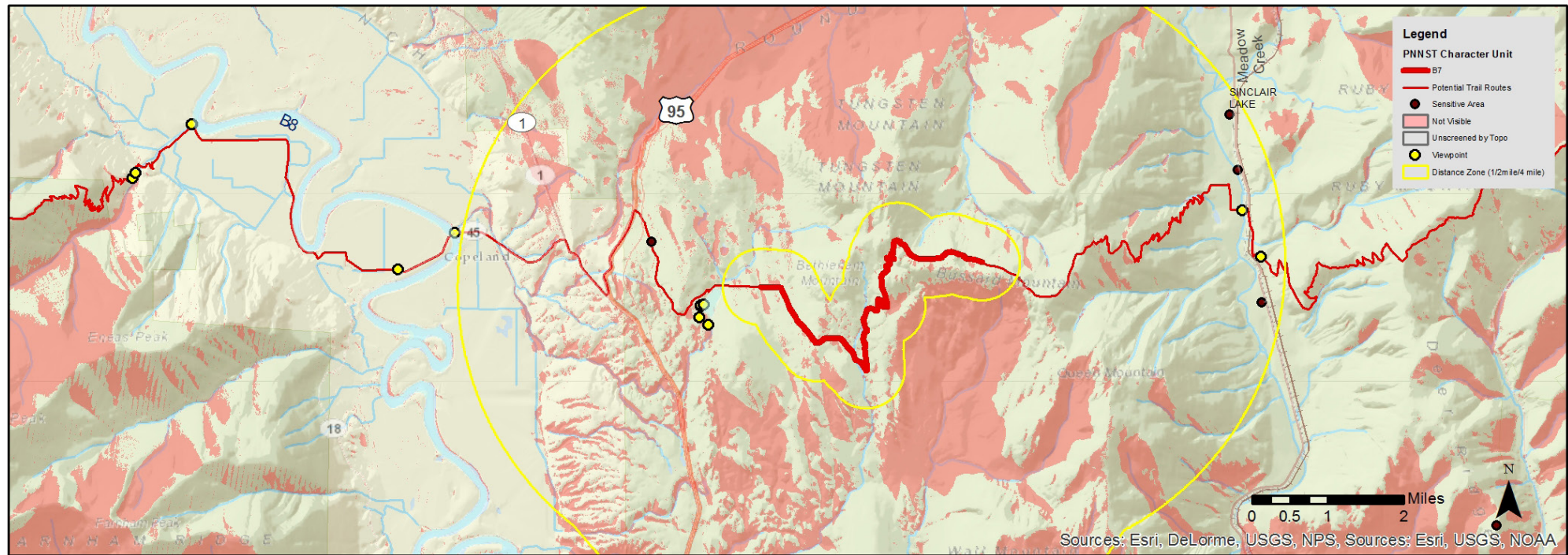
The Purcell Mountains- Brush Lake unit's landform is rolling foothills, bridging higher elevations in the Purcells to the Kootenai Valley. Dense, small-diameter forest cover steep slopes of finger ridges as they dive toward the valley. Thick brushlands grow on rocky slopes. Shrub species include oceanspray, alder, huckleberry, and, snowberry. Thin but vibrant riparian area buffer water courses, such as Rock Creek. Brush Lake has dark water circumscribed by an apron of verdant aquatic vegetation. Wetlands in low depressions dot dry forest that contain larch. Views are screened by vegetation unless from lake edges, timber cuts, or, brush lands.

Logging, recreation, and, residential development are major land uses. Historic and active timber cuts are evident throughout the area. Frequent roads make navigation challenging.

Aerial Overview



UNIT MAP



VISUAL QUALITY/SCENIC ATTRACTIVENESS

	Rating	Explanation or Rationale
Landform	2	Foothills; finger ridges; wetlands.
Vegetation	3	Mixed coniferous forest with larch; brush lands; wetland.
Water	4	Brush Lake; wetlands.
Color	4	Broadleaf shrubs and larch have seasonal color; evergreen forest; dark water; verdant aquatic vegetation.
Adjacent Scenery	1	Mostly foreground views.
Scarcity	2	Locally unique.
Cultural Modification		FS developed recreation; timber harvesting.
Total	16	RATING = B+

Visual Inventory Form

Zone: 4 - Columbian Rockies  
Unit # B7 Purcell Mountains - Brush Lake

Date: 07/05/2015  
Jurisdiction (s): US Forest Service, Private

LOCATION MAP



VISIBILITY

Viewsheds/ Screening/ Distance Zone	Constrained by topography; some vantages allow for views into Kootenai Valley.
Sensitivity/ Concern Level	High concern levels because of developed recreation.

SCENIC INTEGRITY

Level of Naturalness	Moderate
Wholeness	Moderate levels because fragmented by roads.



PACIFIC NORTHWEST NATIONAL SCENIC TRAIL





Viewpoint - Panorama #01



Viewpoint #02



Viewpoint #03

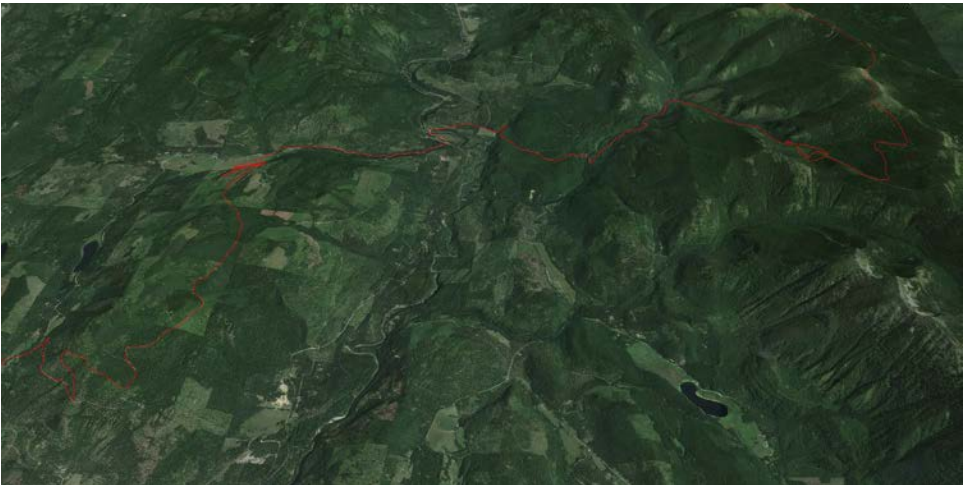




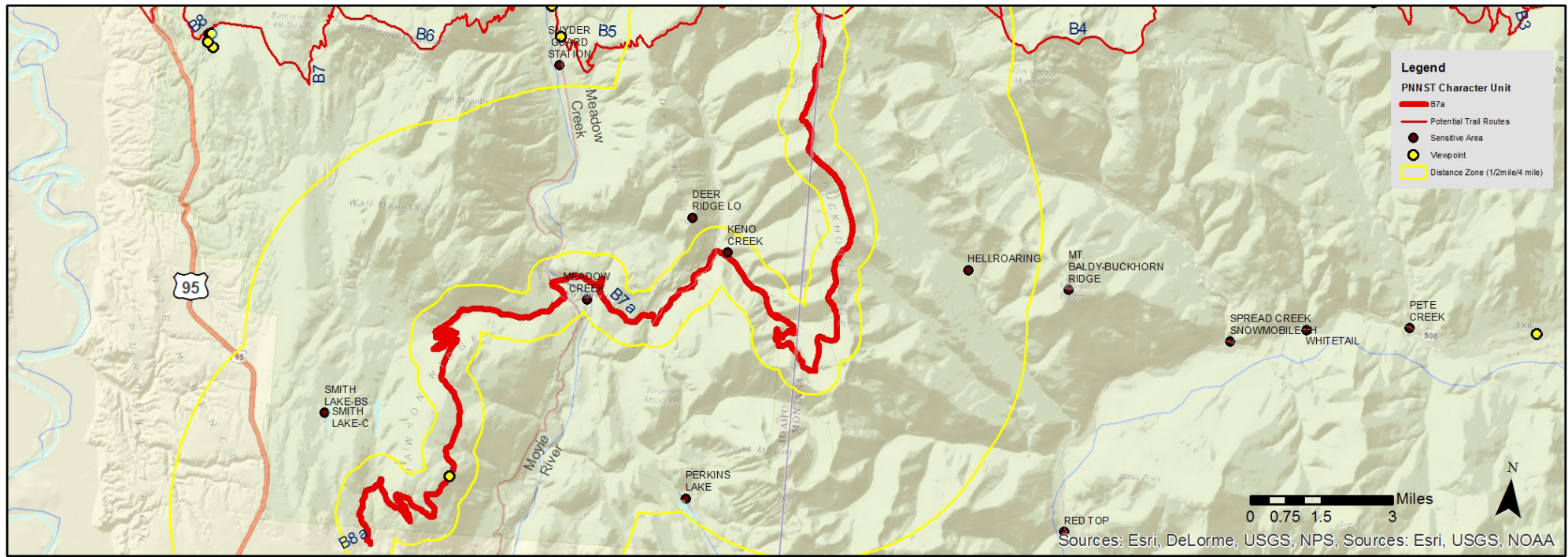
SCENIC CHARACTER

The Purcell Mountains- Two ridges (Buckhorn Ridge and Dawson Ridge) are defined by a forested valley. Buckhorn Mountain, The Scout, and Keno Mountain are high ridges with exposed rocky and grass faces, sparse trees dot the upper elevation. Patches of white-snow drifts contrast against rock outcrops. The undulating trail views eventually descends into thick forest with limited views out other than at exposed rushing rivers (Deer Creek and Meadow Creek), which are lined with gray cobble. While vegetation is characterized by mixed conifers, forbs and grasses dominate the upper ridgelines. Shrub species include Oceanspray, alder, huckleberry, and, Snowberry. Dawson Ridge's thick vegetation cover opens in a few areas to provides a few views down into the valley bottom, which exposes pastoral farmsteads and green pastures carved out of the forest. Evidence of logging, residential, and recreation features are evident. There is a past era of mining noted in the areas history. Recent timber cuts are evident on Dawson Ridge, with roads and a utility station as artificial elements on the landscape.

Aerial Overview



UNIT MAP



VISUAL QUALITY/SCENIC ATTRACTIVENESS

	Rating	Explanation or Rationale
Landform	3	Dramatic ridgelines offer topo relief.
Vegetation	3	Conifer slopes dominate the vegetation. Riparian creeks.
Water	3	Cobble rivers.
Color	3	Riparian vegetation and green conifer slopes. Cobble grey rivers.
Adjacent Scenery	0	Valley bottom views, but are limited.
Scarcity	1	Ghost town history.
Cultural Modification	0	Keno Trailhead, Campground near Meadow Creek, and bridges.
Total	13	RATING = B

Visual Inventory Form

Zone: 4 - Columbian Rockies  
Unit # B7a Purcell Mountains-Buckhorn Ridge

Date: 07/05/2015  
Jurisdiction (s):

LOCATION MAP



VISIBILITY

Viewsheds/ Screening/ Distance Zone	Views are primarily screened by vegetation. Some locations on the upper ridgline offer expansive views of the canyon bottom.
Sensitivity/ Concern Level	High sensitivity near the campground and residential areas but otherwise moderate concern.

SCENIC INTEGRITY

Level of Naturalness	Evidence of farmlands and harvest timber lands lower the intactness.
Wholeness	Timber units break up the wholeness which is low in areas.



PACIFIC NORTHWEST NATIONAL SCENIC TRAIL





Viewpoint - Panorama #01



Viewpoint #02



Viewpoint #03



for the greatest good



SCENIC CHARACTER

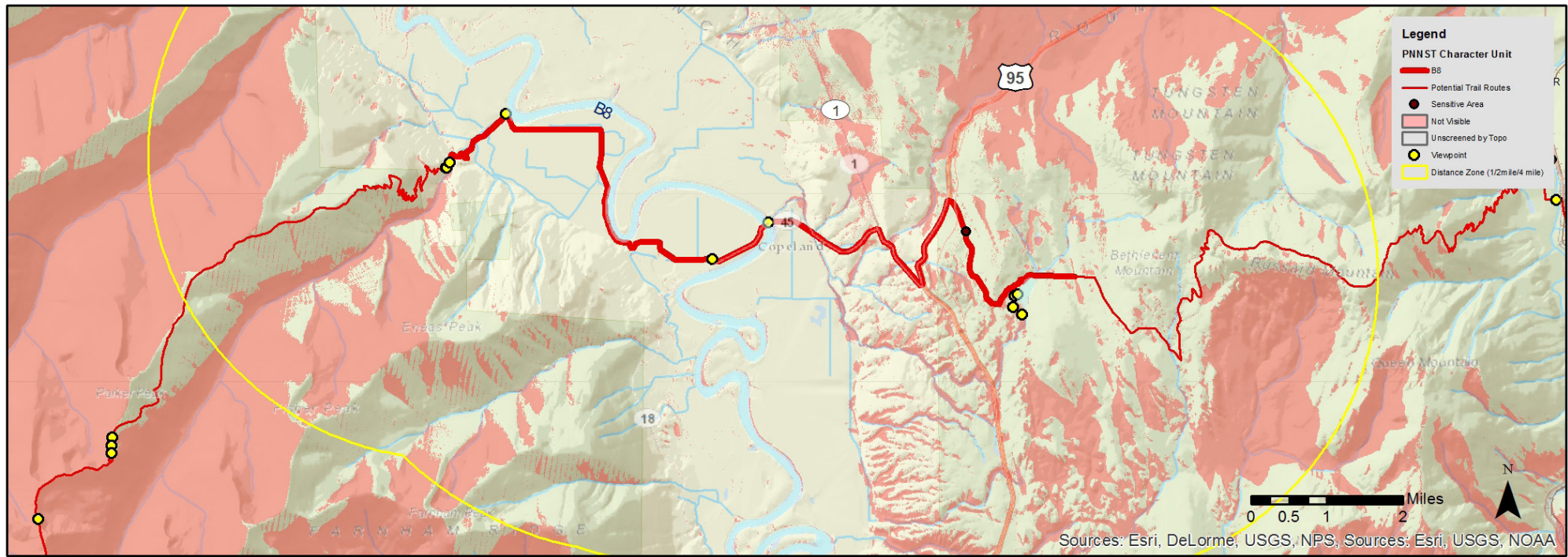
Glaciation created the broad Kootenai River Valley between the Selkirk and Purcell Mountains. Rich floodplains have been deposited by the Kootenai River as it flows north. Steep slopes of adjacent mountains frame the flat valley bottom lands. Today, the floodplain is a patchwork of agricultural fields, growing crops such as hops, pasture, wheat, and, canola. Levees are conspicuous features along the sluggish, meandering Kootenai River. For the river's size, little riparian area is present. Large cottonwoods grow along gravel roads and in thin riparian area is present. Large cottonwoods grow along gravel roads and in thin riparian edges. The Copeland Bridge connects the banks of the large river.

The agricultural land use bestows bucolic charm to the valley. Farm houses and barns are tucked in throughout. Logging is evident on the surrounding mountains. A low population density renders the unit quiet and peaceful. Communities identify with a notion of an Inland Pacific Northwest.

Aerial Overview



UNIT MAP



VISUAL QUALITY/SCENIC ATTRACTIVENESS

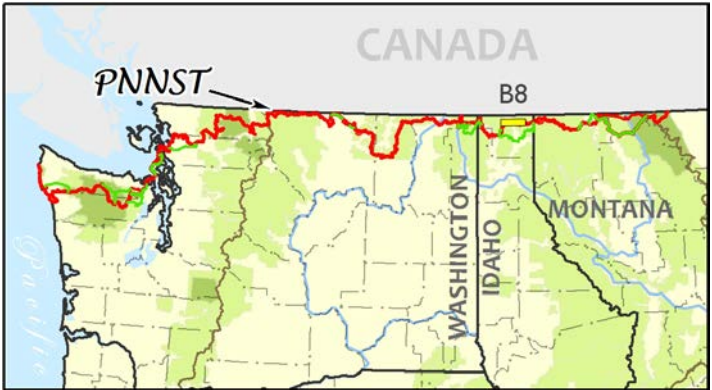
	Rating	Explanation or Rationale
Landform	3	Broad river valley nestled between mountains.
Vegetation	3	Patchy narrow riparian areas; patchwork of agriculture; surrounding slopes of mixed coniferous forest.
Water	4	Sluggish Kootenai River.
Color	2	Evergreen forested mountains; Kootenai River; agriculture.
Adjacent Scenery	3	Pastoral landscape of valley; Purcell Mountains to the east and Selkirk Mountains to the west.
Scarcity	2	Broad river valley is locally unique.
Cultural Modification	1	Farmland has a strong sense of place.
Total	18	RATING = B+

Visual Inventory Form

Zone: 4 - Columbian Rockies  
Unit # B8 Kootenai Valley

Date: 07/05/2015  
Jurisdiction (s): US Forest Service, County/Private

LOCATION MAP



VISIBILITY

Viewsheds/ Screening/ Distance Zone	Views into all distance zones.
Sensitivity/ Concern Level	High concern.

SCENIC INTEGRITY

Level of Naturalness	Low level because river modification, agriculture land.
Wholeness	Moderate level because patchwork agriculture land.



PACIFIC NORTHWEST NATIONAL SCENIC TRAIL





Viewpoint - Panorama #01



Viewpoint #02



Viewpoint #03





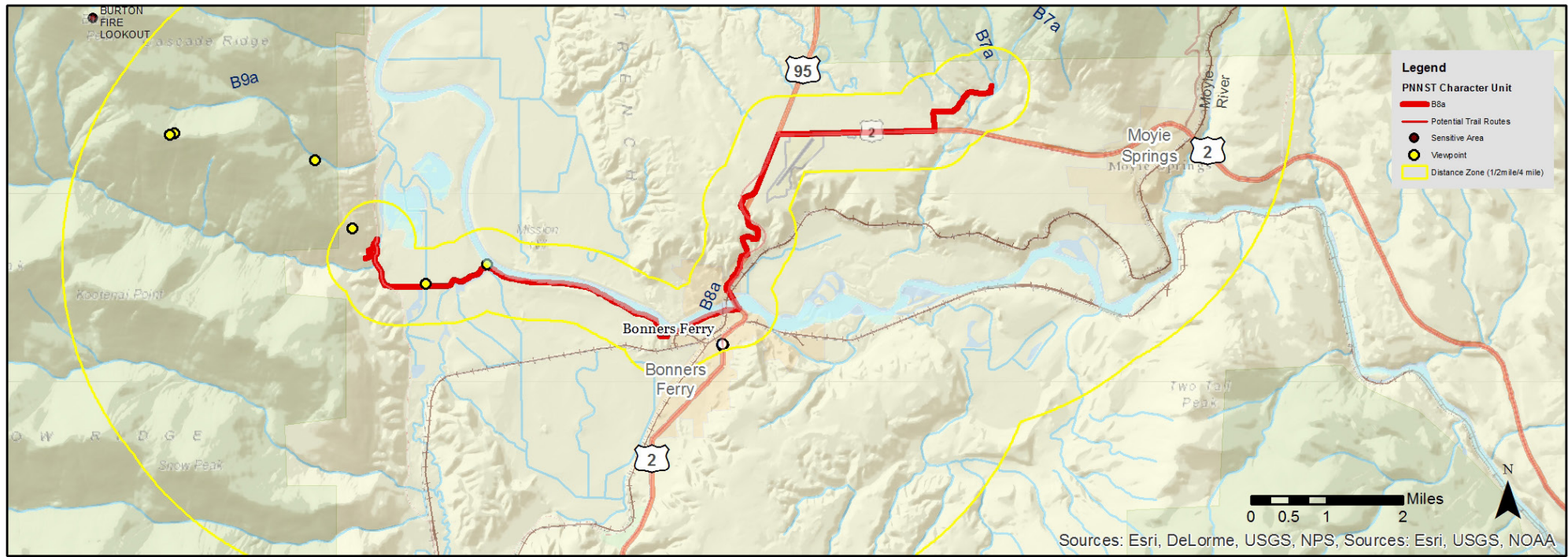
SCENIC CHARACTER

The Kootenai Valley Bonners Ferry is a broad valley created by glaciation between the Selkirk and Purcell Mountains, which define the flat bottomland of the valley. The valley bottom is characterized by a rural patchwork of farmland, urbanized town center, industrial/agricultural features, and a designated wildlife refuge separated by the Kootenai River. A quaint main street provides a strong sense of identity associated with Bonner's Ferry town center, as a gateway community to the trail. The Kootenai River is a dominate feature in the landscape, with its riparian lush riparian corridor and meandering course. Large cottonwoods give way to Kootenai Wildlife Refuge, defined by wet grassy flatland with abundant wildlife including water fowl, moose, and others mammals. Recreation trails and day use facilities are prevalent.

Aerial Overview



UNIT MAP



VISUAL QUALITY/SCENIC ATTRACTIVENESS

	Rating	Explanation or Rationale
Landform	3	Flat, broad valley bottom.
Vegetation	3	Riparian vegetation and grasses.
Water	4	Kootenai River and wetlands.
Color	3	Lush wetlands and riparian color.
Adjacent Scenery	2	Distant mountain ranges.
Scarcity	3	Large river and substantial gateway communities.
Cultural Modification	0	Wildlife Refuge has a strong sense of place. Bonner's Ferry is a cultural node. Some built features detract.
Total	20	RATING = A-

Visual Inventory Form

Zone: 4 - Columbian Rockies  
Unit # B8a Kootenai Valley - Bonners Ferry

Date: 07/05/2015  
Jurisdiction (s):

LOCATION MAP



VISIBILITY

Viewsheds/ Screening/ Distance Zone	Views are open in the foreground to background, from the valley bottom.
Sensitivity/ Concern Level	High concern levels.

SCENIC INTEGRITY

Level of Naturalness	Low levels along the built infrastructure.
Wholeness	Fragmented sense of wholeness in the wildlife refuge.



PACIFIC NORTHWEST NATIONAL SCENIC TRAIL





Viewpoint - Panorama #01



Viewpoint #02



Viewpoint #03





SCENIC CHARACTER

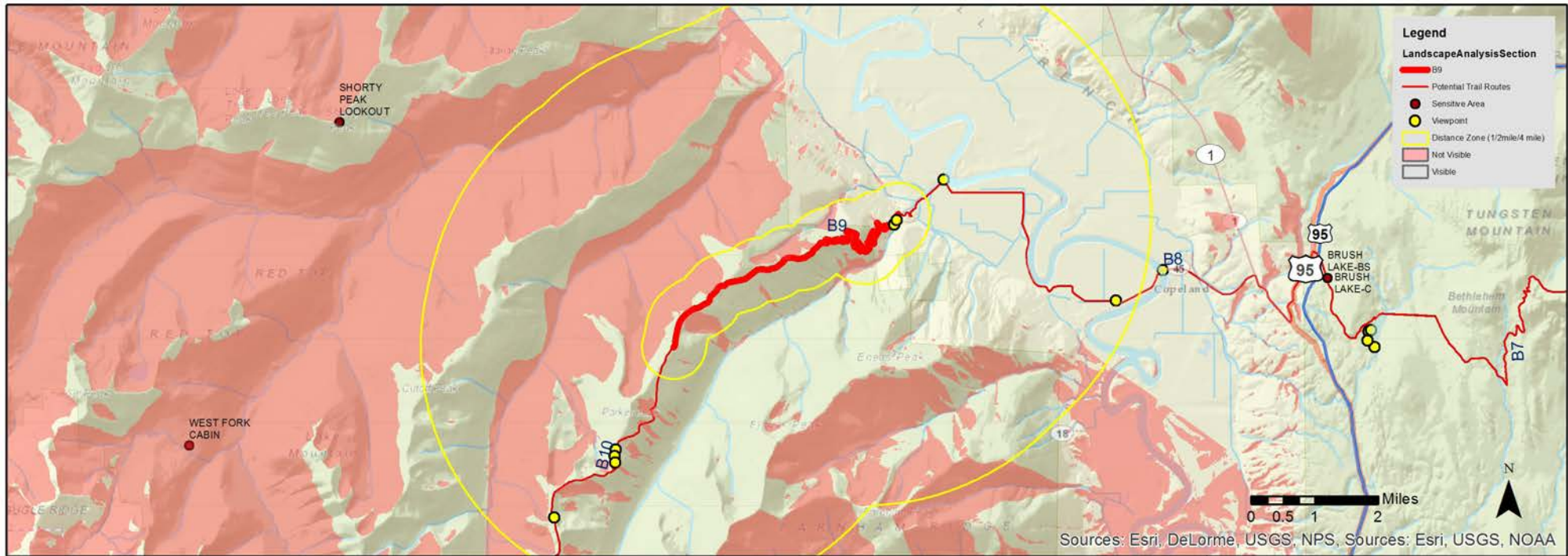
The Selkirks- Parker Ridge, a steep, hot, dry incline extends up from the Kootenai Valley to the rugged Selkirk Crest. Water is infrequent but detectable in deeply incised, narrow creek valleys, such as Parker Creek. Avalanche chutes frequently scar the steep slopes. Fire has left evidence of its frequent visits. Views are constrained by thick and diverse forest of Doug fir, hemlock, cedar, and, pine. Extensive brush lands grow on thin rocky soils that are prone to erosion. Oceanspray and parched grass characterize these open areas. There is strong contrast between the shade of forest and full sun of brush lands.

The agricultural Kootenai Valley and distant Purcell Mountains are visible from forested openings.

Aerial Overview



UNIT MAP



VISUAL QUALITY/SCENIC ATTRACTIVENESS

	Rating	Explanation or Rationale
Landform	3	Steep finger ridges
Vegetation	3	Mixed coniferous forest of Douglas fir, western larch, cedar, hemlock, and, pine; dry brush lands.
Water	2	Parker creek evident but not highly visible.
Color	3	Evergreen forest; seasonal color of broadleaf shrubs.
Adjacent Scenery	3	Kootenai Valley agriculture; foothills of the Purcell Mountains.
Scarcity	2	Fairly common; brush lands and forest somewhat unique.
Cultural Modification	0	Not much modification.
Total	16	RATING = B

Visual Inventory Form

Zone: 4 - Columbian Rockies  
Unit # B9 Selkirks - Parker Ridge

Date: 07/05/2015  
Jurisdiction (s): US Forest Service, Private/County

LOCATION MAP



VISIBILITY

Viewsheds/ Screening/ Distance Zone	Views are primarily in foreground with some vantages providing views to other distance zones.
Sensitivity/ Concern Level	Moderate to low concern because of low visitation.

SCENIC INTEGRITY

Level of Naturalness	High
Wholeness	High



PACIFIC NORTHWEST NATIONAL SCENIC TRAIL





**Viewpoint #01**



**Viewpoint #02**



**Viewpoint #03**



**Viewpoint #04**

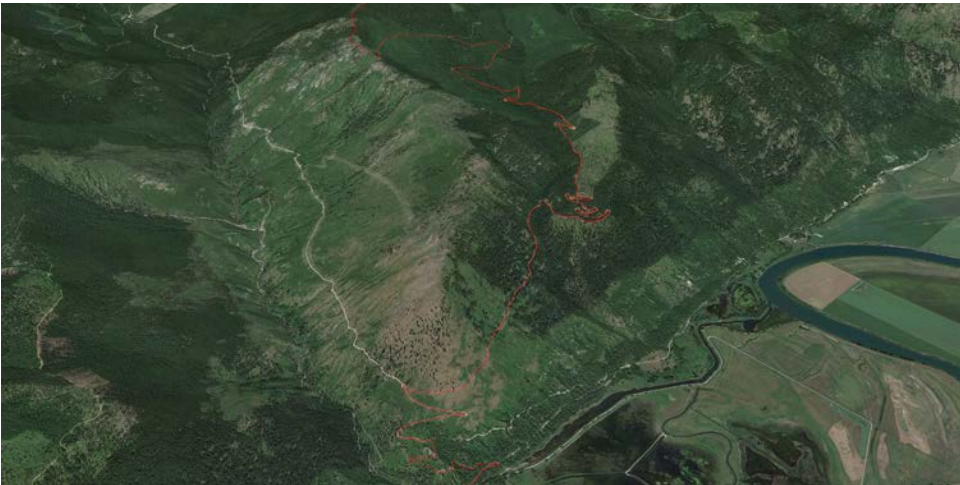




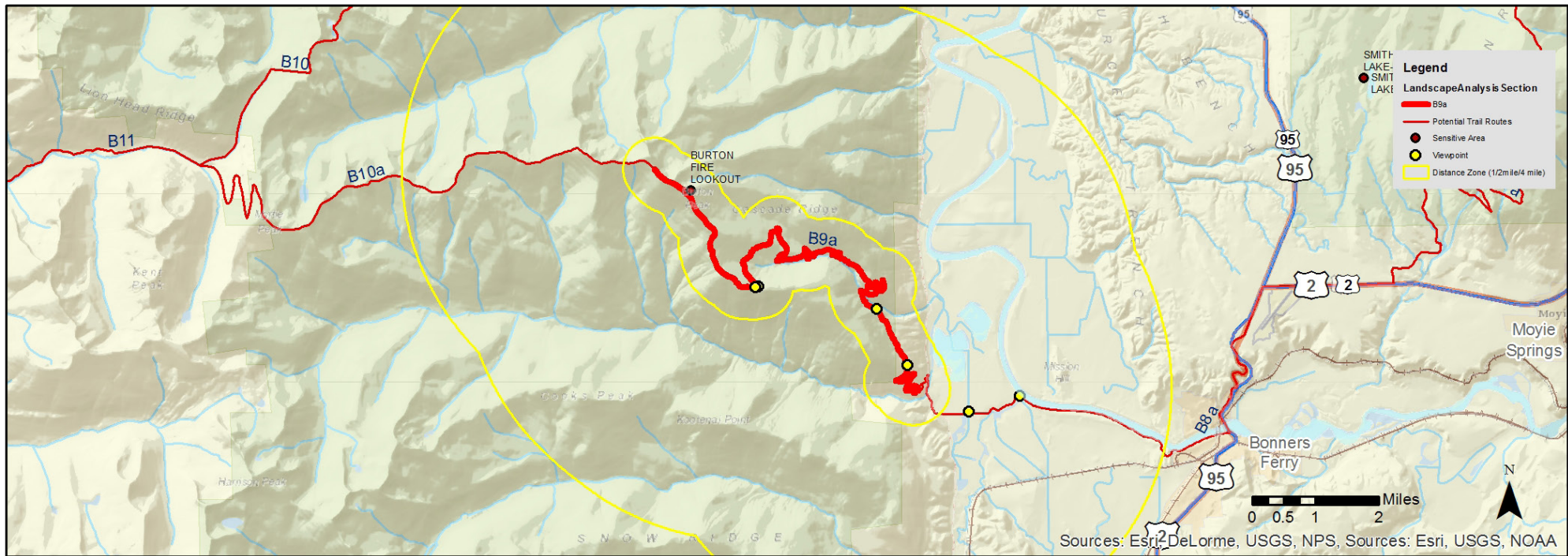
SCENIC CHARACTER

The Selkirks- Burton Peak rises from the Kootenai Valley through a thick forest cover. Small rushing streams are evident but sparse. Extensive brush-lands grow on thin rocky soils providing open views areas but thick mix conifer vegetation is more common. Oceanspray and parched grass characterize the open areas. There is strong contrast between the dark cover of forest and full sun of brushlands. Views of the agricultural patchwork of the Kootenai Valley and backdrop of the distant Purcell Mountains are dramatic as the trail overlooks the valley from higher elevations, rising from the Kootenai Wildlife Refuge. Past vegetation treatments are visible land use from vantages.

Aerial Overview



UNIT MAP



VISUAL QUALITY/SCENIC ATTRACTIVENESS

	Rating	Explanation or Rationale
Landform	3	Mountains
Vegetation	3	Mixed coniferous forest of Douglas fir, western larch, cedar, hemlock, and, pine; dry brush lands.
Water	1	Limited streams, views into the Kootenai River.
Color	3	Evergreen forest; seasonal color of broadleaf shrubs.
Adjacent Scenery	4	Dramatic views down into the Kootenai Valley.
Scarcity	1	Common.
Cultural Modification	2	Trailhead, Burton lookout.
Total	17	RATING = B

Visual Inventory Form

Zone: 4 - Columbian Rockies  
Unit # B9a Selkirks - Burton Peak

Date: 07/05/2015  
Jurisdiction (s):

LOCATION MAP



VISIBILITY

Viewsheds/ Screening/ Distance Zone	Dramatic open views on the west end and at the peak.Views are limited to foreground otherwise.
Sensitivity/ Concern Level	Moderate to high.

SCENIC INTEGRITY

Level of Naturalness	Moderate.
Wholeness	Moderate to high.

PACIFIC NORTHWEST NATIONAL SCENIC TRAIL





Viewpoint - Panorama #01

Viewpoint #02

Viewpoint #03





SCENIC CHARACTER

The Selkirk Crest, an open high elevation ridge, breaks out above thick forest. Assemblages of granite, meadow, and, woodland create pleasing proportions, and in some areas, recall pointillism or dot matrix artwork. A history of glaciation is evident with cirques and exposed jagged rock. Granite is light in color and brightens foreground scenes. Trail winds through rock gardens of penstemon, heather, Indian paintbrush, and talus. Water is present in clear lakes, well vegetated seeps and small streams. Thick patches of subalpine fir and Engelmann spruce grow in moist sites. Trees become more stunted and contorted toward exposed ridge tops. Healthy whitebark pine gain footholds between boulders.

The crest allows deep and rewarding views. The rugged exposed rock is not visible from valley floors and imbues an enigmatic hidden setting to the high country. The geometry of agriculture is visible along the twisting Kootenai River.

Aerial Overview



UNIT MAP



VISUAL QUALITY/SCENIC ATTRACTIVENESS

	Rating	Explanation or Rationale
Landform	5	Rock garden; talus, avalanche chutes; cirques; deep valleys; jagged peaks.
Vegetation	5	Rocky gardens of meadow; patches of stunted conifers; five-needled pine present; dense evergreen forest in lower elevations.
Water	4	High elevation lakes.
Color	4	Granite; meadow; sedges; lakes; patches of evergreen trees.
Adjacent Scenery	5	Rugged high country of Selkirks visible.
Scarcity	5	Regionally unique.
Cultural Modification	2	Remains of FS lookout on top of Parker Mountain.
Total	30	RATING = A+

Visual Inventory Form

Zone: 4 - Columbian Rockies  
Unit # B10 Selkirk Crest

Date: 07/04/2015  
Jurisdiction (s): US Forest Service

LOCATION MAP



VISIBILITY

Viewsheds/ Screening/ Distance Zone	Ridge crest has views in all distance zones.
Sensitivity/ Concern Level	High concern because it is a recreational destination.

SCENIC INTEGRITY

Level of Naturalness	High
Wholeness	High



PACIFIC NORTHWEST NATIONAL SCENIC TRAIL





Viewpoint - Panorama #01



Viewpoint #02



Viewpoint #03





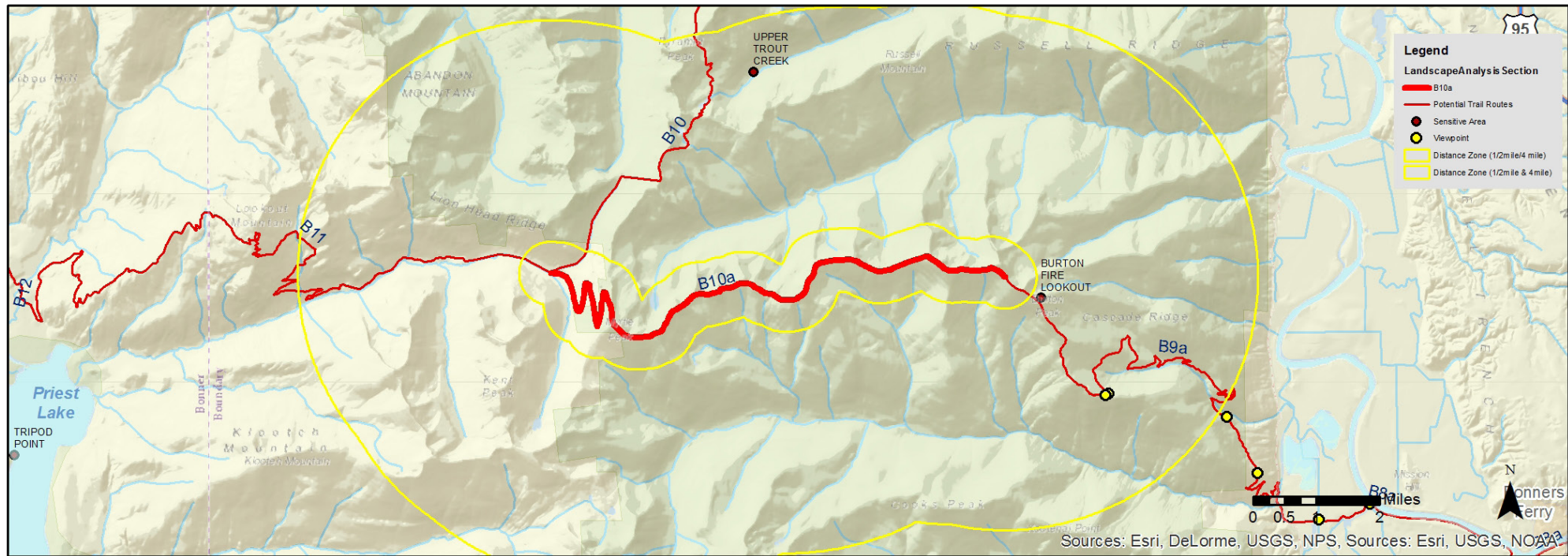
SCENIC CHARACTER

The Selkirk Crest - Cascade Ridge is a high elevation ridgeline with diverse topographical relief. Land cover is an assemblage of granite, meadow, and, diverse woodland. Dark blue Myrtle Lake attracts the eye below the ridgeline, framed by gray rocky mountain slopes and green conifers. White-snow clings to the rock outcrops well into summer. Exposed jagged rock show a history of glaciation, evident by light colored granite in foreground views. Penstemon, heather, Indian paintbrush, and talus rise from the rocky floor. Water is present in glacial lakes, well vegetated seeps and small streams. Thick patches of subalpine fir and Engelmann spruce grow in moist sites. Trees become more stunted and contorted toward exposed ridge tops. Healthy whitebark pine is evident, dotting high elevation slopes.

Aerial Overview



UNIT MAP



VISUAL QUALITY/SCENIC ATTRACTIVENESS

	Rating	Explanation or Rationale
Landform	4	Deep valleys; jagged peaks.
Vegetation	3	Meadows; patches of stunted conifers; five-needled pine present; dense evergreen forest in lower elevations.
Water	3	High elevation lakes.
Color	4	Granite; meadows; sedges; lakes; patches of evergreen trees.
Adjacent Scenery	4	Rugged high country of Selkirks visible.
Scarcity	3	Unique views.
Cultural Modification	2	
Total	23	RATING = A-

Visual Inventory Form

Zone: 4 - Columbian Rockies  
Unit # B10a Selkirk Crest - Cascade Ridge

Date: 07/05/2015  
Jurisdiction (s):

LOCATION MAP



VISIBILITY

Viewsheds/ Screening/ Distance Zone	Ridge crest has views in all distance zones.
Sensitivity/ Concern Level	High concern because it is a recreational destination.

SCENIC INTEGRITY

Level of Naturalness	High.
Wholeness	High.



PACIFIC NORTHWEST NATIONAL SCENIC TRAIL





Viewpoint - Panorama #01



Viewpoint #02



Viewpoint #03





for the greatest good



SCENIC CHARACTER

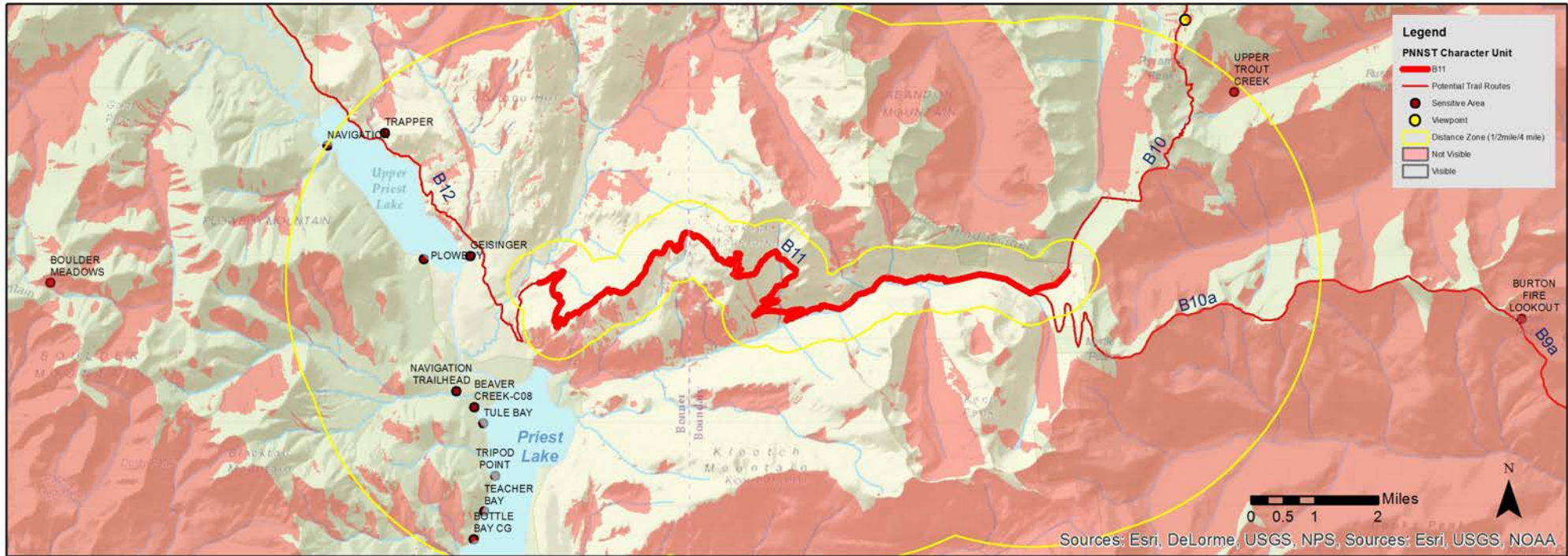
The Selkirks- Lions Head unit is characterized by the iconic Lions Head Mountain and ridge that loom over the area. However, the granite massif is seldom visible from the lower elevations. Lookout Mountain is an open vantage with big views in the heart of the rugged high country. Thick diverse forests cover steep slopes as they drop into highly incised creek valleys, such as Lion Creek. Large trees grow in sheltered valley bottoms. Dense understory grows under closed canopy and in riparian areas, making cross country travel difficult. Granite renders soil prone to erosion.

Recreation and Logging are primary land uses. State ownership ostensibly displays the latter. Logging roads fragment areas and make navigation challenging.

Aerial Overview



UNIT MAP



VISUAL QUALITY/SCENIC ATTRACTIVENESS

	Rating	Explanation or Rationale
Landform	2	Incised stream valley; adjacent high country of Selkirk Crest
Vegetation	3	Mixed coniferous forest
Water	3	Lion Creek
Color	3	Evergreen forest; seasonal variation of riparian area
Adjacent Scenery	3	High country is seldom seen; Lookout Mountain is a contributing side trail
Scarcity	2	Common
Cultural Modification	-2	Logging has created numerous roads, mostly on state land
Total	14	RATING = B

Visual Inventory Form

Zone: 4 - Columbian Rockies  
Unit # B11 Selkirks - Lions Head

Date: 07/05/2015  
Jurisdiction (s): US Forest Service, State Land

LOCATION MAP



VISIBILITY

Viewsheds/ Screening/ Distance Zone	Mostly constrained by topography; contributing Lookout Mountain has view in all distance zones
Sensitivity/ Concern Level	Moderate to high sensitivity.

SCENIC INTEGRITY

Level of Naturalness	Moderate levels of naturalness.
Wholeness	Moderate- fragmented by roads



PACIFIC NORTHWEST NATIONAL SCENIC TRAIL





Viewpoint - Panorama #01

Viewpoint #02

Viewpoint #03





SCENIC CHARACTER

The Upper Priest Lake and River unit is characterized by high quality water and diverse, lush maritime forest. Lake edge is welcome respite from dense lowland forest of hemlock, cedar, and pine. Lower slopes of adjacent Selkirk Mountains are clad in contiguous forest. Old growth western red cedar groves create cathedral-like experiences with pleasant dappled lighting and bottom-lands of large ferns. The swift but gentle Upper Priest River flows through cedar bottoms exposing river polished cobbles and depositing soft sandbars. Views are mostly screened by vegetation unless sightlines are provided by lake edge, river or road corridors. Big Snowy Top Mountain’s volcanic form is a landmark and periodically visible.

Recreation is a major land use as people are drawn to clear, cool, clean water and ancient forests. Logging is evident. Ranching and residential development is a land use on private ownership.

Aerial Overview



UNIT MAP



VISUAL QUALITY/SCENIC ATTRACTIVENESS

	Rating	Explanation or Rationale
Landform	3	River Valley and Lake Basin.
Vegetation	5	Dense, contiguous mixed conifer forest; ancient groves of western red cedar; riparian area; wetlands.
Water	5	Wild and Scenic Upper Priest River; Priest Lake.
Color	3	Evergreen forest, clear water
Adjacent Scenery	1	Forested slopes of Selkirk Mountains.
Scarcity	5	High quality water; ancient old growth forest; woodland caribou.
Cultural Modification	3	Developed recreation and trails.
Total	25	RATING = A-

Visual Inventory Form

Zone: 4 - Columbian Rockies  
Unit # B12 Upper Priest Lake and River

Date: 07/06/2015  
Jurisdiction (s):

LOCATION MAP



VISIBILITY

Viewsheds/ Screening/ Distance Zone	Views are primarily limited to the foreground because of thick vegetation.
Sensitivity/ Concern Level	High

SCENIC INTEGRITY

Level of Naturalness	High
Wholeness	High



PACIFIC NORTHWEST NATIONAL SCENIC TRAIL





Viewpoint - Panorama #01



Viewpoint #02



Viewpoint #03





SCENIC CHARACTER

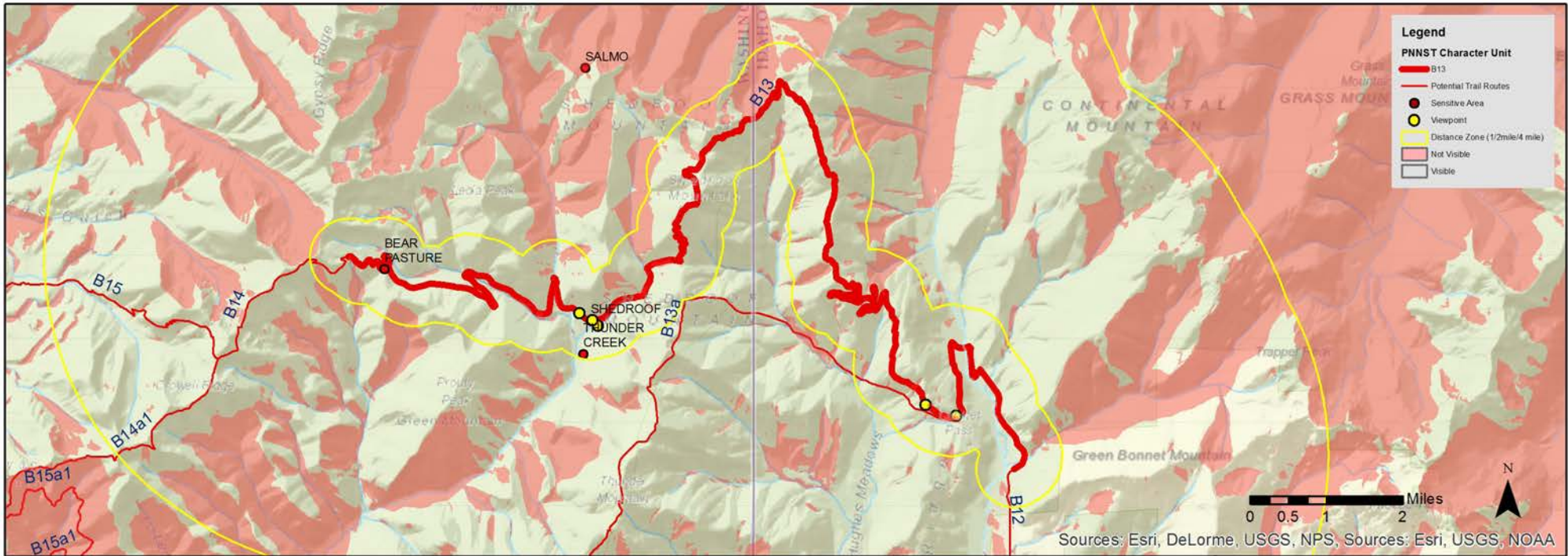
The Selkirks- Shedroof Mountain unit is rugged terrain with steep slopes dissected by deep, narrow valleys. Frequent avalanche chutes cut through forest. A closed canopy of young, diverse, coniferous forest, cloak the landform with a ferny texture. Broadleaf birches and alders grow in light gaps such as abandoned road prisms. Water is scarce. Distant views of high elevation, rocky, meadows are visible on adjacent mountains. Gaps in forest provide glimpses of verdant peat-lands on valley floors.

A history of logging is evident in the form of young forest, road templates, and the presence of non-native species. The country is rich in wildlife and one of the few places in the lower 48 where woodland caribou still roam. The congressionally protected Salmo-Priest Wilderness provides solitary opportunities for the adventurous.

Aerial Overview



UNIT MAP



VISUAL QUALITY/SCENIC ATTRACTIVENESS

	Rating	Explanation or Rationale
Landform	3	Steeps slopes and deep valleys.
Vegetation	3	Dense, mixed coniferous forest.
Water	1	Rare
Color	3	Evergreen forest; seasonality of broadleaf shrubs in avalanche chutes; birch.
Adjacent Scenery	3	Mountain rise dominantly in the distant west. Glaciers are seen on the mountain tops.
Scarcity	3	Woodland caribou.
Cultural Modification	-2	Logging evident.
Total	14	RATING = B

Visual Inventory Form

Zone: 4 - Columbian Rockies  
Unit # B13 Selkirks - Shedroof

Date: 08/04/2015  
Jurisdiction (s): US Forest Service

LOCATION MAP



VISIBILITY

Viewsheds/ Screening/ Distance Zone	Mostly foreground views with some middleground visible from vantages.
Sensitivity/ Concern Level	Moderate to low because of low visitation.

SCENIC INTEGRITY

Level of Naturalness	Moderate
Wholeness	Moderate



PACIFIC NORTHWEST NATIONAL SCENIC TRAIL





Viewpoint - Panorama #01



Viewpoint #02



Viewpoint #03





The Shedroof Divide (Crowell Ridge Alternate) is a small, high elevation unit in the Selkirk Mountains. Here, dense forest gives way to rocky meadow and woodland toward ridgetops. The mountains are rounded and rolling to steep and rugged. Herbaceous plant communities in burn units and meadow add color. Huckleberries provide sweet forage, and bear grass, texture. Forests are diverse with many species of conifers. Water is scarce. Wildlife is abundant, rich with grouse and songbirds. Openings contain views of the Selkirk Crest to the east and the Pend Oreille River Valley to the west. The vantages allow for the observation of water developments, timber harvesting, and residential development in lower elevations. Recreation and conservation are the primary land uses of the protected Salmo-Priest Wilderness area.

## An aerial photograph of a mountainous region. A prominent red line is drawn across the landscape, likely representing a boundary or a specific path. The terrain is covered in dense green vegetation, with some areas appearing more barren or rocky. The red line starts from the left side, moves towards the center, and then curves upwards towards the right.

**Legend**

**PNNST Character Unit**

- B14
- Potential Trail Routes
- Sensitive Area
- Viewpoint
- Distance Zone (1/2 mile/4 miles)
- Not Visible
- Visible

**Scale:** 0 0.5 1 2 Miles

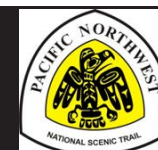
**Sources:** Esri, DeLorme, USGS, NPS, Sources: Esri, USGS, NOAA

	Rating	Explanation or Rationale
<b>Landform</b>	3	Rugged, mountainous terrain; deep valleys; rocky outcrops.
<b>Vegetation</b>	4	Mixed coniferous forest; burned areas; dry meadow.
<b>Water</b>	2	Springs.
<b>Color</b>	3	Evergreen forest; colorful herbaceous plants; seasonality of broadleaf shrubs.
<b>Adjacent Scenery</b>	4	Pend Oreille Valley; Selkirk Mountains.
<b>Scarcity</b>	4	High vantages; designated wilderness.
<b>Cultural Modification</b>	2	FS Lookout on Crowell Ridge.
<b>Total</b>	<b>22</b>	<b>RATING = A-</b>

Zone: 4 - Columbian Rockies  
Unit # B14 Shedroof Divide

<p><b>Viewsheds/ Screening/ Distance Zone</b></p>	<p>High vantages have views in all distance zones however often screened by vegetation.</p>
<p><b>Sensitivity/ Concern Level</b></p>	<p>High concern because designated wilderness.</p>

<b>Level of Naturalness</b>	High
<b>Wholeness</b>	Moderate to High because some fragmentation by roads.



## PACIFIC NORTHWEST NATIONAL SCENIC TRAIL



Viewpoint - Panorama #01



Viewpoint #02



Viewpoint #03





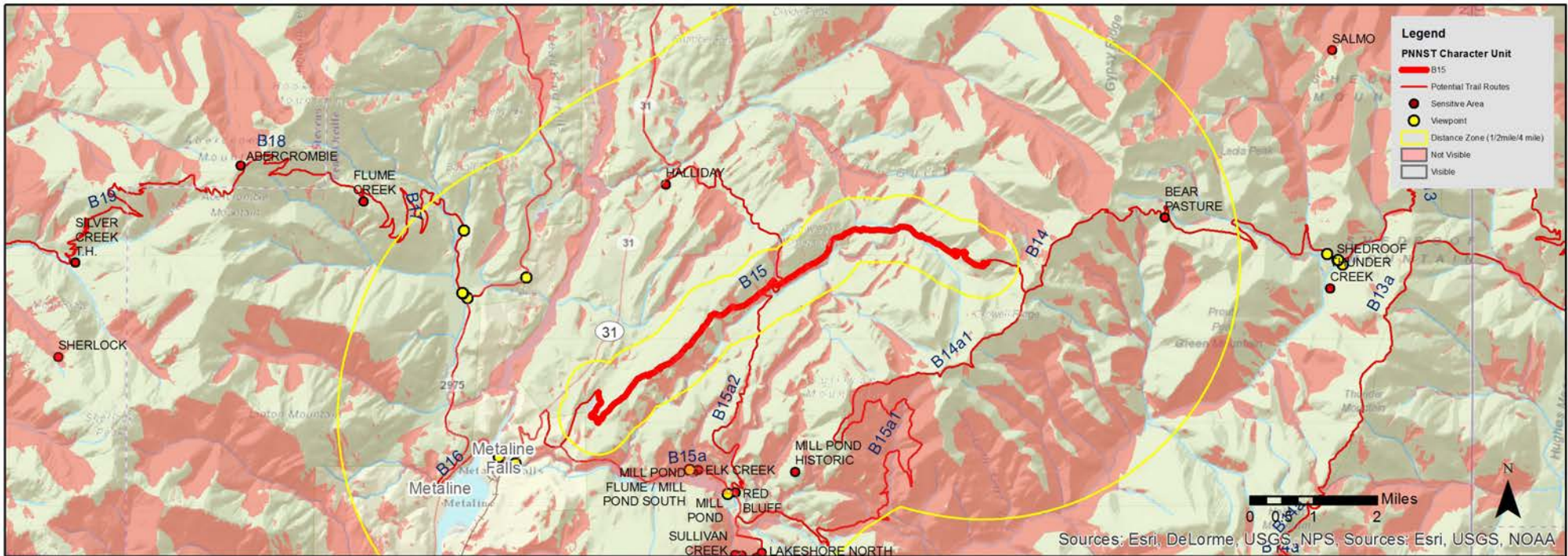
SCENIC CHARACTER

The Sullivan Lake unit's centerpiece is a large, natural lake surrounded by diverse forest containing birch, aspen, and, hemlock. Western larch is a notable forest component with fragrance, color, and, seasonal variation. Pleasant forest abounds on Hall and Round Top Mountains. Noisy and Sullivan Creeks are energized streams with whitewater and riparian habitat containing cascara and elderberry. Sullivan Creek is impounded to form Mill Pond. A flume carries water down through a tight, picturesque canyon. Recreation and logging are major land uses. Water projects recall the history of the area's development and create unique aquatic habitat.

Aerial Overview



UNIT MAP



VISUAL QUALITY/SCENIC ATTRACTIVENESS

	Rating	Explanation or Rationale
Landform	4	Montane forest; lake; canyon; stream valley.
Vegetation	3	Diverse forest with birch and larch; riparian area.
Water	5	Sullivan Lake; Noisy and Sullivan Creeks; Mill Pond.
Color	3	Water; seasonal variation of larch and broadleafed trees.
Adjacent Scenery	3	Mostly foreground views.
Scarcity	3	Recreational lake and canyon are unique.
Cultural Modification	3	Strong sense of place and cultural history.
Total	24	RATING = A-

Visual Inventory Form

Zone: 4 - Columbian Rockies  
Unit # B15 Sullivan Lake

Date: 08/04/2015  
Jurisdiction (s): US Forest Service

LOCATION MAP



VISIBILITY

Viewsheds/ Screening/ Distance Zone	Views into middleground from lake shore; mostly views are screened by vegetation.
Sensitivity/ Concern Level	Very high concern levels along this section of trail because of the high recreation use.

SCENIC INTEGRITY

Level of Naturalness	High
Wholeness	High



PACIFIC NORTHWEST NATIONAL SCENIC TRAIL





Viewpoint - Panorama #01

Viewpoint #02

Viewpoint #03





The Pend Oreille unit is defined by the Pend Oreille River. Embedded in the Selkirk Mountains, the river is sluggish and contains water developments. The flat topography of the river valley renders it suitable for human occupation. The communities of Metaline Falls and Metaline are the area's social and cultural hubs. Quaint storefronts and streetscapes have timeless appeal. Municipal parkland celebrates armored banks of the large river as it flows north toward the Boundary Dam. Riparian vegetation mixes with upland forest and residential plantings. The small communities are peaceful and nostalgic.

## An aerial photograph of a mountainous region. A large, dark blue lake occupies the lower center. To its right, a small town with several buildings is visible. A winding road, highlighted in red, snakes through the green, forested hillsides, passing the lake and the town. The terrain is rugged with varying elevations and some rocky patches.

**Legend**

**LandscapeAnalysisSection**

- B16
- Potential Trail Routes
- Sensitive Area
- Viewpoint
- Distance Zone (1/2mile/4 mile)
- Not Visible
- Visible

0 0.5 1 2 Miles

Sources: Esri, DeLorme, USGS, NPS, Sources: Esri, USGS, NOAA

	Rating	Explanation or Rationale
<b>Landform</b>	3	Valley with sloping mountains.
<b>Vegetation</b>	4	Thick conifer forest.
<b>Water</b>	4	Mill Pond, streams, falls, and Pend Oreille River.
<b>Color</b>	2	Blue lakes and green forests.
<b>Adjacent Scenery</b>	2	Valley views.
<b>Scarcity</b>	3	An exceptional national significant view.
<b>Cultural Modification</b>	-3/+4	Cultural history adds to the sense of place. Dam. Metaline Falls community.
<b>Total</b>	<b>19</b>	<b>RATING = A-</b>

Zone: 4 - Columbian Rockies  
Unit # B16 Pend Oreille River

<b>Viewsheds/ Screening/ Distance Zone</b>	Viewsheds are primarily closed however some middleground views expose the valley.
<b>Sensitivity/ Concern Level</b>	High concern.

<b>Level of Naturalness</b>	Modified landscape. Utilities, developed areas.
<b>Wholeness</b>	Low levels of intactness.



PACIFIC NORTHWEST NATIONAL SCENIC TRAIL



Viewpoint - Panorama #01



Viewpoint #02



Viewpoint #03





SCENIC CHARACTER

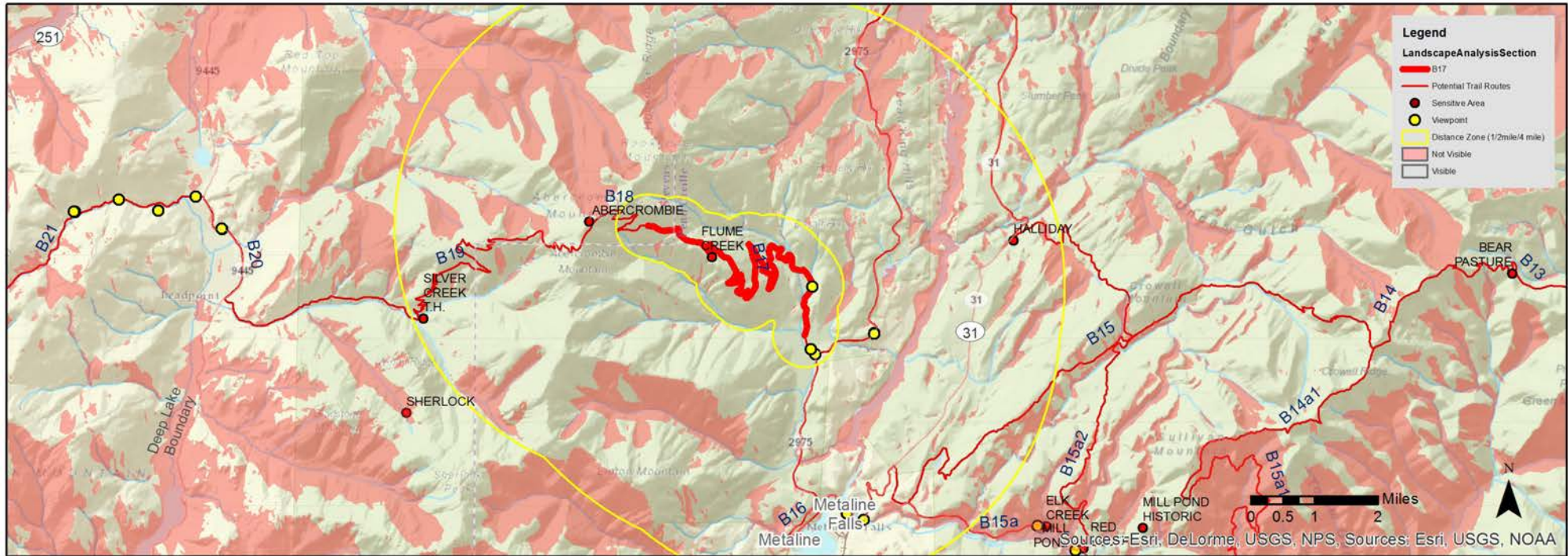
The Flume Creek unit climbs up out the Pend Oreille River Valley towards Abercrombie Mountain. Streams, such as Flume Creek, dissect steep slopes with incised valleys and narrow riparian corridors. Finger ridges are vegetated with dry mixed coniferous forest. Outside of streams, water is scarce. Forests reflect more moisture with increases in elevation. Views are screened by forest, and when available, look east across the Pend Oreille Valley to forested slopes of Selkirk Mountains.

Logging is evident. Water developments and residential communities are seen in the valley bottom.

Aerial Overview



UNIT MAP



VISUAL QUALITY/SCENIC ATTRACTIVENESS

	Rating	Explanation or Rationale
Landform	3	Valley hills turning into mountain slopes.
Vegetation	3	Grasses and meadows, conifer covered slopes.
Water	2	Streams.
Color	2	Shades of green.
Adjacent Scenery	3	Glacier topped mountains rise dominantly in the west.
Scarcity	1	Locally significant with some different landscape characteristics, but on a regional scale, this unit looks similar to the surrounding landscape.
Cultural Modification	-1	Utilities are a dominate feature. Vegetation cuts are very evident.
Total	13	RATING = B-

Visual Inventory Form

Zone: 4 - Columbian Rockies  
Unit # B17 Flume Creek

Date: 08/05/2015  
Jurisdiction (s): US Forest Service, Private/County

LOCATION MAP



VISIBILITY

Viewsheds/ Screening/ Distance Zone	Views are primarily enclosed to foreground views except along a utility corridor.
Sensitivity/ Concern Level	Moderate to high concern.

SCENIC INTEGRITY

Level of Naturalness	Moderate to low levels of naturalness.
Wholeness	Low intactness due to utilities and vegetation harvests.



PACIFIC NORTHWEST NATIONAL SCENIC TRAIL





Viewpoint #01



Viewpoint #02



Viewpoint #03



Viewpoint #04

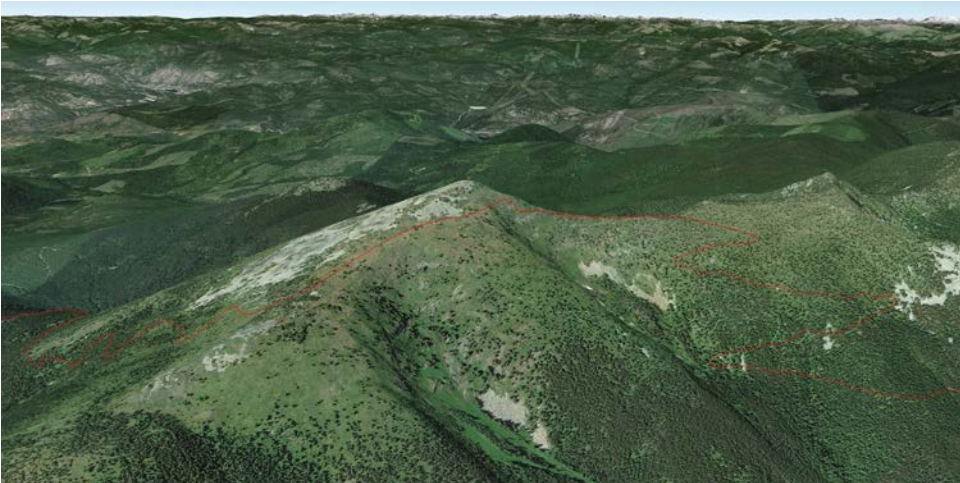




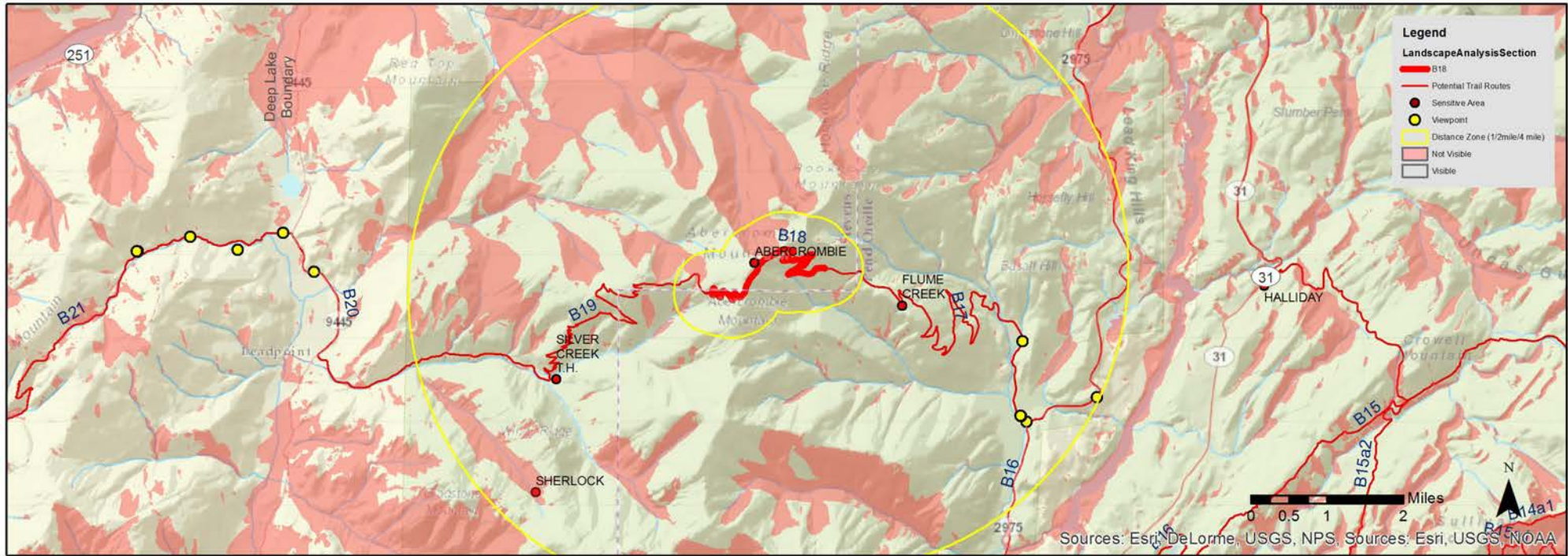
SCENIC CHARACTER

This unit encompasses the summit of Abercrombie Mountain. The form of the mountain is a gentle, rounded north-south running ridge that connects to adjacent Hooknose Mountain. The highpoint of Abercrombie has a broad dome form. Stunted open-grown trees are interspersed with grassy meadows. Talus slopes are common on moderate slopes accentuating the mountain's rounded form. Large skeletons of dead trees dot the landscape standing testament to former woodland. Meadows with fireweed and whortleberry are dominated by grasses. Views are far reaching from the mountain top. They extend east back toward the Selkirk crest and west over an expanse of forested mountains. Logging is visible in lower elevations. The Pend Oreille Valley has residential and water developments.

Aerial Overview



UNIT MAP



VISUAL QUALITY/SCENIC ATTRACTIVENESS

	Rating	Explanation or Rationale
Landform	5	Rolling, broad mountain tops; talus outcrops.
Vegetation	5	Large dead trees; grassy park; islands of trees.
Water	0	Scarce.
Color	3	Rock; meadow; evergreen trees.
Adjacent Scenery	5	Selkirk Mountains; Pend Orielle River Valley; xeric valleys and foothills to the west.
Scarcity	3	Unique vantage.
Cultural Modification	2	Rock shelter; remnants of an old fire lookout.
Total	23	RATING = A-

Visual Inventory Form

Zone: 4 - Columbian Rockies  
Unit # B18 Abercrombie MTN

Date: 07/09/2015  
Jurisdiction (s): US Forest Service, WA DNR

LOCATION MAP



VISIBILITY

Viewsheds/ Screening/ Distance Zone	Views into all distance zones.
Sensitivity/ Concern Level	High Concern.

SCENIC INTEGRITY

Level of Naturalness	High
Wholeness	High

PACIFIC NORTHWEST NATIONAL SCENIC TRAIL

for the greatest good



Viewpoint - Panorama #01



Viewpoint #02



Viewpoint #03





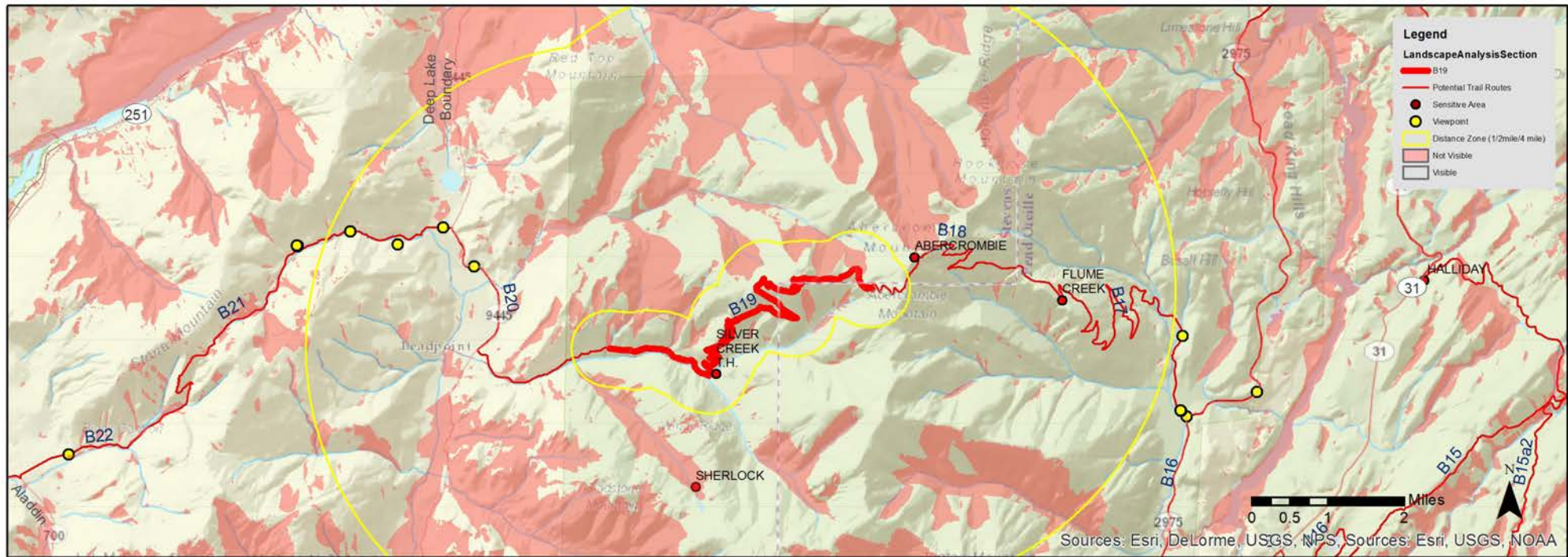
SCENIC CHARACTER

The Silver Creek unit is characterized by steep slopes and a diverse mosaic of vegetation communities. Ridges have sustained grades down to the west. Water is scarce at higher elevations. Narrow valleys have constrained streams with rich riparian corridors. Forest varies from Doug fir savannas to lodgepole pine stands to aspen clones to larch groves to ninebark brush lands. Broadleaf shrubs and trees add color and interest. Grassy parks break up forest. Views are typically screened by vegetation or limited to the middleground by topography. Logging, woodland grazing, and, recreation are major land uses.

Aerial Overview



UNIT MAP



VISUAL QUALITY/SCENIC ATTRACTIVENESS

	Rating	Explanation or Rationale
Landform	3	Montane slopes.
Vegetation	3	Mixed conifer forest; riparian area; parks; mosaic.
Water	2	High-gradient Silver Creek.
Color	3	Seasonal variation of deciduous shrubs.
Adjacent Scenery	2	Limited to middleground and often screened by vegetation.
Scarcity	2	Excellent trail.
Cultural Modification	0	No notable man made activites that would detract or add visual interest.
Total	15	RATING = B

Visual Inventory Form

Zone: 4 - Columbian Rockies  
Unit # B19 Silver Creek

Date: 08/05/2015  
Jurisdiction (s): US Forest Service

LOCATION MAP



VISIBILITY

Viewsheds/ Screening/ Distance Zone	Primarily foreground views.
Sensitivity/ Concern Level	Moderate to high concern.

SCENIC INTEGRITY

Level of Naturalness	Moderate
Wholeness	Moderate



PACIFIC NORTHWEST NATIONAL SCENIC TRAIL





Viewpoint - Panorama #01



Viewpoint #02



Viewpoint #03

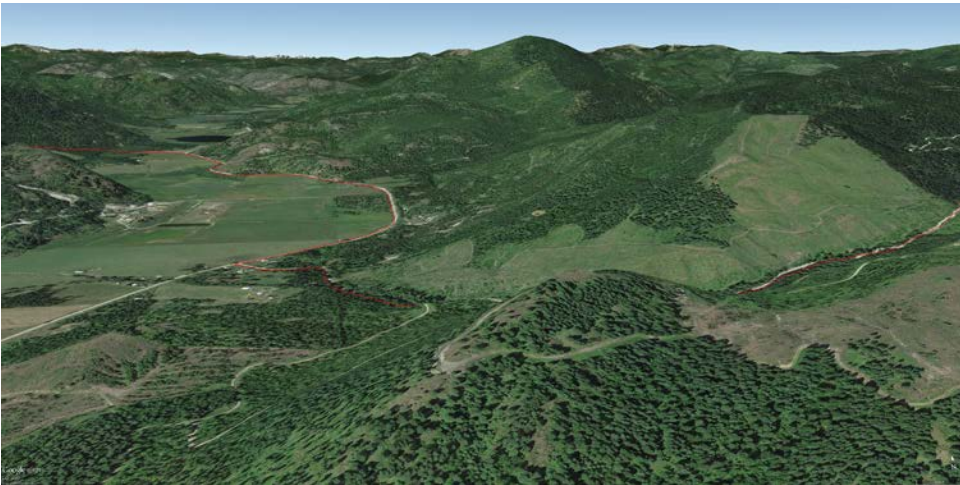




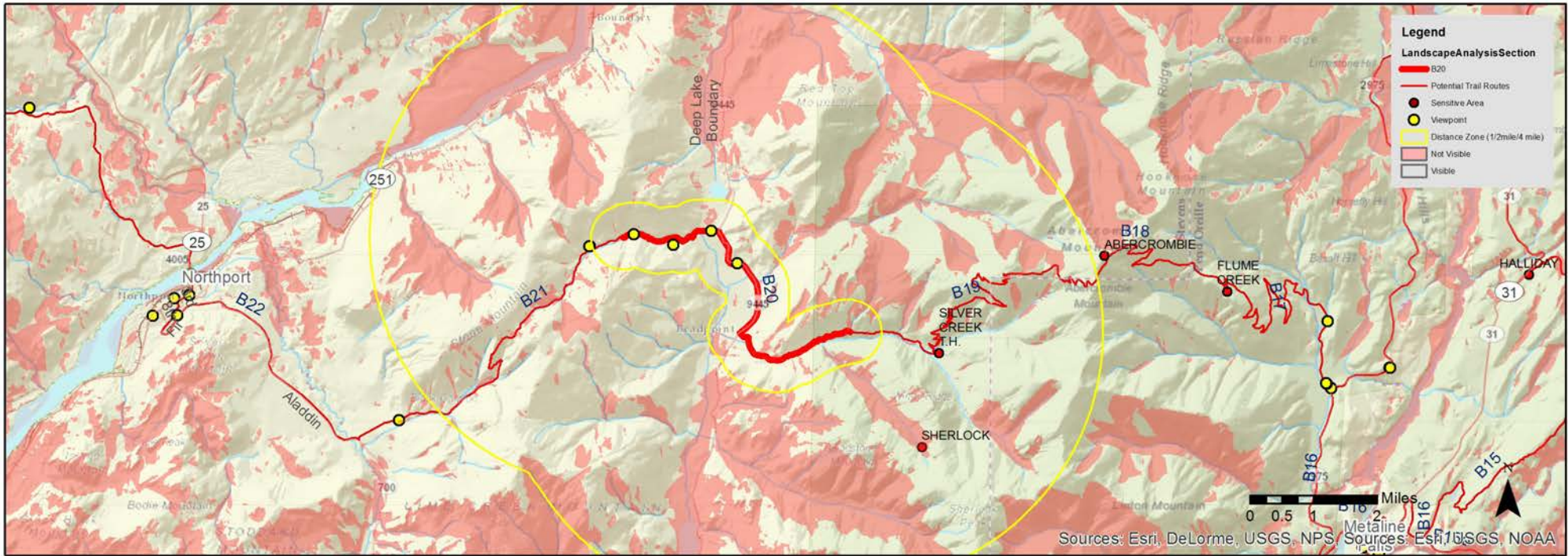
SCENIC CHARACTER

This unit is small and characterized by agricultural land use with pastoral qualities. Landform is valley between forested slopes. Soils are well drained. Pasture is the predominant agricultural use. Recreation and residential development are other land uses. Logging is evident on valley edges as valley bottoms are largely treeless.

Aerial Overview



UNIT MAP



VISUAL QUALITY/SCENIC ATTRACTIVENESS

	Rating	Explanation or Rationale
Landform	2	Flat wide valley bottom with mountain slopes.
Vegetation	2	Agricultural lands and wetlands.
Water	1	Streams and wetlands.
Color	3	Yellow fields with green covered mountain slopes.
Adjacent Scenery	4	Valley views of surrounding hills and mountains as well as agricultural lands.
Scarcity	2	Open valley and dramatic sense of place.
Cultural Modification	2	Pastoral farm land.
Total	17	RATING = B

Visual Inventory Form

Zone: 4 - Columbian Rockies  
Unit # B20 Deep Creek

Date: 08/5/2015  
Jurisdiction (s): US Forest Service, Private/County

LOCATION MAP



VISIBILITY

Viewsheds/ Screening/ Distance Zone	Open views in all directions.
Sensitivity/ Concern Level	High concern levels along this section of trail.

SCENIC INTEGRITY

Level of Naturalness	Moderate because landscape appears modified.
Wholeness	Moderate to high intactness and continuity.



PACIFIC NORTHWEST NATIONAL SCENIC TRAIL





Viewpoint - Panorama #01



Viewpoint #02



Viewpoint #03





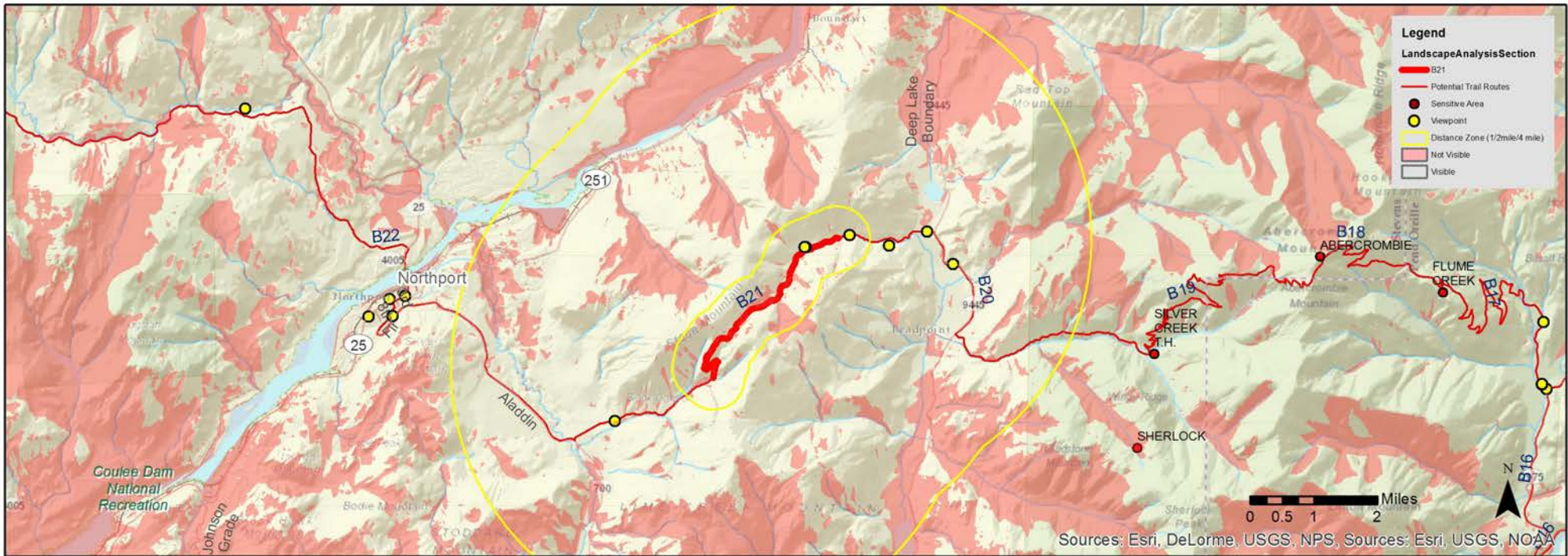
SCENIC CHARACTER

O' Hare Creek is a small unit with unique vegetation. The topography traps moist marine air rendering it wetter than surrounding valleys and foothills, which is reflected in the plant communities. Western red cedar is conspicuous component of mixed coniferous forest. Rich, narrow riparian area buffers stream courses. Logging and woodland grazing are predominant land uses.

Aerial Overview



UNIT MAP



VISUAL QUALITY/SCENIC ATTRACTIVENESS

	Rating	Explanation or Rationale
Landform	2	Rolling hills and valley.
Vegetation	4	Western red cedar, ferns, and thick undergrowth.
Water	1	Streams are evident.
Color	2	Mixed vegetation and color.
Adjacent Scenery	0	Adjacent scenery doesn't contribute any added visual value to this unit.
Scarcity	5	Unique vegetation.
Cultural Modification	0	No man made activities detract or add visual interest to this unit.
Total	14	RATING = B

Visual Inventory Form

Zone: 4 - Columbian Rockies  
Unit # B21 O Hare Creek

Date: 08/05/2015  
Jurisdiction (s): WA DNR, Private

LOCATION MAP



VISIBILITY

Viewsheds/ Screening/ Distance Zone	Views are primarily restricted to the foreground due to thick vegetation.
Sensitivity/ Concern Level	Moderate to high sensitivity.

SCENIC INTEGRITY

Level of Naturalness	Landscape is natural appearing.
Wholeness	Strong sense of intactness and continuity.



PACIFIC NORTHWEST NATIONAL SCENIC TRAIL





Viewpoint - Panorama #01



Viewpoint #02



Viewpoint #03





SCENIC CHARACTER

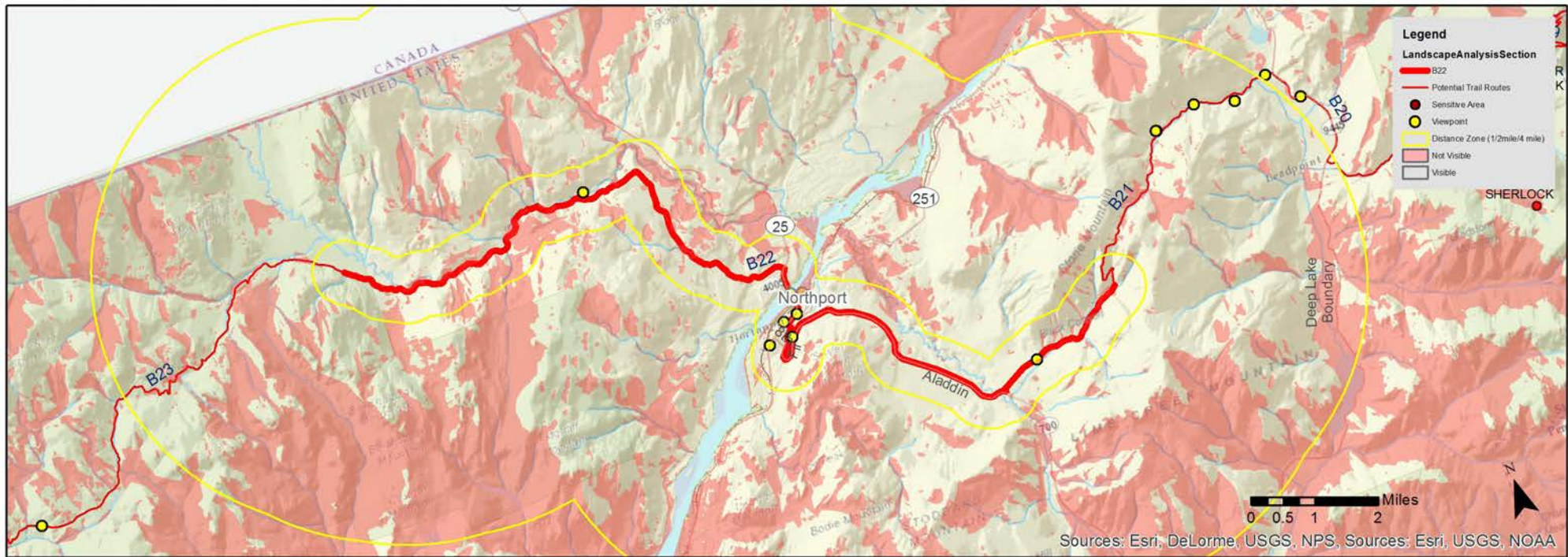
The Columbia River unit is a constrained valley amongst rolling foothills. This major river is flowing south from Canada. Exposed basalt outcrops along the river’s canyon tell a geologic story. River cobble is polished smooth. Gravel and sand are deposited in point bars colonized by willows and other pioneering plants. Side channels stem off of the main stem. Dry mixed coniferous forest of ponderosa pine, larch, and, Doug fir cover the low hills. Basalt bedrock protrudes from shallow soils. Shrubs and grass occupy pockets of soil between.

The cultural and social hub of Northport offers sustenance to weary travelers. The community is perched on the river’s east bank. Limited floodplains restrict the amount of agriculture. Logging is evident in the surrounding foothills with active cutting units and strong geometries imposed on forest. Mining is a less obvious land use. Suction dredging is popular in the river.

Aerial Overview



UNIT MAP



VISUAL QUALITY/SCENIC ATTRACTIVENESS

	Rating	Explanation or Rationale
Landform	3	Valley defined by the river bottom.
Vegetation	3	Mixed conifer vegetation with agriculture lands.
Water	5	The Columbia River is a notable water feature in this unit.
Color	3	Green/brown colored foothills intermixed with conifers. Bluish, brown river.
Adjacent Scenery	3	Distant mountains viewed down the Columbia River.
Scarcity	4	Bridge, nationally significant river.
Cultural Modification	1	Bridge and strong sense of place associated with Northport. Mining heritage.
Total	23	RATING = A-

Visual Inventory Form

Zone: 4 - Columbian Rockies  
Unit # B22 Columbia River Valley

Date: 08/05/2015  
Jurisdiction (s): US Forest Service, Private/County

LOCATION MAP



VISIBILITY

Viewsheds/ Screening/ Distance Zone	Open views in foreground and middleground.
Sensitivity/ Concern Level	High concern levels along this section of trail because of the high use and community access.

SCENIC INTEGRITY

Level of Naturalness	Moderate sense of naturalness. Developed areas.
Wholeness	Moderate levels of intactness and continuity.



PACIFIC NORTHWEST NATIONAL SCENIC TRAIL





Viewpoint #01



Viewpoint #03



Viewpoint #02



Viewpoint #04





SCENIC CHARACTER

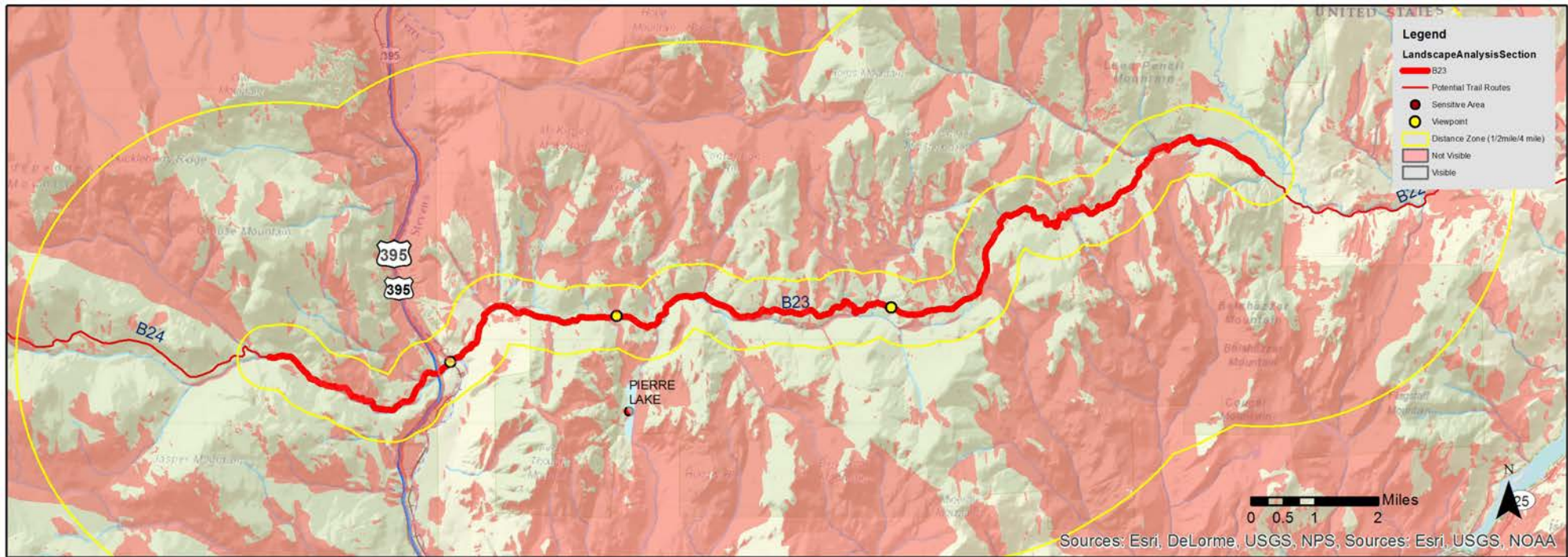
The heart of this unit is the Kettle River Valley as it winds through dry foothills. Glaciation has left well drained, gravelly and stony soils. Combined with low precipitation, soils grow xeric plant communities such as ponderosa pine and larch with understories of ninebark, oceanspray, snowberry, and, grass. Historically, fire had a high return interval. Its exclusion has allowed shade tolerant species, such as Douglas fir, to fill in between fire tolerant species. This novel plant composition favors higher magnitude fires.

Areas exhibiting high scenic integrity, have generously spaced stands of trees with park-like understories of shrubs and herbaceous plants. Major land uses are logging, mining, woodland grazing, and, recreation.

Aerial Overview



UNIT MAP



VISUAL QUALITY/SCENIC ATTRACTIVENESS

	Rating	Explanation or Rationale
Landform	4	Steep canyons with rock outcrops.
Vegetation	3	Mixed conifers with some riparian vegetation.
Water	4	The Kettle River is a notable water feature. Also some streams and ponds.
Color	4	Vegetation from yellows to greens to browns creating variety. Colorful rock outcrops.
Adjacent Scenery	3	Distant mountain tops.
Scarcity	3	River views from the bridge.
Cultural Modification	0	No man made activities detract or add visual interest to this unit.
Total	21	RATING = A-

Visual Inventory Form

Zone: 4 - Columbian Rockies  
Unit # B23 Kettle River

Date: 08/05/2015  
Jurisdiction (s): US Forest Service, Private/County

LOCATION MAP



VISIBILITY

Viewsheds/ Screening/ Distance Zone	Views are primarily in the foreground but some middleground views open up.
Sensitivity/ Concern Level	Moderate to high concern levels.

SCENIC INTEGRITY

Level of Naturalness	Moderate levels of intactness due to vegetation harvests and farm lands.
Wholeness	High level of intactness and continuity.

PACIFIC NORTHWEST NATIONAL SCENIC TRAIL





Viewpoint - Panorama #01



Viewpoint #02



Viewpoint #03





for the greatest good



SCENIC CHARACTER

The Deer Creek unit is located in mid elevations between valley floors and the high country. The climate is dry and water is scarce. Forests are pleasant with low species diversity and fire dependent. Doug fir and subalpine fir are major components. Large swaths of forests are in younger seral stages from either fire or timber harvest. Grassy parks and woodland savanna break up dense forest. Views are limited to middleground and of forested steep slopes. Landmarks are Sentinel Butte, Ryan Hill, and, Profanity Peak.

Logging, woodland grazing, and, recreation are major land uses. Vegetation patterns imposed by timber production create a stark contrast between federal and state/ private ownerships. Wildlife, such as black bear, is abundant.

Aerial Overview



UNIT MAP



VISUAL QUALITY/SCENIC ATTRACTIVENESS

	Rating	Explanation or Rationale
Landform	3	Dramatic rock backdrops and sloping hillsides.
Vegetation	3	Douglass fir, larch, and lodgepole. Park like open stands.
Water	0	No notable waterbodies present in this unit.
Color	3	Greens and yellows.
Adjacent Scenery	3	Steep mountain slopes.
Scarcity	1	Small differences make this unit locally interesting, but on a regional scale, similar landscape characteristics to other areas make this unit insignificant.
Cultural Modification	0	Deep Creek Trailhead.
Total	13	RATING = B-

Visual Inventory Form

Zone: 4 - Columbian Rockies  
Unit # B24 Deer Creek (Ryan Hill)

Date: 08/15/2015  
Jurisdiction (s): US Forest Service

LOCATION MAP



VISIBILITY

Viewsheds/ Screening/ Distance Zone	Views are primarily limited to the foreground. Middleground views are seen through breaks in the trees.
Sensitivity/ Concern Level	High concern for this highly used trail.

SCENIC INTEGRITY

Level of Naturalness	Moderate levels of naturalness. Timber harvesting.
Wholeness	Strong sense of intactness and continuity.

PACIFIC NORTHWEST NATIONAL SCENIC TRAIL

  
for the greatest good



Viewpoint #01



Viewpoint #02



Viewpoint #03



Viewpoint #04





SCENIC CHARACTER

The Kettle Crest- North unit is a series of gentle –domed, rolling, forested mountains: Lambert MT, Midnight MT, Copper Butte, Scar MT, Wapaloosie MT, Jungle Hill, and, Columbia Mtn. Fire is a frequent visitor to the dry, ridge top. Willow colonize burn areas and comeingle with young lodgepole pine. Forest is punctuated by areas of rock, thin soils, and, grassy meadows. Rock is both granite and sedimentary. Meadows are dry, and, characterized by short grass. Five needled pine is found at ridge summits with subalpine fir and Engelmann Spruce. Sagebrush openings occur in woodland. Water is scarce and springs are developed for grazing allotments, rendering them trampled and unattractive. The variety of vegetation types and elevation, make views frequent and expansive. Lower elevation thick, dark forest has high color contrasts with areas of cured yellow grass.

Recreation and grazing are primary land uses. Logging and mining are evident at lower elevations. A variety of habitat provides for rich wildlife with high bird diversity.

Aerial Overview



UNIT MAP



VISUAL QUALITY/SCENIC ATTRACTIVENESS

	Rating	Explanation or Rationale
Landform	4	Gently domed mountain; rocky outcrops.
Vegetation	4	Burned area; short prairie; lodgepole pine; five-needled pine.
Water	0	Springs impacted by grazing allotments.
Color	3	Contrasting dark evergreen forest and cured grass of lower valleys.
Adjacent Scenery	5	Open views.
Scarcity	1	Locally unique.
Cultural Modification	-2	Grazing impacts lower.
Total	15	RATING =B

Visual Inventory Form

Zone: 4 - Columbian Rockies  
Unit # B25 Kettle Crest North

Date: 08/15/2015  
Jurisdiction (s): US Forest Service

LOCATION MAP



VISIBILITY

Viewsheds/ Screening/ Distance Zone	Open views to all distance zones.
Sensitivity/ Concern Level	High concern levels along this section of trail because of the high recreation use.

SCENIC INTEGRITY

Level of Naturalness	High
Wholeness	High



PACIFIC NORTHWEST NATIONAL SCENIC TRAIL





Viewpoint - Panorama #01



Viewpoint #02



Viewpoint #03





for the greatest good



SCENIC CHARACTER

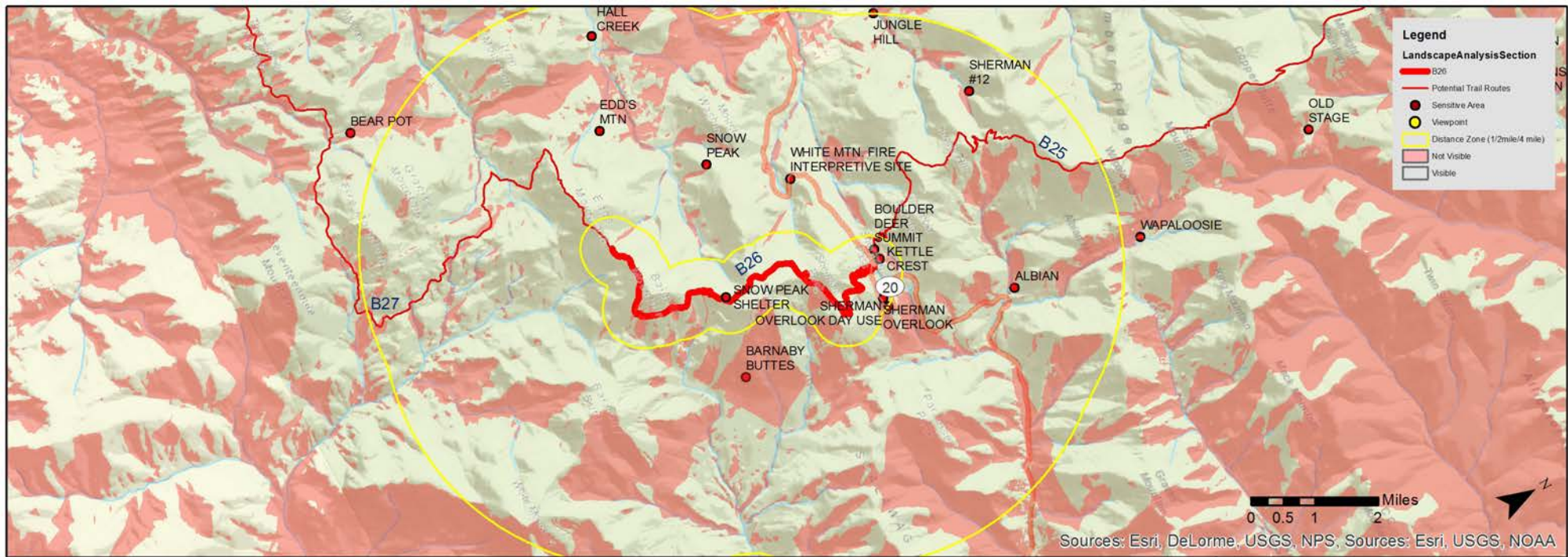
The Kettle Crest- South unit is separated from the northern crest by Sherman Pass. Its character is different from the north by the presence of more exposed, granite rock and jagged, higher relief landform. Trail weaves between Sherman MT and Snow Peak and skirts the flanks of Bald MT. Granite talus with white, reflective hues is well distributed. Fire actively shapes forest composition with large stands of lodgepole in early seral stages. Larch is present. Moist areas have sedges and grasses, but the landscape is patently dry with little available surface water. Well drained granitic soils produce dust Rock, woodland, meadow, and, forest create a romantic ambiance.

The Snow Peak Cabin's rustic architecture complements the setting. Recreation is the primary land use with logging visible at lower elevations. Views are frequent. Foreground and middleground views encompass interesting rock-land associations. Background views contain expanses of low mountains clad in dense forest. The soundscape becomes quieter and more pleasing the further it is from Highway 20.

Aerial Overview



UNIT MAP



VISUAL QUALITY/SCENIC ATTRACTIVENESS

	Rating	Explanation or Rationale
Landform	5	Granite talus slopes; jagged mountains.
Vegetation	5	Larch; low meadow; lodgepole pine
Water	0	Springs.
Color	3	Dry yellows and browns; evergreen trees; larch.
Adjacent Scenery	3	Open views of diverse country.
Scarcity	3	Regionally unique.
Cultural Modification	3	Rustic Snow Peak cabin.
Total	22	RATING = A

Visual Inventory Form

Zone: 4 - Columbian Rockies  
Unit # B26 Kettle Crest South

Date: 08/16/2015  
Jurisdiction (s): US Forest Service

LOCATION MAP



VISIBILITY

Viewsheds/ Screening/ Distance Zone	Open views in all distance zones.
Sensitivity/ Concern Level	High concern levels along this section of trail because of the high use.

SCENIC INTEGRITY

Level of Naturalness	High
Wholeness	High

PACIFIC NORTHWEST NATIONAL SCENIC TRAIL





Viewpoint - Panorama #01



Viewpoint #02



Viewpoint #03





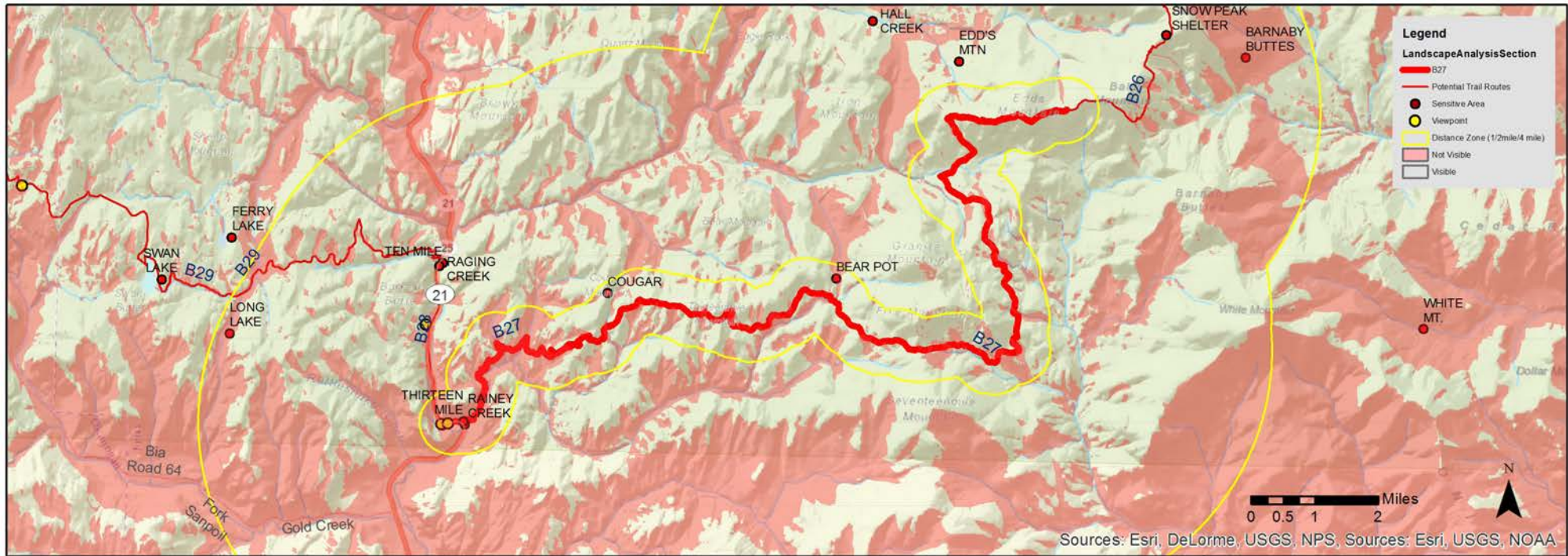
SCENIC CHARACTER

The Thirteenmile MT unit is an area of middle elevations between the Kettle Crest and the San Poil River Canyon. Deep, quiet forests are rich with diverse vegetation. Ponderosa pine and larch boles provide fragrance and structure. Broadleaf ninebark and mountain ash add color. Aspen groves break mixed coniferous forest. Meadows and rock outcrops are sunny openings in pleasing forest. The country is dry and the soils are dusty. Recreation and logging are the primary land uses. Views are screened by vegetation and limited.

Aerial Overview



UNIT MAP



VISUAL QUALITY/SCENIC ATTRACTIVENESS

	Rating	Explanation or Rationale
Landform	3	Rolling ridge.
Vegetation	5	Diverse pleasant forest.
Water	2	Scarce.
Color	5	Seasonal variation of larch and shrubs.
Adjacent Scenery	2	Limited views.
Scarcity	2	Solitude.
Cultural Modification	0	Not many.
Total	19	RATING = B +

Visual Inventory Form

Zone: 4 - Columbian Rockies  
Unit # B27 Thirteenmile MTN

Date: 08/16/2015  
Jurisdiction (s): US Forest Service

LOCATION MAP



VISIBILITY

Viewsheds/ Screening/ Distance Zone	Limited
Sensitivity/ Concern Level	Moderate to high concern levels because of low visitation.

SCENIC INTEGRITY

Level of Naturalness	High
Wholeness	High



PACIFIC NORTHWEST NATIONAL SCENIC TRAIL





Viewpoint #01



Viewpoint #03



Viewpoint #02



Viewpoint #04





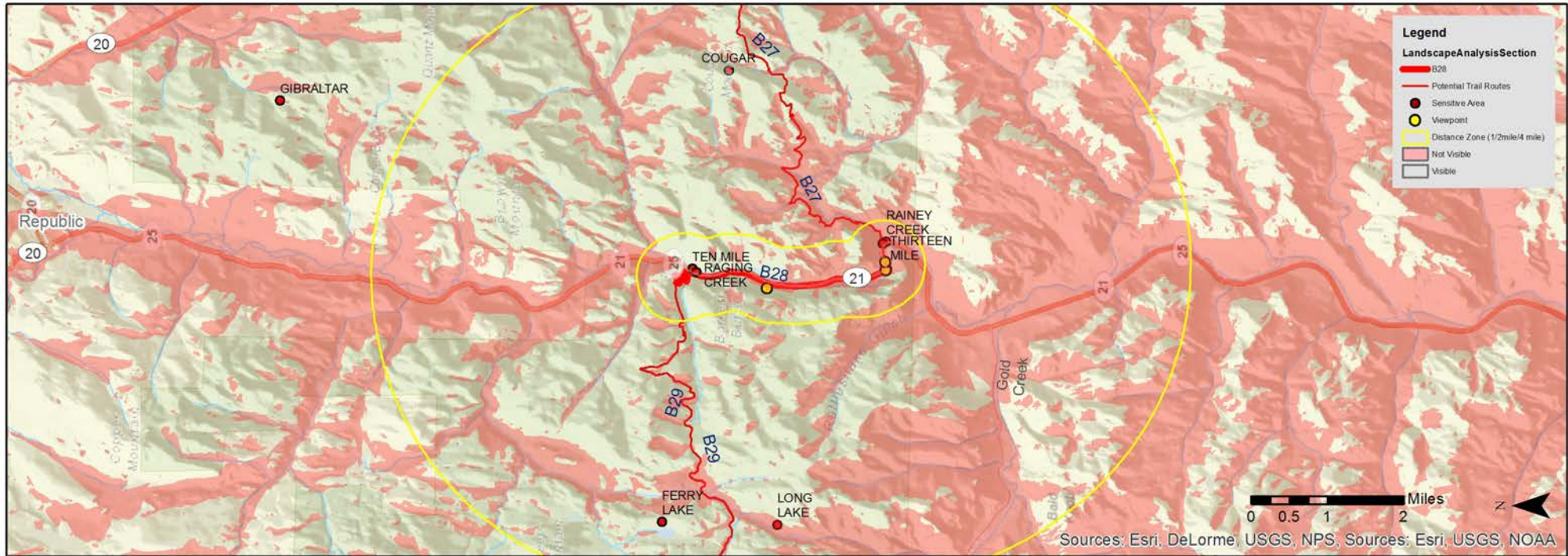
SCENIC CHARACTER

The San Poil River unit is a short but sweet unit. It is characterized by the San Poil river Canyon. The river is low gradient, sluggish, and, low volume. Sand and gravel bars are frequent. Robust, riparian habitat harbors willow and wildlife. Basalt bluffs tower above the canyon floor with gardens of trees, shrubs, and, herbaceous plants. Large ponderosa pine groves occupy uplands of valley floors. Views are limited by topography to the middleground. Recreation is the primary land use. The Colville Indian Reservation borders to the south.

Aerial Overview



UNIT MAP



VISUAL QUALITY/SCENIC ATTRACTIVENESS

	Rating	Explanation or Rationale
Landform	5	Spectacular rock outcrops.
Vegetation	3	Diverse riparian vegetation. Conifer slopes.
Water	4	Streams.
Color	3	Colorful riparian vegetation. Colorful rock outcrops.
Adjacent Scenery	3	Beautiful views in high elevations.
Scarcity	2	Canyon views are dramatic.
Cultural Modification	0	No man made features detract or add visual significance in this unit.
Total	22	RATING = A

Visual Inventory Form

Zone: 4 - Columbian Rockies  
Unit # B28 Sanpoil River

Date: 08/07/2015  
Jurisdiction (s): US Forest Service

LOCATION MAP



VISIBILITY

Viewsheds/ Screening/ Distance Zone	Open views to the background in ridgeline areas. Closed views particularly in valley bottom.
Sensitivity/ Concern Level	Moderate to high concern.

SCENIC INTEGRITY

Level of Naturalness	Landscape is natural appearing.
Wholeness	High level of intactness and continuity.



PACIFIC NORTHWEST NATIONAL SCENIC TRAIL





Viewpoint - Panorama #01



Viewpoint #02



Viewpoint #03





for the greatest good



SCENIC CHARACTER

The Okanogan High Forest unit is a large unit between the San Poil River Canyon and the Okanogan Escarpment. It is characterized by dry forest with low species diversity. Larch and ponderosa pine are major components and add a high desert feeling. Trees attain large size and create impressive groves. Soils are well drained and dusty. Surface water is infrequent but lakes, such Bonaparte and Swan Lakes, occur. Mount Bonaparte has a Forest Service Look-out and big views. The Sweat Creek area is rocky and dry.

Mixed ownership and land use are characterizing elements. Grazing is abundant and has impacted limited surface water. Logging is common and neces-itated road construction. Recreation is also important.

Aerial Overview



UNIT MAP



VISUAL QUALITY/SCENIC ATTRACTIVENESS

	Rating	Explanation or Rationale
Landform	1	Low land hills, open fields and mild mountains.
Vegetation	5	Beautiful ponderosa pine and larch stands.
Water	0	No mentionable waterbodies in this unit.
Color	1	Fairly bland colors such as yellows and browns in the landscape.
Adjacent Scenery	1	Surrounding scenery doesn't add much visual interest to this particular unit.
Scarcity	1	Locally, this landscape is somewhat different, but regionally, it looks like the rest of the surrounding scenery.
Cultural Modification	-4	Greatly modified by timber harvesting practices and extensive grazing activities.
Total	5	RATING = C

Visual Inventory Form

Zone: 4 - Columbian Rockies  
Unit # B29 Okanogan High Forest

Date: 08/06/2015  
Jurisdiction (s): US Forest Service, Private/County

LOCATION MAP



VISIBILITY

Viewsheds/ Screening/ Distance Zone	Foreground views include cows grazing, past timber harvests, and beautiful ponderosa pine and larch stands. No notable middleground and background views.
Sensitivity/ Concern Level	Moderate to high concern due to the modification that is occurring and the landscape being adjacent to the PNT.

SCENIC INTEGRITY

Level of Naturalness	Low level because of the extensive human modifications that have occurred in this unit.
Wholeness	Low level because a lot of the natural landscape has been disconnected and no longer functions as a greater whole.

PACIFIC NORTHWEST NATIONAL SCENIC TRAIL





Viewpoint - Panorama #01



Lower Right Corner Photo Credit:  
Elizabeth Peterson  
July 27, 2005

Okanogan - Wenatchee National Forest: Tonasket Ranger District

Viewpoint #02



Viewpoint #03





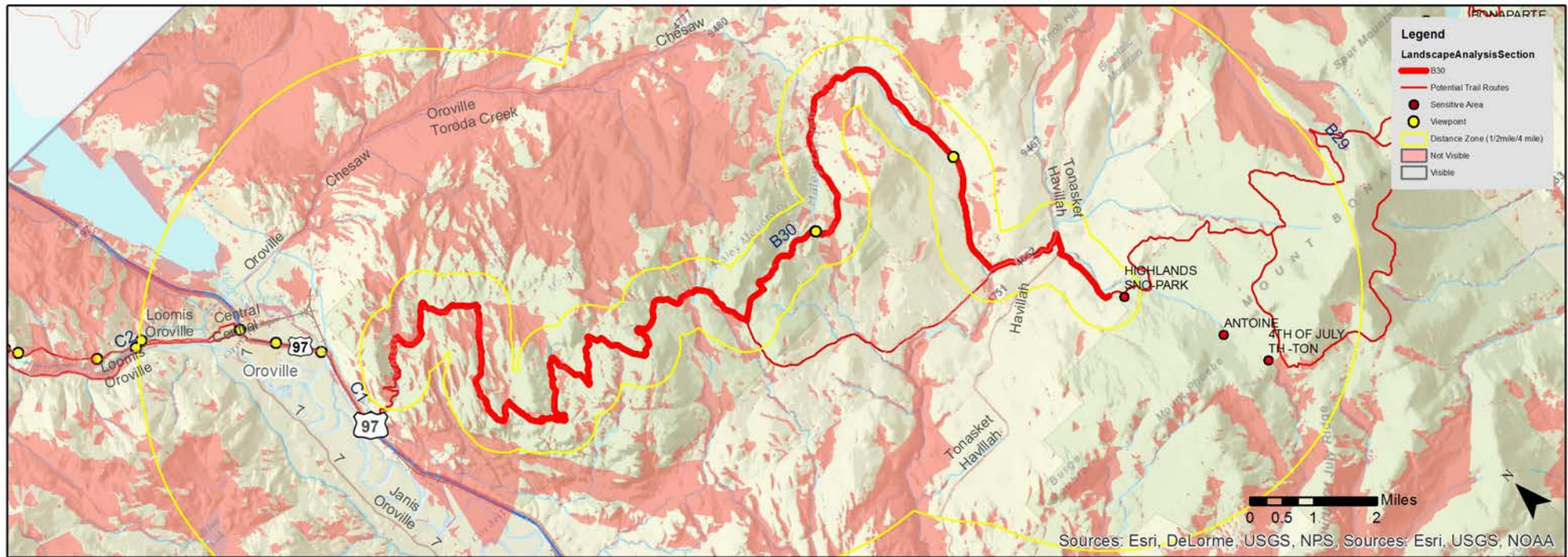
SCENIC CHARACTER

The Okanogan Escarpment is the dramatic drop in elevation from Okanogan High Forest to the Okanogan Valley. Upper elevations have towering forests of larch and ponderosa pine. The climate is dry. Soils are well drained and dusty. High desert permeates the setting. Basalt bluffs begin to break up forests as elevations drop. The top of bluffs afford distant views, with the North Cascade Mountains visible in the background. The Okanogan Valley lies in the middle-ground to the west. The irrigated, green patchwork of vineyards and orchards, contrasts with the surrounding parched vegetation. The basalt bluffs have craggy ravines with dense understories of alder and maple. The trail follows Whistler Canyon as it transitions from forest to arid sagebrush with mountain mahogany and sumac. Fragile creeks offer rich habitat and precious surface water. Recreation, logging, and, grazing are major land uses.

Aerial Overview



UNIT MAP



VISUAL QUALITY/SCENIC ATTRACTIVENESS

	Rating	Explanation or Rationale
Landform	5	Basalt bluffs; canyon.
Vegetation	5	Larch; ponderosa pine; riparian area; sagebrush and xeric shrubs at lower elevations.
Water	3	Fragile creeks and springs.
Color	3	Good variation.
Adjacent Scenery	3	Okanogan Valley and North Cascades.
Scarcity	5	Unique canyon.
Cultural Modification	-2	Modified by land uses.
Total	22	RATING = A

Visual Inventory Form

Zone: 4 - Columbian Rockies  
Unit # B30 Okanogan Escarpment

Date: 08/07/2015  
Jurisdiction (s): US Forest Service

LOCATION MAP



VISIBILITY

Viewsheds/ Screening/ Distance Zone	Foreground has pleasant plant communities. Middleground and background visible along basalt escarpment.
Sensitivity/ Concern Level	Moderate to high.

SCENIC INTEGRITY

Level of Naturalness	High to moderate.
Wholeness	High to moderate.

PACIFIC NORTHWEST NATIONAL SCENIC TRAIL





Viewpoint - Panorama #01



Viewpoint #02

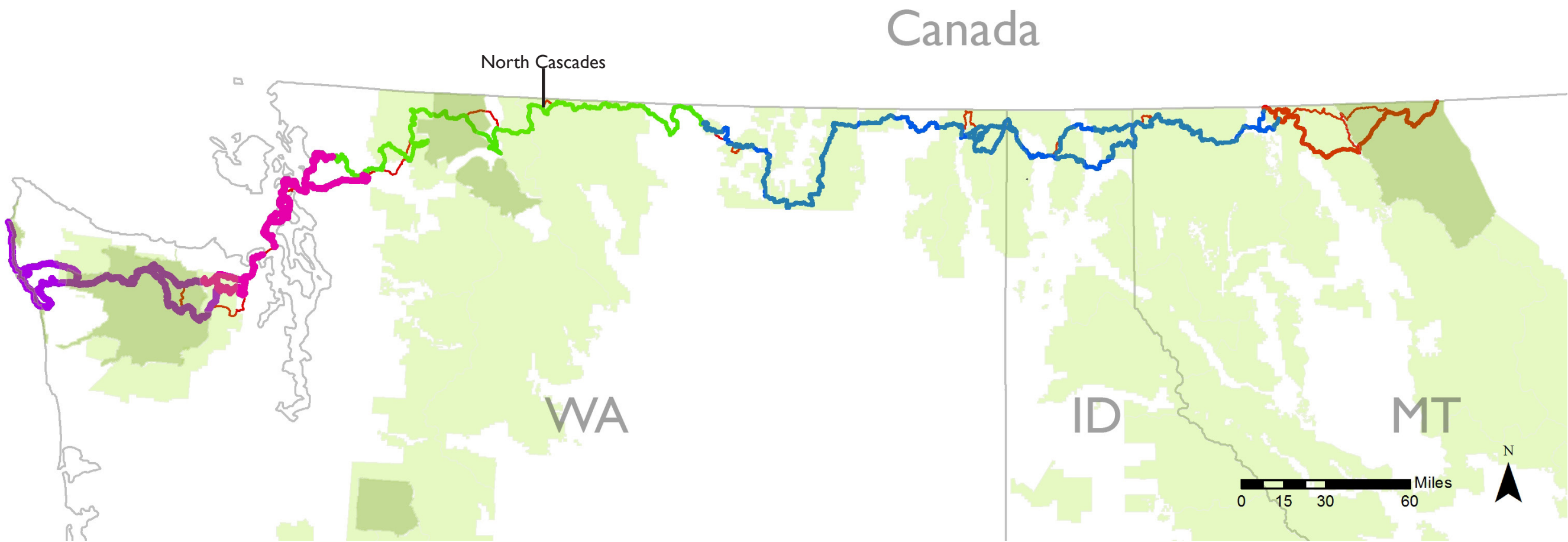


Viewpoint #03





# North Cascades Index:



C1 - Okanogan Valley Pg: 90 - 91	C5 - Chopaka Mtns. Pg: 98 - 99	C9 - Canyon Creek Pg: 106 - 107	C13 - Little Beaver Creek Pg: 114 - 115	C17 - Heather Meadows Pg: 122 - 123	C21 - South Fork Nooksack River Pg: 130 - 131
C2 - Similkameen River Pg: 92 - 93	C6 - Horseshoe Basin - Cathedral Lake Pg: 100 - 101	C10 - Devils Dome Pg: 108 - 109	C14 - Whatcom Pass Pg: 116 - 117	C18 - Swift Creek Pg: 124 - 125	C22 - Lyman Hill Pg: 132 - 133
C3 - Sinlahekin Valley Pg: 94 - 95	C7 - Boundary Trail Pg: 102 - 103	C11 - Ross Lake Pg: 110 - 111	C15 - Chilliwack River Valley - Pg: 118 - 119	C19 - Baker Lake Pg: 126 - 127	
C4 - Chopaka Creek Pg: 96 - 97	C8 - Pacific Crest Pg: 104 - 105	C12 - Big Beaver Creek Pg: 112 - 113	C16 - Ruth Creek Pg: 120 - 121	C20 - Mt. Baker Pg: 128 - 129	





SCENIC CHARACTER

The Okanogan Valley source of life is the Okanogan River. The valley lies in a broad canyon between the North Cascade Mountains and the Okanogan High Forest. It contains basalt bluffs, terraces, and, alluvial flats. The climate is arid with rainfall only sufficient for sagebrush and grasses. Well drained soils support irrigated agriculture and orchards in floodplains. Dryland farming and grazing occur in uplands. Oroville is the cultural hub and provides the fruits of civilization. The trail samples the city's fabric of residential plantings, neighborhoods, industry, infrastructure, and, commerce. Views are limited by the topography.

Aerial Overview



UNIT MAP



VISUAL QUALITY/SCENIC ATTRACTIVENESS

	Rating	Explanation or Rationale
Landform	3	River valley
Vegetation	2	Natural areas are xeric sagebrush grass; irrigated orchards and agriculture
Water	4	Large order, heavily modified Okanogan River.
Color	3	Parched vegetation juxtaposes with bright green of irrigated fields.
Adjacent Scenery	3	Basalt canyon; limited to middleground views.
Scarcity	4	Unique desert agriculture.
Cultural Modification	-2 / 2	Heavily modified with pros and cons.
Total	19	RATING = A-

Visual Inventory Form

Zone: 3 - North Cascades  
Unit # CI Okanogan Valley

Date: 08/16/15  
Jurisdiction (s): BLM, Private

LOCATION MAP



VISIBILITY

Viewsheds/ Screening/ Distance Zone	Views limited to foreground and middleground by topography.
Sensitivity/ Concern Level	High concern levels because of proximity to population centers and high visibility of terrain- little concealing land cover

SCENIC INTEGRITY

Level of Naturalness	Low
Wholeness	Moderate to low



PACIFIC NORTHWEST NATIONAL SCENIC TRAIL





Viewpoint #01



Viewpoint #03



Viewpoint #02



Viewpoint #04





SCENIC CHARACTER

The Similkameen River unit is a robust water way incised in an arid canyon. Flow has been modified by water developments that render it with a translucent green color. Basalt bluffs form steep canyon walls. Riparian vegetation occupies floodplains and terraces. Xeric vegetation grows in the crags of canyon walls and upland areas. Sagebrush, rock and sandy soil are the predominant land cover. An abandon rail line has been partially re-purposed as a recreational path. Flumes redistribute water. Salmon still swim the river. Their spent bodies decompose along gravel beaches. Suction dredging is popular.

Aerial Overview



UNIT MAP



VISUAL QUALITY/SCENIC ATTRACTIVENESS

	Rating	Explanation or Rationale
Landform	5	River canyon with exposed rocks. Eventually landscape moves into low hills with exposed rocks.
Vegetation	3	Dry, deserty vegetation, such as Ponderosa Pine and sage brush.
Water	4	Throughout this unit, the trail runs by the beautiful Similkameen River, a very prominent feature in a dry landscape.
Color	3	Mundane browns and yellows characteristic of a desert landscape. Color scheme is broken up by dramatic reds/yellows of the Ponderosa Pines or the varying blues in the waterbodies.
Adjacent Scenery	3	Some interest is added to the unit's character by the surrounding orchards, nearby hills, or native tree groupings found where growing conditions are favorable.
Scarcity	3	An average level of significance is given to this unit. Much of the landscape characteristics can be found elsewhere. Some local features, mentioned above, add some uniqueness.
Cultural Modification	4	Modifications to the landscape, such as an abandoned rail line used partially as a rec trail, agriculture fields, and structures used to move water, all contribute interesting variability.
Total	25	RATING = A

Visual Inventory Form

Zone: 3 - North Cascades  
Unit # C2 Similkameen River

Date: 08/12/15  
Jurisdiction (s): BLM, Private

LOCATION MAP



VISIBILITY

Viewsheds/ Screening/ Distance Zone	Foreground consists of river canyon and desert/dry country views. Middleground and background views are limited due to topography.
Sensitivity/ Concern Level	High concern level because dry landscapes include specialized species that have a narrow tolerance for change. Also, many of the current uses blend well with the landscape.

SCENIC INTEGRITY

Level of Naturalness	A medium rating due to an average amount of the natural landscape is more or less intact. Some change has occurred, but it minimally detracts.
Wholeness	A medium rating due to an average amount of the natural landscape continues to function as a whole. Some man made uses have changed the character.

PACIFIC NORTHWEST NATIONAL SCENIC TRAIL

  
for the greatest good



Viewpoint - Panorama #01



Viewpoint #02



Viewpoint #03





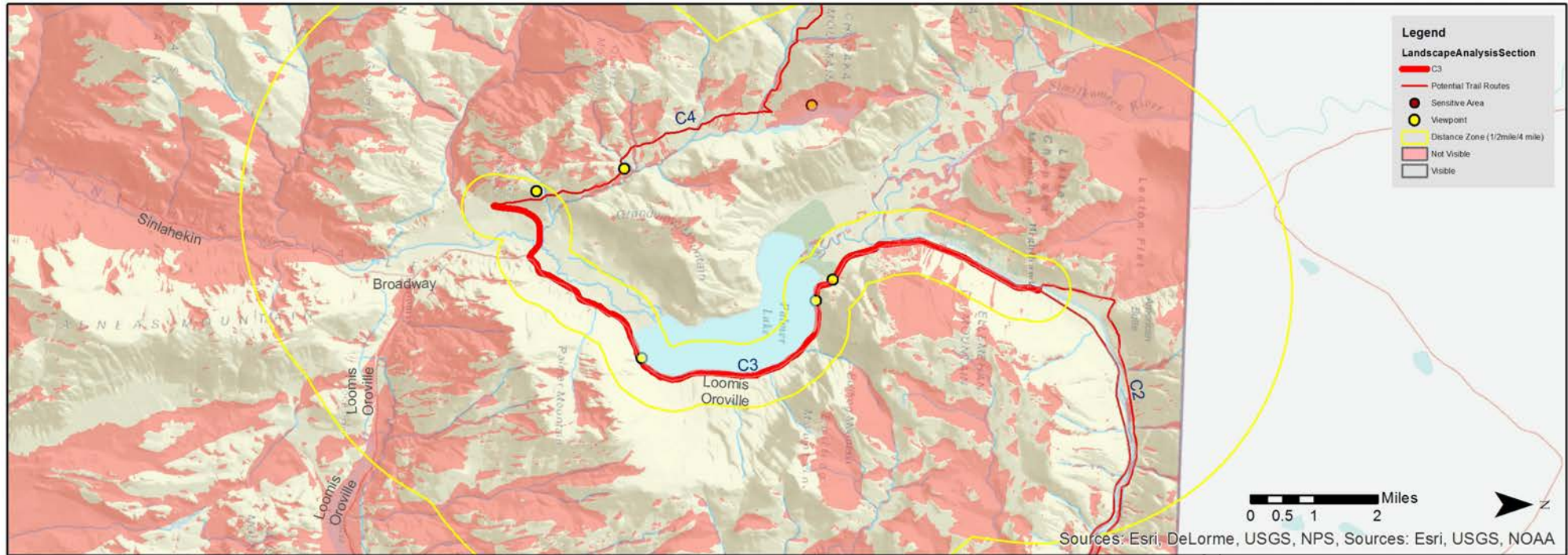
SCENIC CHARACTER

The Sinlahekin Valley unit is characterized by a U-shaped valley and a large body of water, Palmer Lake. Arid, basalt foothills surround the valley and strongly contrast with green, irrigated agriculture fields and steely blue lake water. Foothills are rounded and slope angles gentle. The valley bottom is flat and largely tree-less. Sagebrush, elderberry, Idaho fescue grow on rocky slopes. The climate is dry with little precipitation. Palmer Lake provides water for recreation and utility. Rangeland invasive species are prevalent.

Aerial Overview



UNIT MAP



VISUAL QUALITY/SCENIC ATTRACTIVENESS

	Rating	Explanation or Rationale
Landform	3	Dry country with wet spots, such as lakes and river valleys. Moves into hilly terrain.
Vegetation	3	Mostly Ponderosa Pine and Douglas Fir stands with some larch present. Open sagebrush fields that include invasive species.
Water	3	Consists of Palmer Lake and some part of the Similkameen River as well as other rivers. Still, water is not the primary focus of this unit.
Color	1	Bland yellow, greens, and browns characteristic of a desert environment.
Adjacent Scenery	3	With an arid scenery surrounding the unit's own mixture of arid and watery textures, overall this creates a moderately dramatic landscape.
Scarcity	1	In general, many elements found in this unit are not uncharacteristic for the region.
Cultural Modification	0	There are no man made elements featured in this unit that would either add or detract scenic value.
Total	14	RATING = B

Visual Inventory Form

Zone: 3 - North Cascades  
Unit # C3 Sinlahekin Valley

Date: 08/12/15  
Jurisdiction (s): WA DNR, Private

LOCATION MAP



VISIBILITY

Viewsheds/ Screening/ Distance Zone	Foreground views includes grassland evolving into woodland, which works into a forest. Middleground views are of the valley. Background views are of the local mountain ranges.
Sensitivity/ Concern Level	High concern level that involves a sensitive, arid landscape and unobstructed, outward views of the surrounding valley/mountains.

SCENIC INTEGRITY

Level of Naturalness	This unit is rated at a medium level because much of the natural landscape is intact with minimal interference from opposing human use elements.
Wholeness	A medium rating is given to this unit because much of the character is retained across the landscape with some change implemented for human use.



PACIFIC NORTHWEST NATIONAL SCENIC TRAIL





Viewpoint - Panorama #01



Viewpoint #02



Viewpoint #03





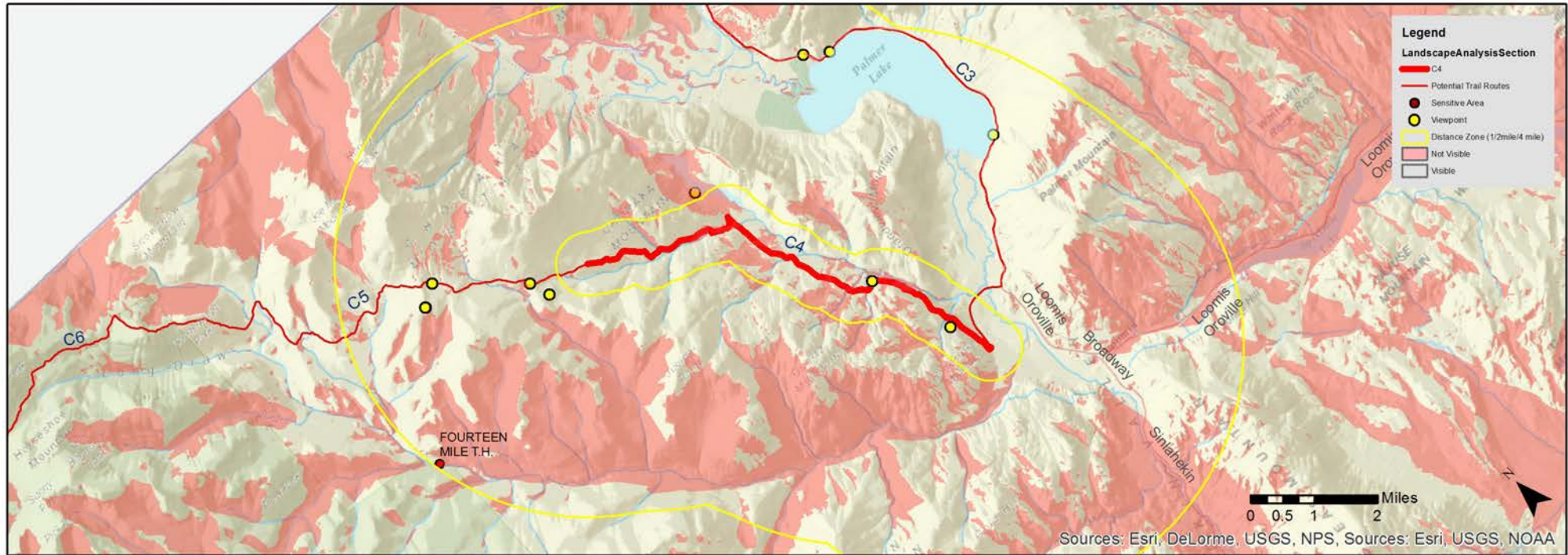
SCENIC CHARACTER

The Chopaka creek unit is higher in elevation than the Sinlahekin Valley and precipitation more abundant, mostly in the form of snow. Sagebrush grassland transitions into ponderosa pine savanna. Doug fir becomes more prevalent with increases in elevation. Microclimate and slope aspect dictate plant communities, with south facing slopes mostly tree-less. Aspen groves grow in wetter soils such as adjacent to Chopaka creek, the outlet to Chopaka Lake. Recreation, grazing, and, logging are major land uses. The latter two are more conspicuous on the landscape. Rangeland invasive species are prevalent.

Aerial Overview



UNIT MAP



VISUAL QUALITY/SCENIC ATTRACTIVENESS

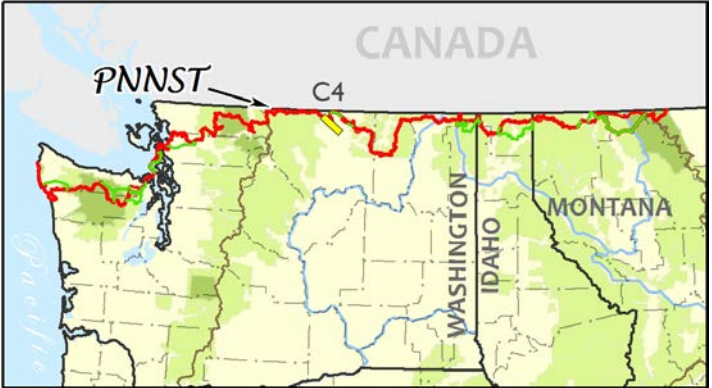
	Rating	Explanation or Rationale
Landform	3	Moderately sloped hillsides.
Vegetation	4	Mixed vegetation that includes ponderosa pine, douglas fir, and pockets of aspen groves. Mainly on north facing slopes. South facing slopes are practically bare.
Water	3	Not a common feature in this unit, but there are enough waterbodies to be mentioned, such as Chopaka Creek and Lake.
Color	2	A fairly bland unit with brown, yellow, and some green colors populating the landscape. Minimal differences exist in the water or bark of certain trees.
Adjacent Scenery	2	Minimal differences in the surrounding landscape provide the unit with little visual support.
Scarcity	2	Some slightly different elements found in this unit give it a slightly higher rating than the norm to the region. Much of the landscape is arid desert, like most of the area.
Cultural Modification	2	Man made structures or human use are evident in this unit, but they integrate fairly well into the landscape, adding character to the unit's established landscape.
Total	18	RATING = B+

Visual Inventory Form

Zone: 3 - North Cascades  
Unit # C4 Chopaka Creek

Date: 08/12/15  
Jurisdiction (s): WA DNR, Private

LOCATION MAP



VISIBILITY

Viewsheds/ Screening/ Distance Zone	Foreground views include an arid landscape that moves into a forest type of ecosystem. Middleground views are of the valley, while the background views are of the surrounding mountains.
Sensitivity/ Concern Level	High concern for this unit because many parts of the landscape are viewed easily, leaving no room to hide any change to the vegetation or terrain.

SCENIC INTEGRITY

Level of Naturalness	Low level because human use mostly dominates the landscape, creating a patchy network of natural areas.
Wholeness	A rating between low and medium levels because human use and the conversion of land is evident, but the landscape is more or less natural. It hasn't been developed.



PACIFIC NORTHWEST NATIONAL SCENIC TRAIL





Viewpoint #01



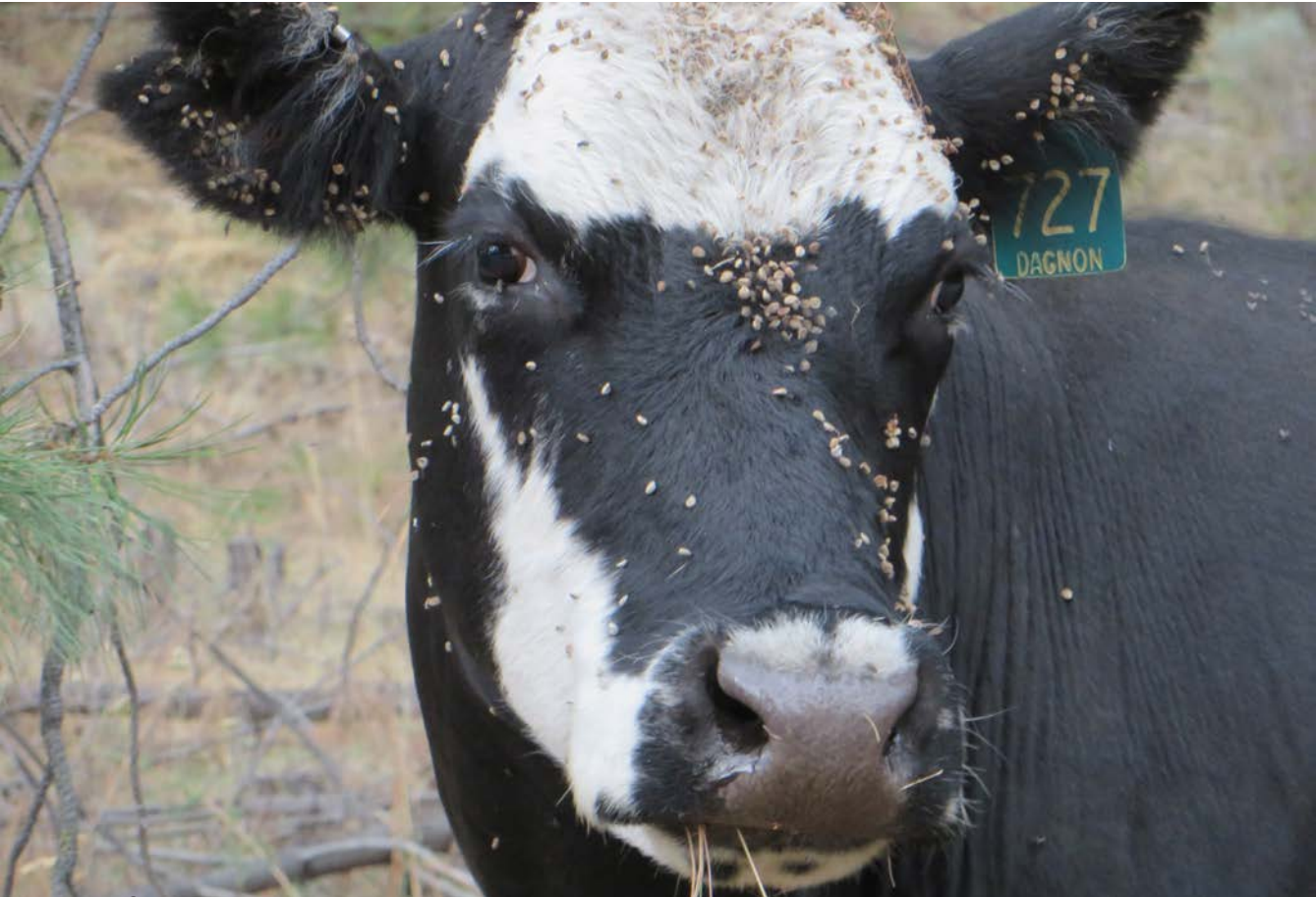
Viewpoint #03



Viewpoint #02



Viewpoint #04

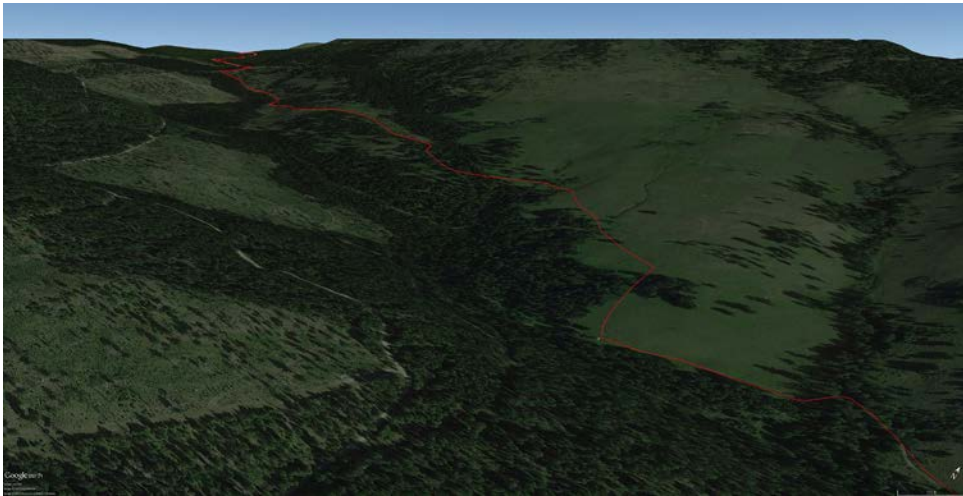




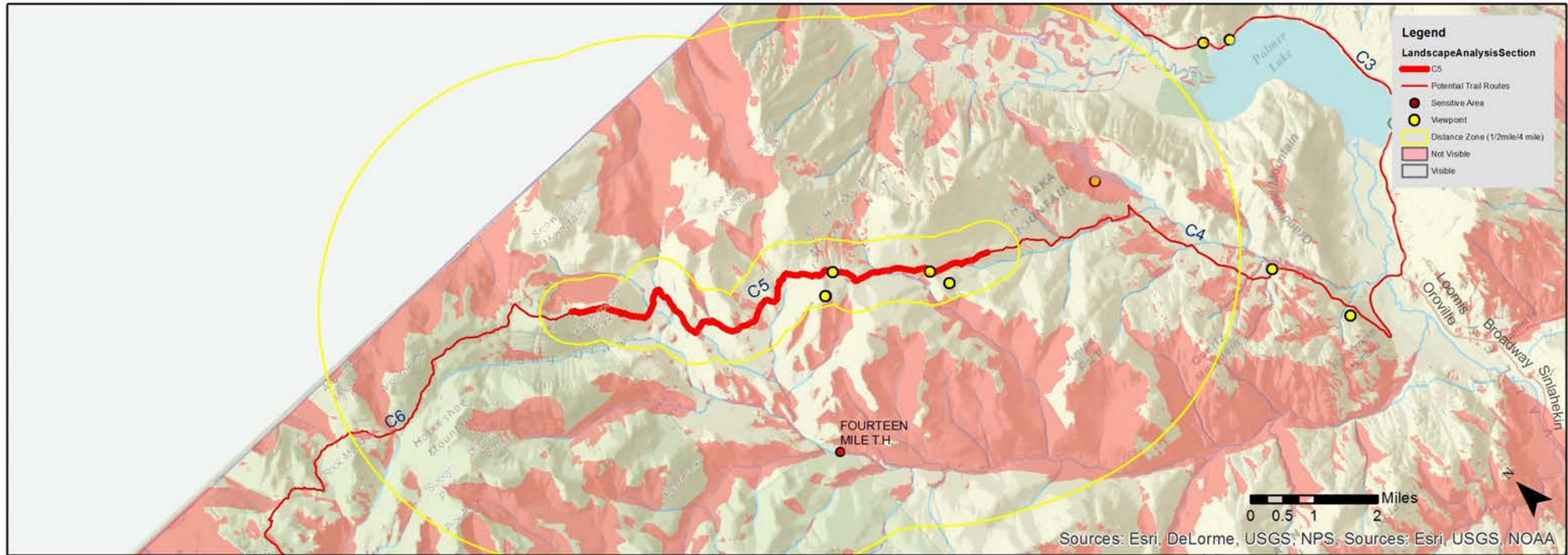
SCENIC CHARACTER

The Chopaka Mountains are moderately high in elevations and therefore wetter than lower country. Landform is composed of low, rolling mountains with broad valleys- foothills to the North Cascade Mountains to the west. Slopes are rounded and gentle. Forest is dense with ponderosa pine and Doug fir at lower elevations. Subalpine fir and Engelmann spruce dominate wetter, higher elevation forests. Many wetlands dot poorly drained soils. Numerous streams with riparian corridors, such as Ollalie, Cold, Disappointment, Swamp, and, Snowshoe Creeks, dissect the landscape. Logging and woodland grazing are major land uses. Solitude is plentiful as visitation is infrequent.

Aerial Overview



UNIT MAP



VISUAL QUALITY/SCENIC ATTRACTIVENESS

	Rating	Explanation or Rationale
Landform	3	Valleys to low rolling mountains
Vegetation	3	Dense, diverse vegetation that includes, lodgepole pine, engelmann spruce, and sub - alpine fir, which grows at higher elevations.
Water	3	Water is present in certain areas of the unit, but it is not a defining feature. In fact, it is classified as limited for the local area.
Color	3	Various green hues with deep reds, yellows, and black shades found in the bark of elderly Ponderosa Pine make for an appealing color scheme.
Adjacent Scenery	3	The surrounding landscape continues to provide some interest in the form of picturesque hills covered by forest vegetation at different life stages.
Scarcity	1	At the local level, this unit has some differing characteristics, but at the regional level, much of the forest scenery and vegetation featured can be found elsewhere.
Cultural Modification	0	The man made elements that are present neither detract or add visual interest to this unit. They are not the main focus in this landscape.
Total	16	RATING = B

Visual Inventory Form

Zone: 3 - North Cascades  
Unit # C5 Chopaka Mountains

Date: 08/12/15  
Jurisdiction (s): WA DNR

LOCATION MAP



VISIBILITY

Viewsheds/ Screening/ Distance Zone	Foreground views include sights of the local recreational roads, cattle land, and timber operations. Vegetation limits middleground and background views.
Sensitivity/ Concern Level	Very high concern level because resource extraction operations or land use practices are occurring. Conserving this landscape is important since it is a gateway to a valued wilderness.

SCENIC INTEGRITY

Level of Naturalness	Medium level because resource extraction operations and land use practices are changing the landscape, but not to an extent that involves losing a natural feel.
Wholeness	Low level because the operations and practices mentioned above have contributed to breaking apart the landscape into differing segments that still maintain a natural quality.



PACIFIC NORTHWEST NATIONAL SCENIC TRAIL





Viewpoint #01



Viewpoint #02



Viewpoint #03



Viewpoint #04

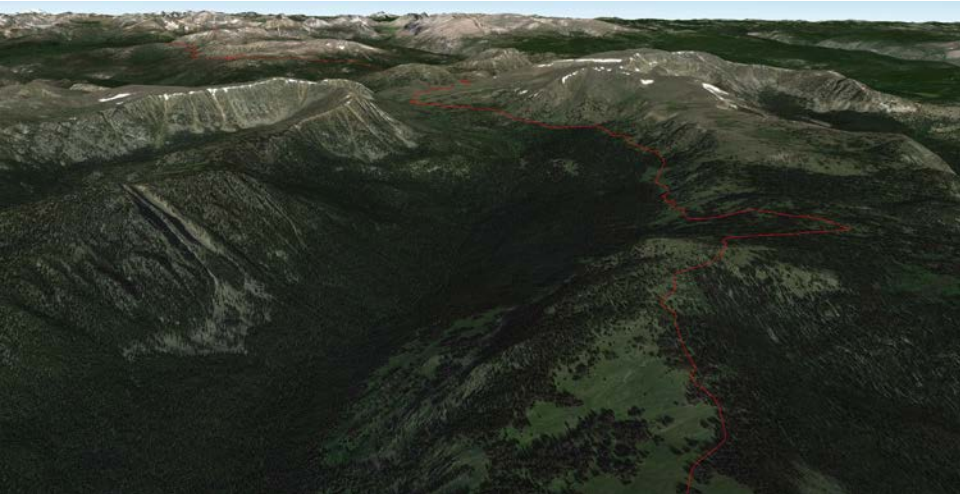




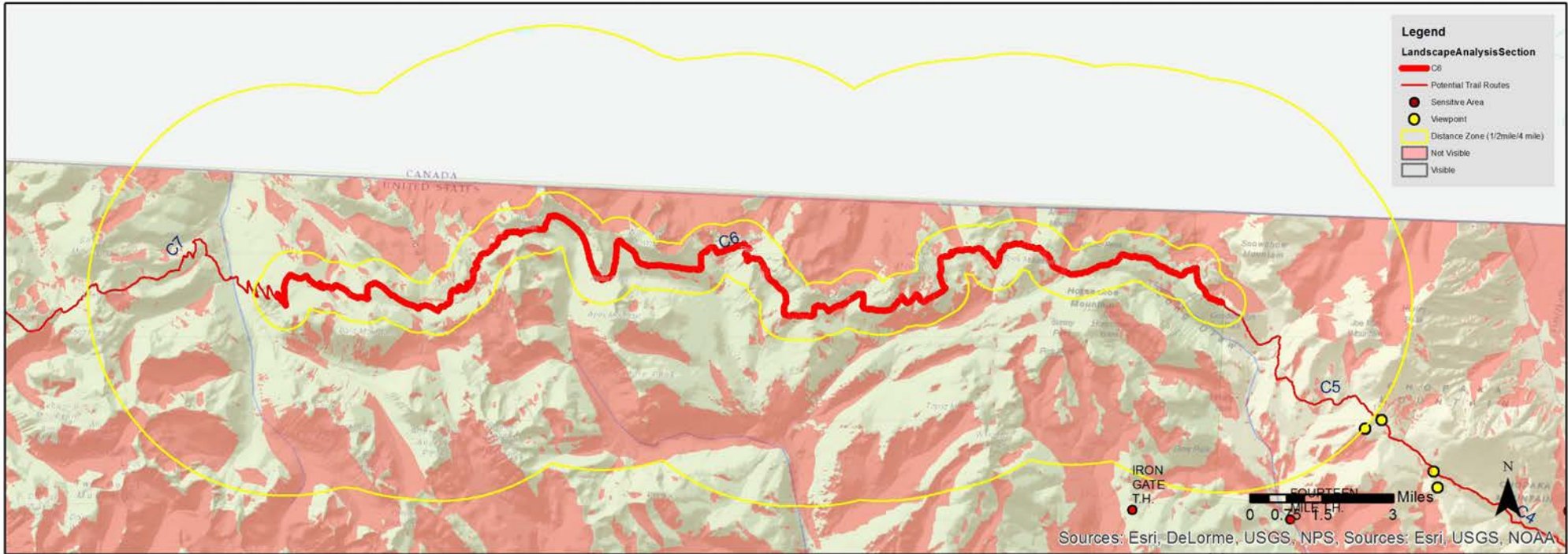
SCENIC CHARACTER

The Horseshoe Basin/ Cathedral Lakes unit is a large expanse of high country in the Pasayten Wilderness. It is characterized by high mountain peaks, such as Goodenough Peak, Rock MT, Teapot Dome, Bauerman Ridge, Wolframite MT, and, Amphitheater MT. Active glaciers are present, and historic glaciation has sculpted landform. Glacial basins, such as Horseshoe and Cathedral Basins, contain tarns. Bare rock is common in many forms, such as exposed ridges, summits, talus, and, other rocklands. Trail crosses through gaps in mountain ridges such as Horseshoe, Cathedral, Apex, and, Scheelite Passes. Forests are wet and characterized by subalpine fir and spruce at lower elevations. Five needled pine and subalpine larch grow on ridge tops. Subalpine meadows with unique wildflower assemblages break up forests. Precipitation is frequent. Glacial melt contribute sediment to the numerous streams draining cirque basins, such as Horseshoe, Tungsten, and, Cathedral Creeks. Far reaching views are of rugged mountains and other regions. Land uses are conservation, recreation, and, wildlife habitat.

Aerial Overview



UNIT MAP



VISUAL QUALITY/SCENIC ATTRACTIVENESS

	Rating	Explanation or Rationale
Landform	4	High elevation mountains with evidence of historic glaciation; active glaciers.
Vegetation	4	Subalpine meadow; wet stunted forests; subalpine larch.
Water	4	Tarns; high-gradient streams; glacial melt.
Color	4	Rock; snowpack; tarns; meadow; subalpine larch.
Adjacent Scenery	5	Beautiful vistas.
Scarcity	5	Nationally unique.
Cultural Modification	0	Seldom visited.
Total	26	Rating = A

Visual Inventory Form

Zone: 3 - North Cascades  
Unit # C6 Horseshoe Basin/Cathedral Lake

Date: 08/12/15  
Jurisdiction (s): US Forest Service

LOCATION MAP



VISIBILITY

Viewsheds/ Screening/ Distance Zone	Views in all distance zones.
Sensitivity/ Concern Level	High concern because of g randeur and wilderness designation.

SCENIC INTEGRITY

Level of Naturalness	Very High
Wholeness	Very High



PACIFIC NORTHWEST NATIONAL SCENIC TRAIL





Viewpoint #01



Viewpoint #03



Viewpoint #02



Viewpoint #04





for the greatest good



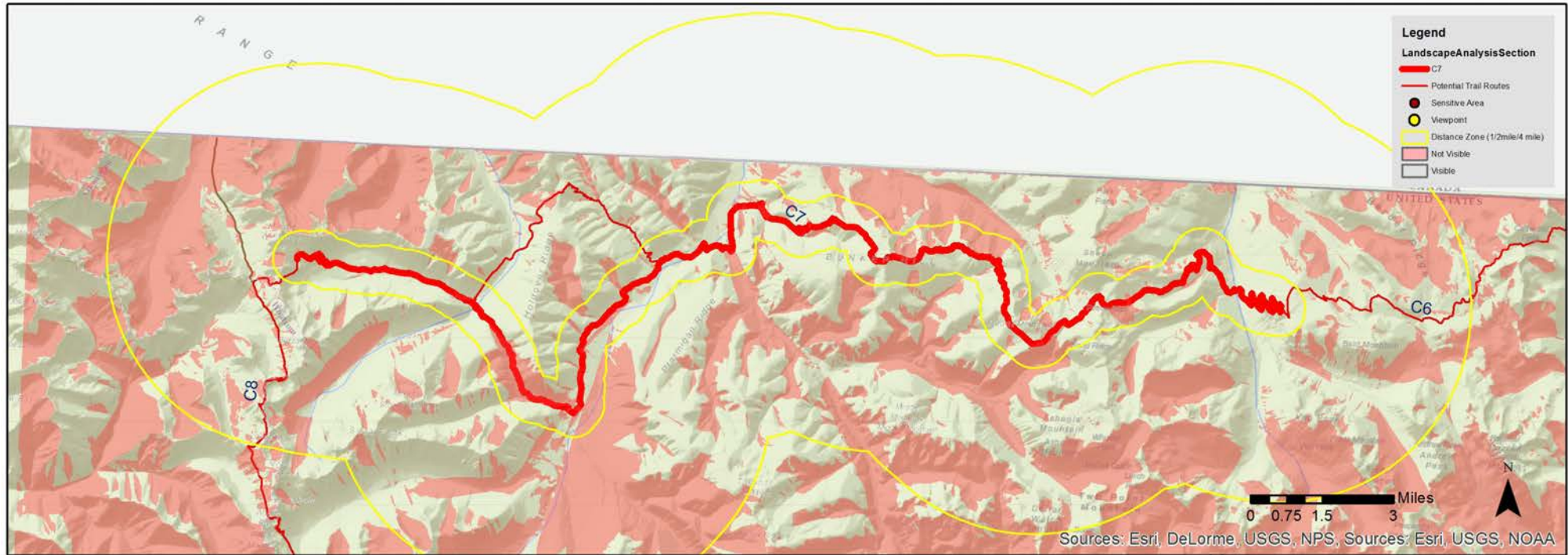
SCENIC CHARACTER

The Boundary Trail unit is remote, high elevation, wet forest between mountains, in the Pasayten Wilderness. Landform is characterized as high ridges, plateaus, and, broad valleys. Large amounts of precipitation nurture lush forests of fir, pine, and, spruce. Higher elevations, such as Sand Ridge and Quartz MT, provide expansive views and rich meadows. Dense forest and topography limit views along creek and river valleys. The free flowing Frosty Creek, and, Ashnola and Pasayten Rivers shape valley bottoms with unrestrained river processes. Not only is this congressionally designated wilderness, but it is logistically, very inaccessible. Solitude is readily available to the intrepid visitor. The area is rich with wildlife, and grizzly bears are known to roam the remote valleys and mountains.

Aerial Overview



UNIT MAP



VISUAL QUALITY/SCENIC ATTRACTIVENESS

	Rating	Explanation or Rationale
Landform	3	River valley; high ridges; forested plateaus.
Vegetation	5	Old growth high elevation wet forest; riparian corridor; meadow.
Water	4	Large order, unbridled rivers.
Color	3	Diverse vegetation with seasonal variation.
Adjacent Scenery	4	Constrained views along valley bottoms; high vantages have impressive views.
Scarcity	5	Nationally significant.
Cultural Modification	0	Little evidence of man.
Total	23	Rating = A

Visual Inventory Form

Zone: 3 - North Cascades  
Unit # C7 Boundary Trail

Date: 08/12/15  
Jurisdiction (s): US Forest Service

LOCATION MAP



VISIBILITY

Viewsheds/ Screening/ Distance Zone	Screened by topography along stream valleys; far reaching from high vantages.
Sensitivity/ Concern Level	High concern because of wilderness designation and national significance.

SCENIC INTEGRITY

Level of Naturalness	Very High
Wholeness	Very High

PACIFIC NORTHWEST NATIONAL SCENIC TRAIL





Viewpoint - Panorama #01

Viewpoint #02

Viewpoint #03

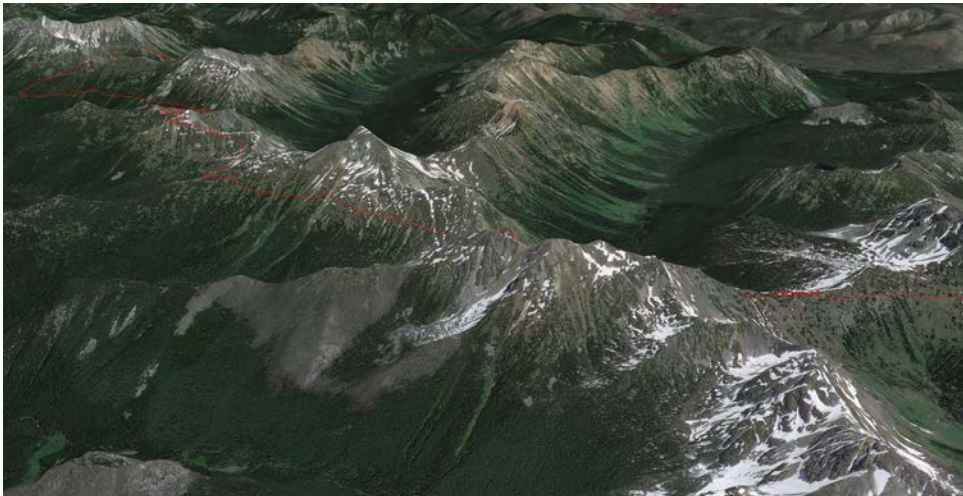




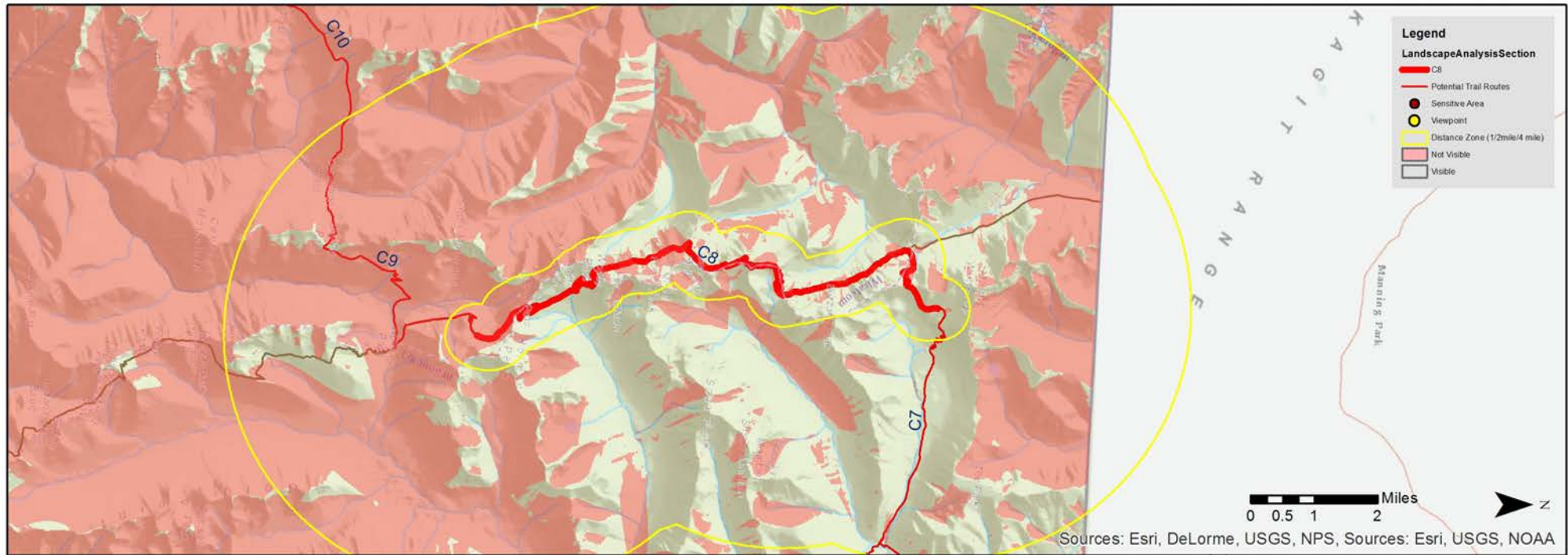
SCENIC CHARACTER

The Pacific Crest unit is a pleasant and exciting, high elevation ridge. This section of the PNT coincides with the Pacific Crest National Scenic Trail (PCT). Throngs of subalpine fir and Engelmann spruce form dense forest at lower elevations. Alaska yellow cedar is rare. Stunted five needle pine and subalpine larch punctuate meadows along ridge tops. Meadows reach their peak conditions at moist seeps, although the ridge is mostly dry. The outlet from the Goat Lakes is the best source of water along the trail. Hopkins Lake is nestled in a glacial cirque and the largest body of water. Unstable slopes are prone to downward sloughing and landslides common. Surrounding mountain tops are rugged and jagged from glaciation. Active glaciers are visible to the west in the background. Long, broad valleys are heavily forested. Land cover can be described as having a dark green, chartreuse, gray, red color palette. Frosty, Woody, and Rock Passes are gaps in mountain ridges. Song birds are plentiful in summer months.

Aerial Overview



UNIT MAP



VISUAL QUALITY/SCENIC ATTRACTIVENESS

	Rating	Explanation or Rationale
Landform	5	Dramatic rock summits that feature gaps, cirques, and overall unstable terrain. Glaciers are seen away from the trail.
Vegetation	5	Higher elevation vegetation, such as sub - alpine larch, fir, and engelmann spruce. Meadow species also grow in this area.
Water	3	This element holds a presence in this unit, but in the form of small lakes, such as Hopkins Lake, or creeks. Not a major influence in this particular landscape.
Color	3	The color palette for this unit consists of dark greens, chartreuse greens and reds, and different shades of gray. Not dramatic, but creates interest.
Adjacent Scenery	5	Beautiful mountains clad in glaciers, forest, and talus slopes add dramatic visual appeal to this already unique unit.
Scarcity	5	This unit is both locally and regional significant with its dramatic landscape and character every element portrays. It holds great value.
Cultural Modification	0	No facilities or man made practices are evident in this landscape that would either detract or add visual quality.
Total	26	RATING = A+

Visual Inventory Form

Zone: 3 - North Cascades  
Unit # C8 Pacific Crest

Date: 08/09/15  
Jurisdiction (s): US Forest Service

LOCATION MAP



VISIBILITY

Viewsheds/ Screening/ Distance Zone	Foreground views include beautiful meadows, glacial features, and talus/rocky slopes. Mid-ground and background views include surrounding mountains, glacial fields, and valley floors.
Sensitivity/ Concern Level	Very High concern levels along this section of trail because of the high use as well as the visual significance and value this area holds.

SCENIC INTEGRITY

Level of Naturalness	Very High
Wholeness	Very High



PACIFIC NORTHWEST NATIONAL SCENIC TRAIL





Viewpoint - Panorama #01



Viewpoint #02



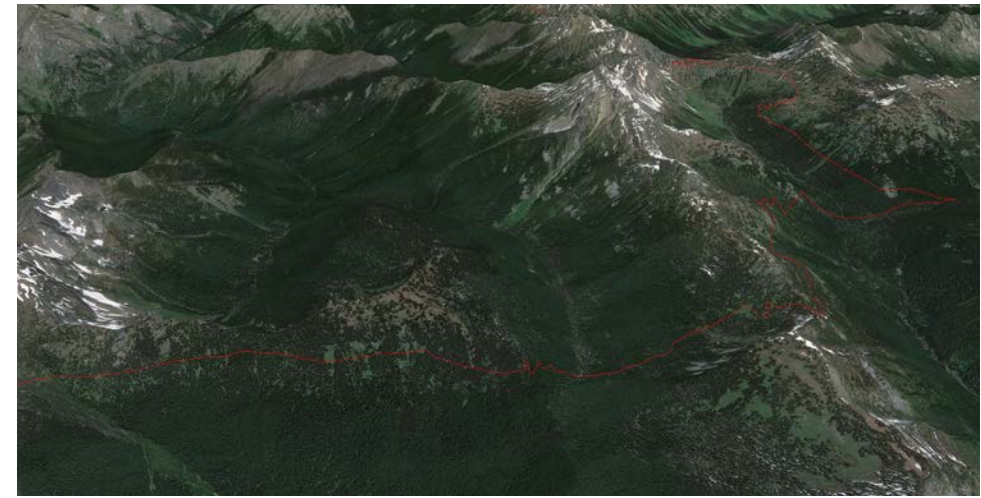
Viewpoint #03





The Canyon Creek unit is composed of montane slopes, creek valleys, and mountain passes. Canyon creek is a perennial, low-gradient creek that flows through old growth spruce, fir forests. Trees reach their largest stature along Canyon Creek. Verdant understory and fallen trees make cross country travel challenging. Meadows and avalanche chutes break up forest at higher elevations. Springs are fragile but dependable water sources along ridge tops. Filtered views are impressive of rugged, mountains capped with jagged rock.

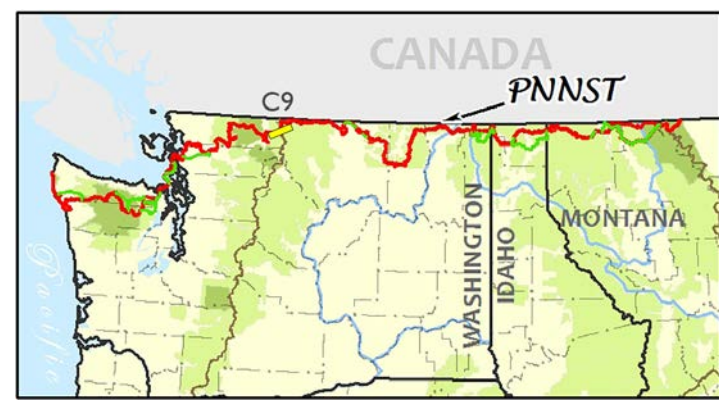
## Aerial Overview



	Rating	Explanation or Rationale
<b>Landform</b>	3	Valleys, mountain passes and canyons make up the terrain.
<b>Vegetation</b>	5	Big engelmann spruce and sub - alpine fir grow to form a thick old growth forest. Understory plants also grow in this fashion. Near springs, a meadow landscape is dominant.
<b>Water</b>	3	Canyon Creek is a reliable water source, while seasonal springs appear to provide another option. Neither waterbodies are prominent features in this dramatic landscape.
<b>Color</b>	3	Color palette includes interesting hues of green, blue, yellow, and some reds as well as shades of grey.
<b>Adjacent Scenery</b>	5	Mountains carved by glaciers and are now populated by old growth forest, breath taking meadows, and feature talus slopes add visual integrity to an already dramatic unit.
<b>Scarcity</b>	5	This unit is both locally and regionally significant because of its unique and dramatic visual elements.
<b>Cultural Modification</b>	0	No man made elements are visually detracting or add interest to the landscape.
<b>Total</b>	<b>24</b>	<b>RATING = A</b>

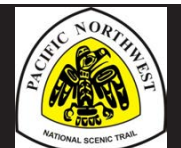
Zone: 3 - North Cascades  
Unit # C9 Canyon Creek

## LOCATION MAP



<b>Viewsheds/ Screening/ Distance Zone</b>	Foreground views include big, dense forest and some meadow areas at the top of the mountains. Middleground and background views are limited by topography and vegetatively screened.
<b>Sensitivity/ Concern Level</b>	Very High concern levels along this section of trail because of the high use and high visual interest the landscape provides for visitors.

<b>Level of Naturalness</b>	Very High
<b>Wholeness</b>	Very High



PACIFIC NORTHWEST NATIONAL SCENIC TRAIL



for the greatest good



Viewpoint - Panorama #01



Viewpoint #02



Viewpoint #03





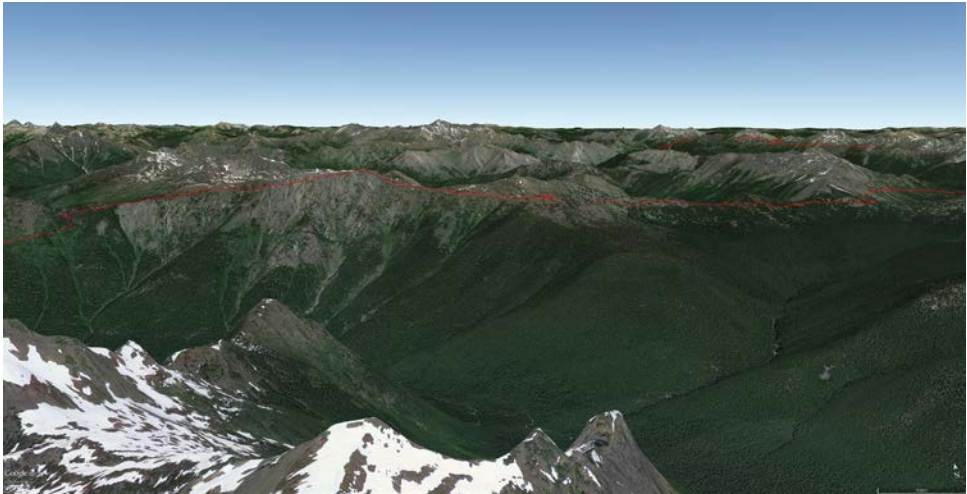
for the greatest good



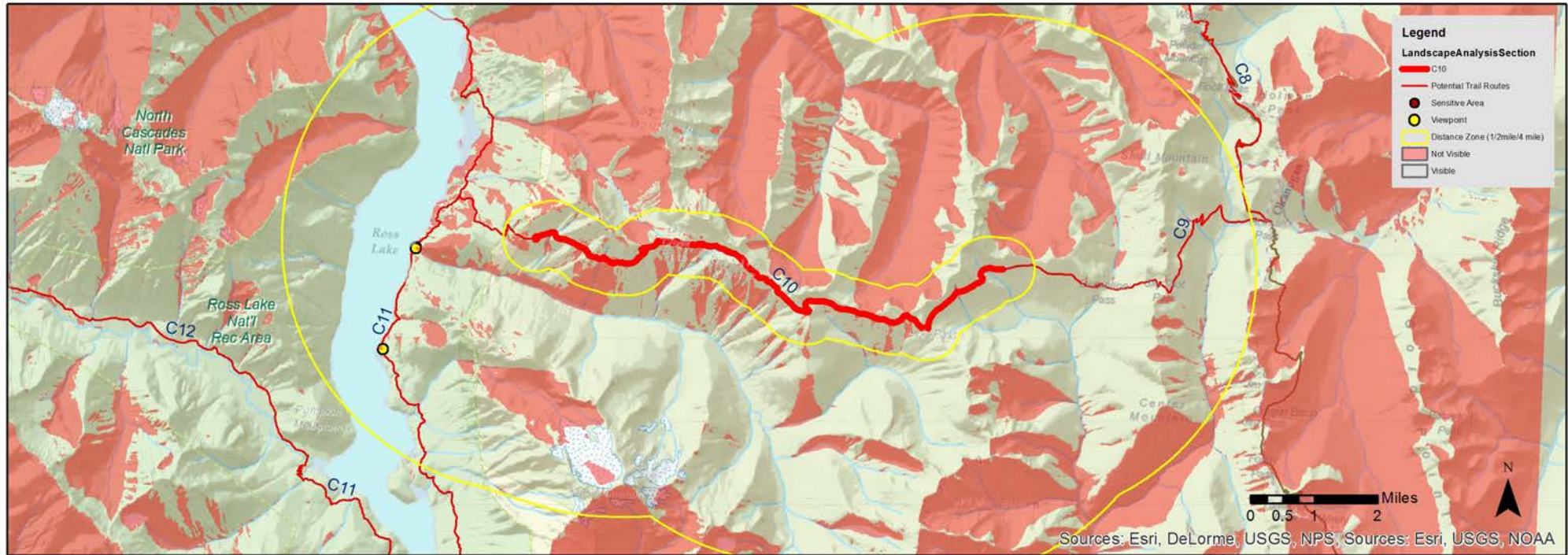
SCENIC CHARACTER

The Devils Dome unit is an impressive alpine/ subalpine area of rock, meadow, and stunted forest. Land form is a broad ridge that precipitously falls off on three sides.Views are captivating.The craggy rock of adjacent mountains is the focal point of the scenery.The dynamic Nohokomeen Glacier dominates the scene. Jagged mountains with long,glaciated, forested valleys between extend to horizons in all directions. Only glimpses of Ross Lake are detectable. Meadows are short and simple with low growing species, such as heather. Five needled pine, mountain hemlock, and, subalpine fir grow in stunted forms amongst granite rock.Water is scarce.Air is electric and moist.

Aerial Overview



UNIT MAP



VISUAL QUALITY/SCENIC ATTRACTIVENESS

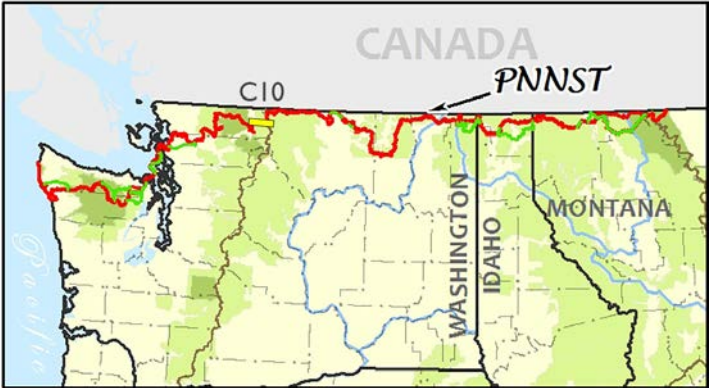
	Rating	Explanation or Rationale
Landform	5	Broad mountain ridges, glaciation activities, and glaciers. Talus slopes also make up the terrain.
Vegetation	5	No sub - alpine larch, replaced by western hemlock. Groundcover consists of healthy vegetation including moss. Meadow vegetation also is prevalent in this unit.
Water	3	Not very abundant and comes in the form of springs.
Color	5	A wide array of greens, yellows, reds, browns, and shades of grey against scattered, white glacier fields make for a dramatic color scheme.
Adjacent Scenery	5	Surrounding mountains with either talus slopes and glaciers or forested terrain broken up by open meadows create a visually significant and attractive scenery.
Scarcity	5	With grand views of glaciers, open meadows, and forested land, this unit is unique and highly valued locally and regionally.
Cultural Modification	0	No man made elements either detract or add interest to the overall scenery created by the natural landscape.
Total	28	RATING = A+

Visual Inventory Form

Zone: 3 - North Cascades  
Unit # C10 Devils Dome

Date: 08/11/15  
Jurisdiction (s): US Forest Service

LOCATION MAP



VISIBILITY

Viewsheds/ Screening/ Distance Zone	Foreground views include meadows, talus/rocky slopes, and groupings of trees. Middleground views are of mountain valleys and summits. Background views are every type of glaciated landform.
Sensitivity/ Concern Level	Very High concern levels along this section of trail because of the high use and high value the landscape creates with its many beautiful and unique elements.

SCENIC INTEGRITY

Level of Naturalness	Very High
Wholeness	Very High



PACIFIC NORTHWEST NATIONAL SCENIC TRAIL





Viewpoint - Panorama #01



Viewpoint #02



Viewpoint #03





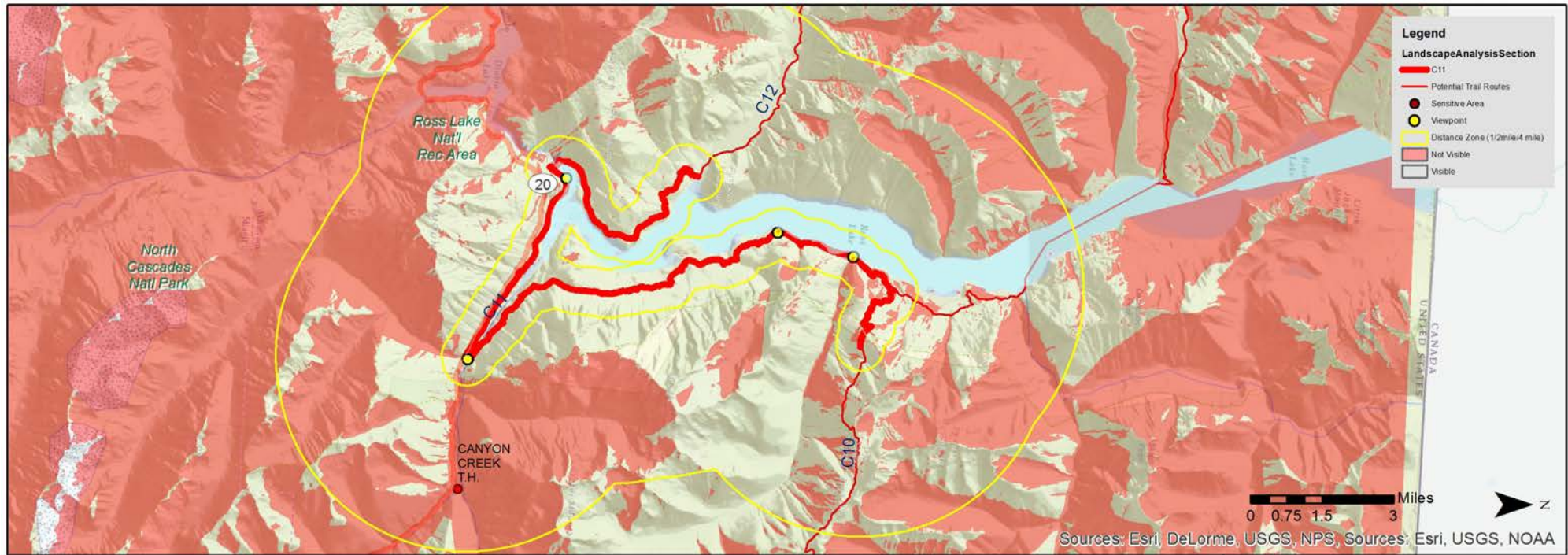
SCENIC CHARACTER

The Ross Lake unit is a broad valley between high mountains. The Skagit River has been impounded to create a placid reservoir of clear, cold, and cerulean water. The large body of water is surrounded by steep rocky cliffs with Doug fir craning outward. Coves and inlets have vine maple, red cedar, western hemlock, bigleaf maple and other lowland Pacific Northwest natives. The primary purpose of the reservoir is hydroelectric energy but is also a very popular recreation destination for angling, hiking, and, boating. Ross Lake Resort is the social hub.

Aerial Overview



UNIT MAP



VISUAL QUALITY/SCENIC ATTRACTIVENESS

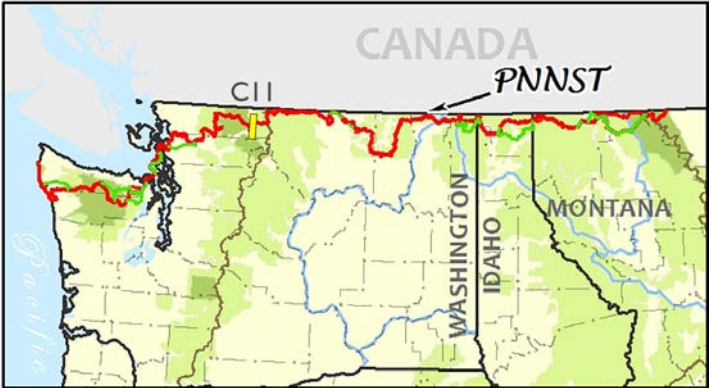
	Rating	Explanation or Rationale
Landform	5	Man made lake at the bottom of steep mountain slopes that end in high peaks.
Vegetation	5	Beautiful forests that consist of a plant mix that includes douglas fir, birch, large leaf maple tree, and vine maple shrub.
Water	5	Ross Lake, a very prominent and significant feature that adds visual interest to this unit. One of the main focal points.
Color	5	Various greens, browns, and shades of grey from the vegetation and rocks against changing blue hues of the sky and waterbodies make for a great scene.
Adjacent Scenery	3	Mountain slopes with tree populations growing out of a rocky terrain along with glacial patches creates a visually interesting scene.
Scarcity	3	With certain features, such as a visually appealing lake against steep, vegetated mountain sides, this unit has some interesting landscape character to note.
Cultural Modification	0	Man made structures or practices are not evident enough to suggest visual degradation or improvement to the landscape.
Total	26	RATING = A

Visual Inventory Form

Zone: 3 - North Cascades  
Unit # CII Ross Lake

Date: 08/11/15  
Jurisdiction (s): National Park Service

LOCATION MAP



VISIBILITY

Viewsheds/ Screening/ Distance Zone	Foreground views include Ross Lake and lower elevation forests. Middleground views feature steep slopes and ridges of surrounding mountains. Background has framed views of high country.
Sensitivity/ Concern Level	High concern level because of high use and national recreation area designation.

SCENIC INTEGRITY

Level of Naturalness	Moderate to High
Wholeness	Moderate to High

PACIFIC NORTHWEST NATIONAL SCENIC TRAIL





Viewpoint #01



Viewpoint #03



Viewpoint #02



Viewpoint #04

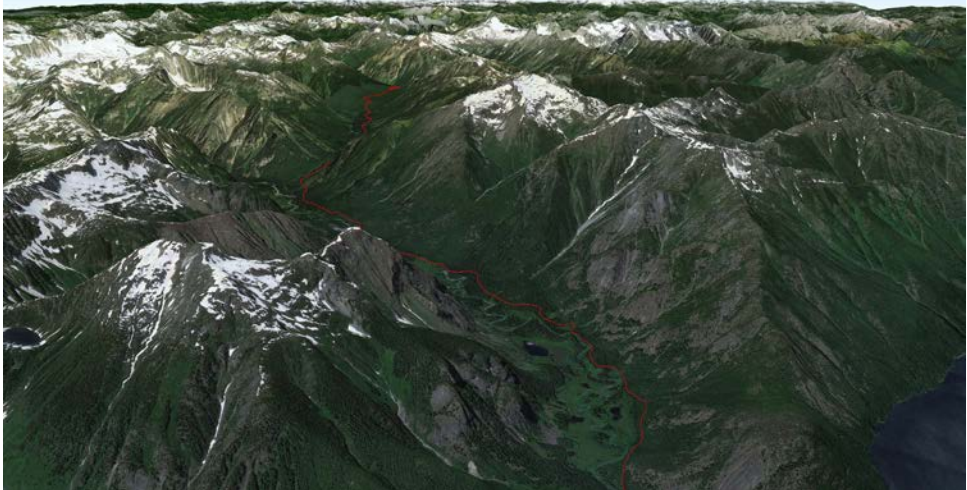




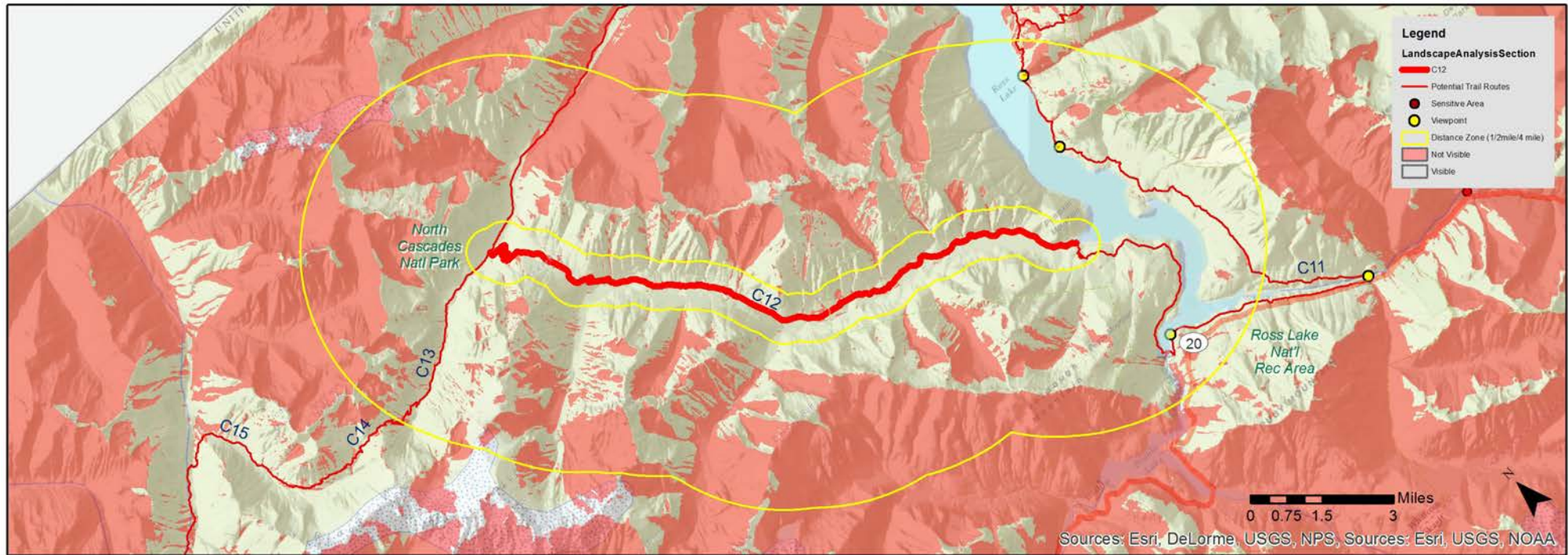
SCENIC CHARACTER

The Big Beaver Creek unit is a long creek valley amongst towering old growth trees and dense understory. Large diameter trunks of western red cedar, Doug fir, and, western hemlock have concealed canopies high out of view. The large broad leaves of Devil's club, and, bigleaf maples reflect green light in the understory. Swampy spots grow spathes of skunk cabbage. Beaver ponds and marshes, such as Big Beaver Marsh, harbor unique aquatic ecosystems. High amounts of precipitation fall annually. Big Beaver Creek is laden with glacial milk and sluggishly flows with a cloudy, turquoise color. National Park Service stewardship is evident in well maintained trails, campgrounds, and a steel bridge. Views are typically screened by vegetation. Breaks in forest, provide glimpses of montane slopes of rock, forest, woodland, and, meadow. Recreation and conservation are primary land uses.

Aerial Overview



UNIT MAP



VISUAL QUALITY/SCENIC ATTRACTIVENESS

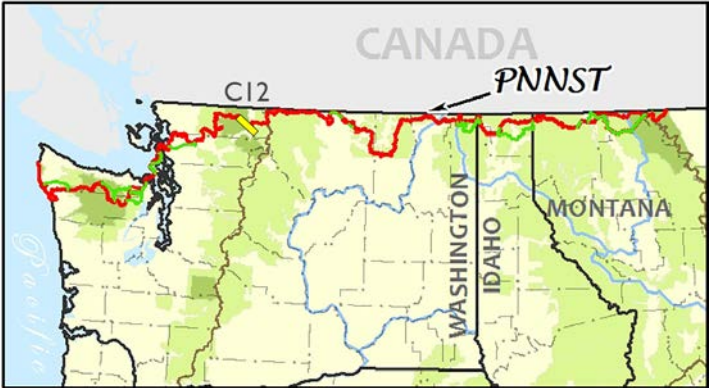
	Rating	Explanation or Rationale
Landform	3	Terrain consists of a meandering creek with associated floodplain. Mountain sides are clearly carved by glaciers.
Vegetation	5	Pacific Northwest trees, such as cedar, douglas fir, western hemlock, and big leaf maple as well as a native understory: devils club, skunk cabbage, pacific yew, and vine maple.
Water	5	Waterbodies, such as Big Beaver and Jade creeks, floodplains, and wetlands, are prominent features. The scenery composition is dictated by these water elements.
Color	3	Fairly average color scheme for a forested landscape, with differing hues of green, yellow, and brown. Some interest achieved at different times of year and contrasts with the water.
Adjacent Scenery	5	A diverse forest landscape with scattered swamp areas against the backdrop of glacially carved mountain sides create a dramatic, surrounding scenery.
Scarcity	5	The mentioned characteristics listed above create a unique and highly valued landscape that is locally as well as regionally significant.
Cultural Modification	0	Man made elements neither detract or add visual interest to the landscape.
Total	28	RATING = A

Visual Inventory Form

Zone: 3 - North Cascades  
Unit # C12 Big Beaver Creek

Date: 08/12/15  
Jurisdiction (s): National Park Service

LOCATION MAP



VISIBILITY

Viewsheds/ Screening/ Distance Zone	Foreground views include a cedar forest and glimpses of Big Beaver Creek. Middleground and Back-ground views are limited by the vegetation screening these sights.
Sensitivity/ Concern Level	Very High concern because of national park designation and high recreational use.

SCENIC INTEGRITY

Level of Naturalness	Very High
Wholeness	Very High

PACIFIC NORTHWEST NATIONAL SCENIC TRAIL

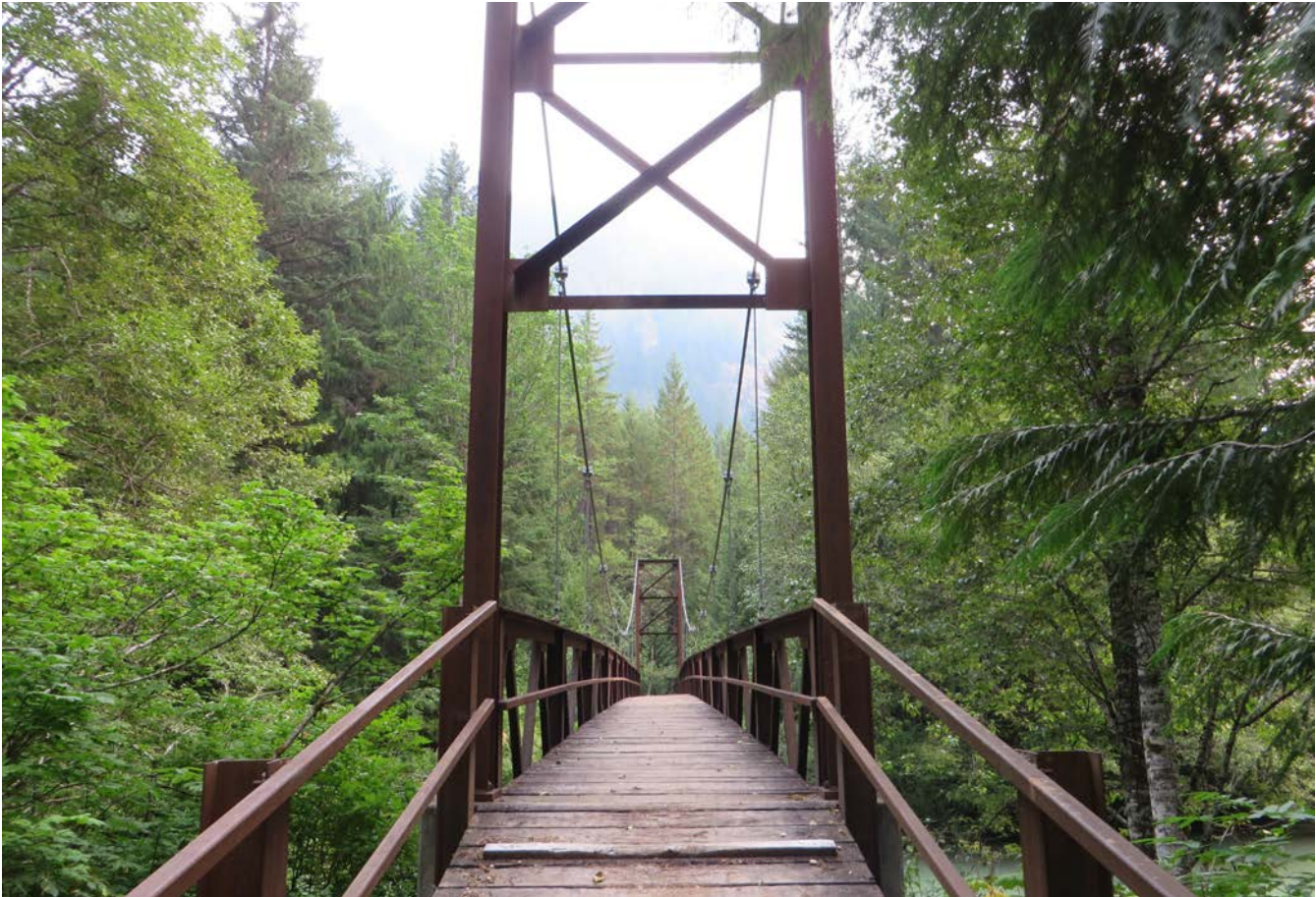




Viewpoint #01



Viewpoint #02



Viewpoint #03

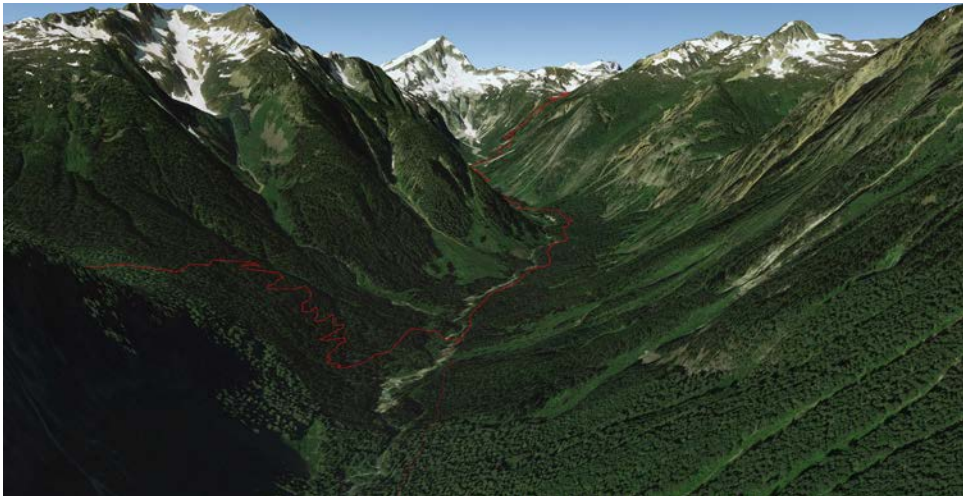




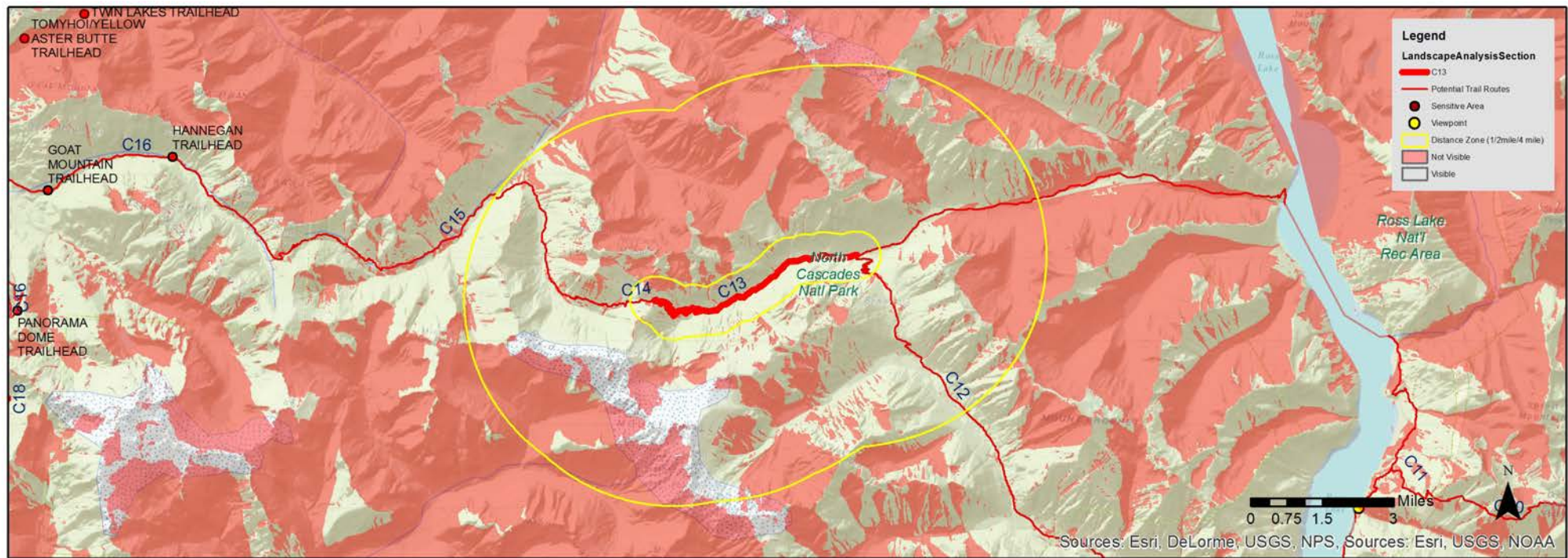
SCENIC CHARACTER

The Little Beaver Creek unit is characterized by an incised, mountainous creek valley. Campgrounds are nestled in large trees along gentle valley floor. As elevation increases, slopes become steep and unstable with frequent avalanche chutes. Forest gives way to exposed rock, brushlands, and, meadow. Waterfalls draining snowpack, cascade down over bare rock. Towards Whatcom Pass, rugged, glaciated peaks and massive glaciers come into view. Views down the narrow creek valley display a gradient of vegetation.

Aerial Overview



UNIT MAP



VISUAL QUALITY/SCENIC ATTRACTIVENESS

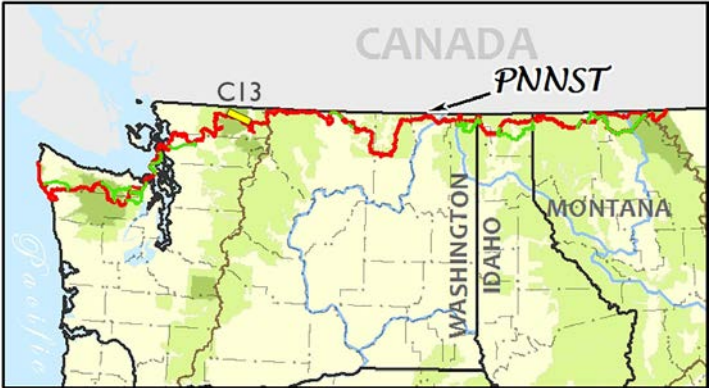
	Rating	Explanation or Rationale
Landform	5	Steep canyon; glaciated terrain.
Vegetation	5	Old growth high elevation forest; meadow.
Water	5	High-gradient streams; waterfalls.
Color	3	Water; meadow; old growth forest; wetland.
Adjacent Scenery	4	Impressive glaciated mountains.
Scarcity	5	Nationally unique.
Cultural Modification	0	National Park Service trails and campgrounds.
Total	27	RATING = A

Visual Inventory Form

Zone: 3 - North Cascades  
Unit # C13 Little Beaver Creek

Date: 08/28/15  
Jurisdiction (s): National Park Service

LOCATION MAP



VISIBILITY

Viewsheds/ Screening/ Distance Zone	Generally restricted to the foreground by vegetation; views of high country.
Sensitivity/ Concern Level	Very High concern because of national park designation and high recreational use.

SCENIC INTEGRITY

Level of Naturalness	Very High
Wholeness	Very High



PACIFIC NORTHWEST NATIONAL SCENIC TRAIL





Viewpoint - Panorama #01

Viewpoint #02

Viewpoint #03





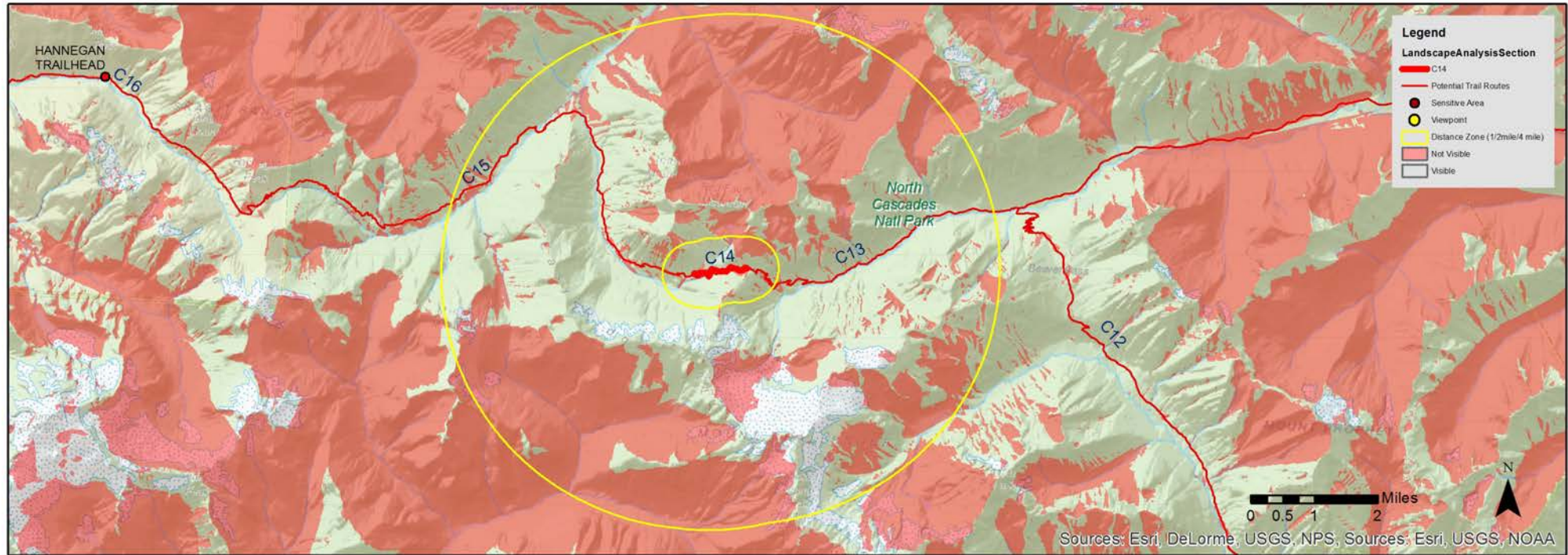
SCENIC CHARACTER

The Whatcom Pass unit is a high elevation vista with impressive far reaching views. Jagged mountain tops abound with active glaciers. Challenger and Whatcom Glaciers are in the middleground distance zone, allowing for close observation of details, such as crevasses and blue ice. Bare mountain, polished smooth and scarred by scraping, is exposed as glaciers recede. Slopes are unstable and constantly falling apart. Avalanche chutes are frequent. Rock is abundant with granite talus and cliff bands. Hanging valleys conceal clear, shallow tarns, such as Tapto Lakes. Water falls plummet from glaciers and snowpack. Pockets of woodland are stunted with predominantly mountain hemlock. Alaska yellow cedar and silver fir pick up at forest edges. Wet seeps are fringed with Lewis's mon-key flower and other conspicuous wildflowers. Meadows are short in stature with low species diversity. Low-growing shrubs with berries cover large areas of high slopes. Bears are commonly seen foraging in late summer and early fall. The windswept pass is imbued with a microclimate of plentiful precipitation and cool temperatures.

Aerial Overview



UNIT MAP



VISUAL QUALITY/SCENIC ATTRACTIVENESS

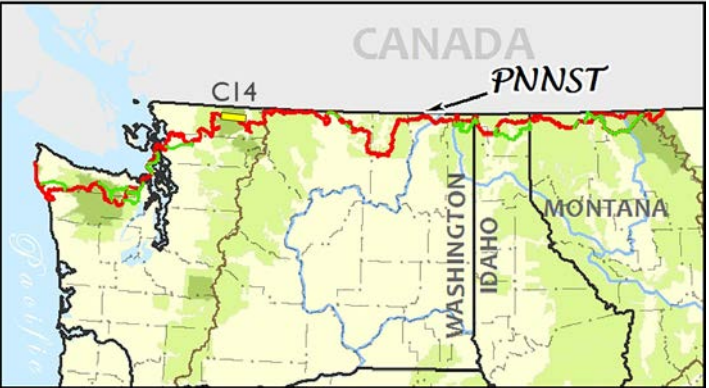
	Rating	Explanation or Rationale
Landform	5	Mountain pass that features alpine lakes, granite and rock outcroppings as well as scree fields.
Vegetation	5	Landscape includes a great diversity of trees species with slight plant variety in the meadows. Blueberries are present at certain times of the year in this area.
Water	5	Beautiful alpine lakes and waterfalls reside in this unit and add dramatic visual character to the scenery.
Color	5	A beautiful mixture of greens, yellows, reds, blues, and browns play off each other simply to create a visually interesting landscape mosaic.
Adjacent Scenery	5	Glacier fields, mountain slopes with talus chutes or waterfalls, and/or old growth forest patches all join to create a stimulating and breathtaking scene surrounding the unit.
Scarcity	5	This is a visually significant and unique unit that is locally and regionally valued for its amazing landscape character.
Cultural Modification	0	No presence of human use activities or structures that add or detract visual interest.
Total	30	RATING = A+

Visual Inventory Form

Zone: 3 - North Cascades  
Unit # C14 Whatcom Pass

Date: 08/28/15  
Jurisdiction (s): National Park Service

LOCATION MAP



VISIBILITY

Viewsheds/ Screening/ Distance Zone	Foreground includes old growth groves, scree fields, and glacier chutes. Middleground includes glaciers, waterfalls, and scattered tree groups. Background includes aged mountain tops.
Sensitivity/ Concern Level	Very High concern because of national park designation and high recreational use.

SCENIC INTEGRITY

Level of Naturalness	Very High
Wholeness	Very High



PACIFIC NORTHWEST NATIONAL SCENIC TRAIL





Viewpoint - Panorama #01



Viewpoint #02



Viewpoint #03





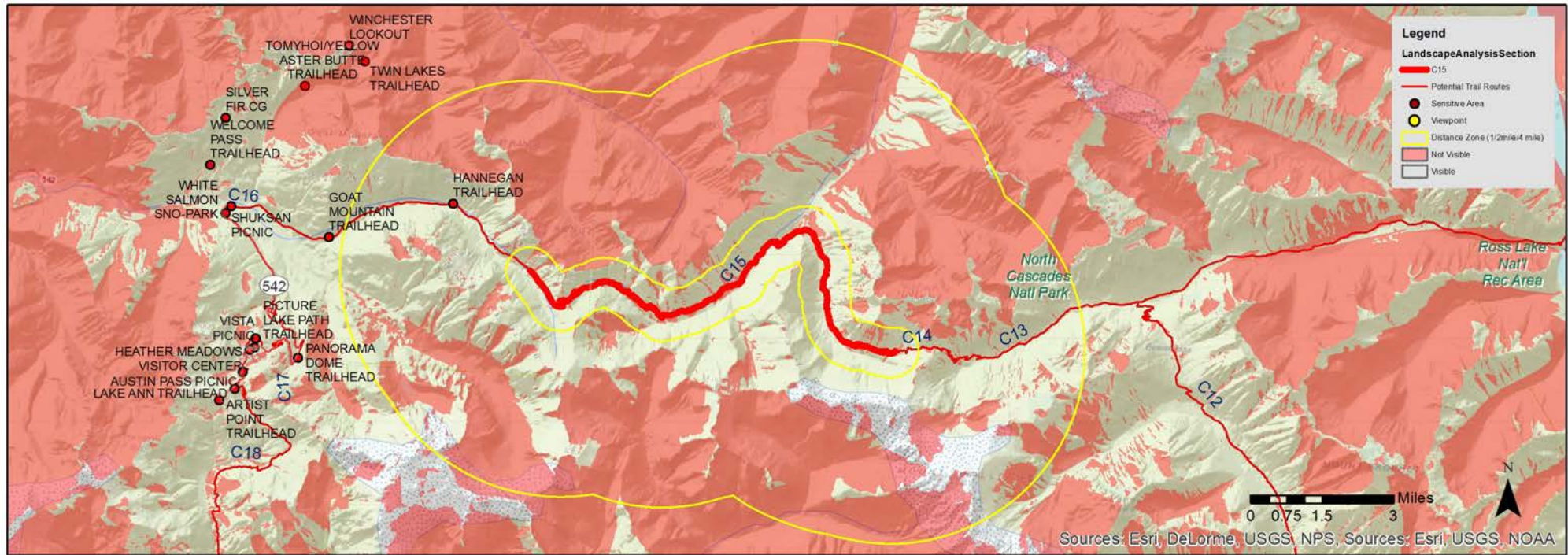
SCENIC CHARACTER

The Chilliwack River Valley is characterized by a remote, deep valley of old growth forest. Stands include mountain hemlock, Alaska yellow cedar, western red cedar, silver and noble fir, western hemlock, and, Doug fir. The large trees and dense understory screen views. The headwaters of the Chilliwack are unbridled and run clear. Salmon still spawn in its stony reaches. High-gradient tributaries, such as Brush Creek, have plunge pools and create pleasing sounds. Cobble beaches offer full sun and glimpses of rugged mountains. Quaint campgrounds are well sited in deep forest. Trails and a cable car testify to National Park Service stewardship.

Aerial Overview



UNIT MAP



VISUAL QUALITY/SCENIC ATTRACTIVENESS

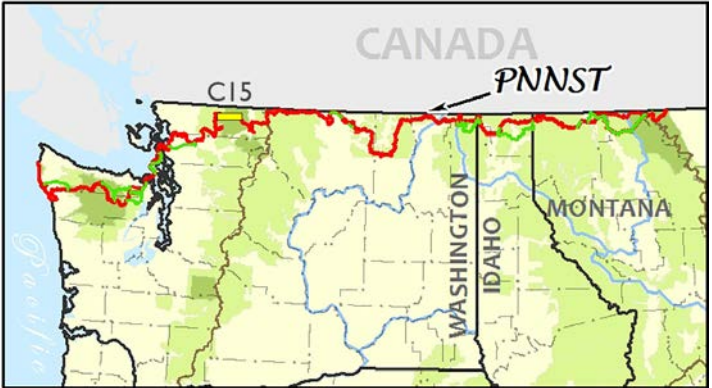
	Rating	Explanation or Rationale
Landform	4	River valley.
Vegetation	4	Old growth forests; riparian area.
Water	5	High-gradient, high quality river and streams.
Color	4	Meadow; water; rock.
Adjacent Scenery	5	Spectacular high country.
Scarcity	5	Nationally unique.
Cultural Modification	1	National Park trails, campgrounds, cable car.
Total	28	RATING = A

Visual Inventory Form

Zone: 3 - North Cascades  
Unit # C15 Chilliwack River Valley

Date: 08/28/15  
Jurisdiction (s): US Forest Service, National Park

LOCATION MAP



VISIBILITY

Viewsheds/ Screening/ Distance Zone	Generally restricted to the foreground by vegetation; views of high country.
Sensitivity/ Concern Level	Very High concern because of national park designation and high recreational use.

SCENIC INTEGRITY

Level of Naturalness	Very High
Wholeness	Very High



PACIFIC NORTHWEST NATIONAL SCENIC TRAIL





Viewpoint #01



Viewpoint #03



Viewpoint #02



Viewpoint #04





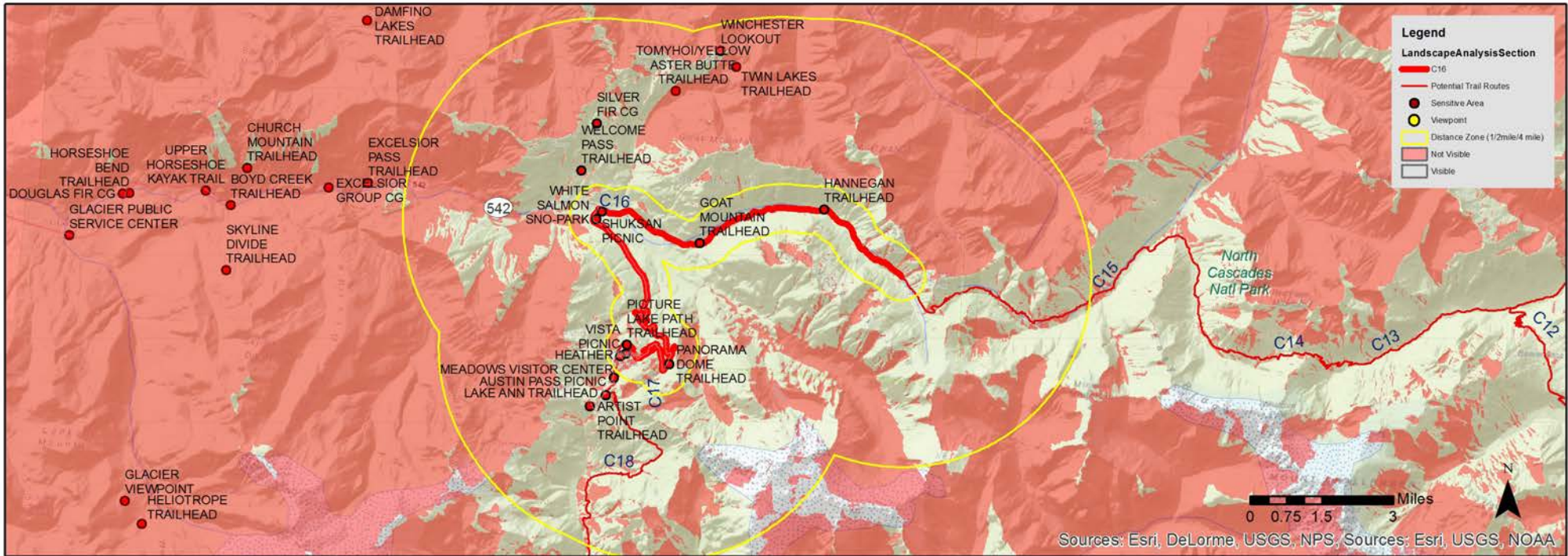
SCENIC CHARACTER

The Ruth creek unit connects Hannegan Pass to Heather Meadows covering a spectrum of primitive and developed settings. Ruth Creek combines with the North Fork of the Nooksack River; the confluence concealed in forest. Their waters are swift and clear, but often carry sediment. Trail climbs upward in a long, dry canyon through the Mount Baker Wilderness on its way to Hannegan Pass. Ruth Mountain and glacier dominate the head of the canyon. The rocky slopes of Nooksack Ridge and Granite Mountain have avalanche chutes, debris flows, snow patches and waterfalls. Large brushlands are exposed with alder, salmonberry, currants, vine maple, and, granite outcrops. Dark groves of old growth forests contain large Doug fir, western hemlock, Alaska yellow cedar, and, fir. Lichen cling to massive trunks marking winter snowpack. Forest Service stewardship and recreation is evident in campgrounds, trail, road, and, a rustic shelter. The Hannegan Pass trailhead is a popular launching point for extended backcountry adventures or day hikes.

Aerial Overview



UNIT MAP



VISUAL QUALITY/SCENIC ATTRACTIVENESS

	Rating	Explanation or Rationale
Landform	5	Exposed rock (granite), avalanche chutes, and waterfall formations in the mid - ground area.
Vegetation	5	Typical, but beautiful Pacific Northwest plant species: western hemlock, douglas fir, silver fir, salmonberry, alder, etc.
Water	3	Infrequent water locations make this element not a focal point of this unit, but there are some breathtaking, high elevation waterfalls.
Color	3	An interesting color palette exists consisting of greens, browns, yellows, some reds and blues, and white from the glaciers.
Adjacent Scenery	5	With glaciated uplands, old growth forests, avalanche chutes, and rock screes populating the surrounding scenery, a lot of visual interest is added to the unit.
Scarcity	3	Visually dramatic with unique local elements make this unit interesting and moderately valued in terms of its place in the region.
Cultural Modification	0	No prominent man made features that either detract or add visual interest.
Total	24	RATING = A

Visual Inventory Form

Zone: 3 - North Cascades  
Unit # C16 Ruth Creek

Date: 08/27/15  
Jurisdiction (s): US Forest Service

LOCATION MAP



VISIBILITY

Viewsheds/ Screening/ Distance Zone	Foreground includes old growth forest with brush fields that allow views out. Middleground includes views of Ruth Creek Valley and glaciated land. Not many background views.
Sensitivity/ Concern Level	Very High concern because of high recreational use.

SCENIC INTEGRITY

Level of Naturalness	High
Wholeness	Moderate to High



PACIFIC NORTHWEST NATIONAL SCENIC TRAIL





Viewpoint - Panorama #01



Viewpoint #02



Viewpoint #03



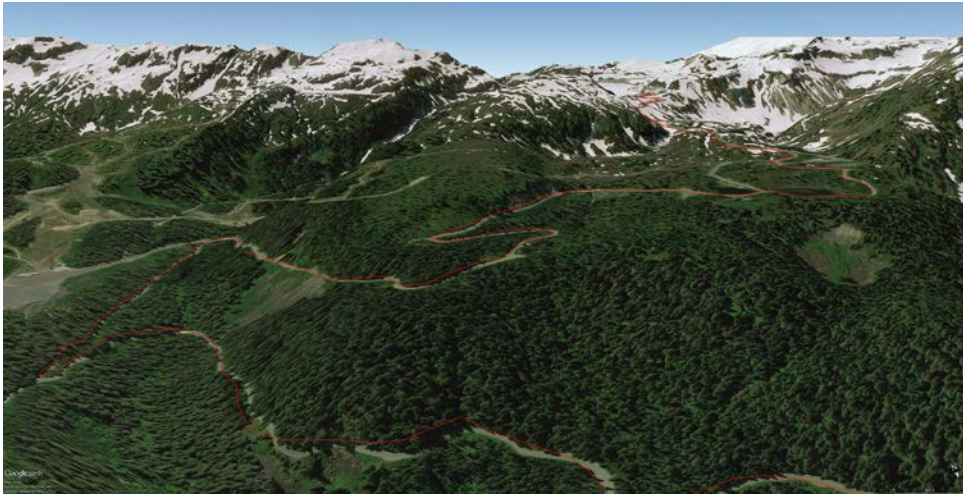
for the greatest good



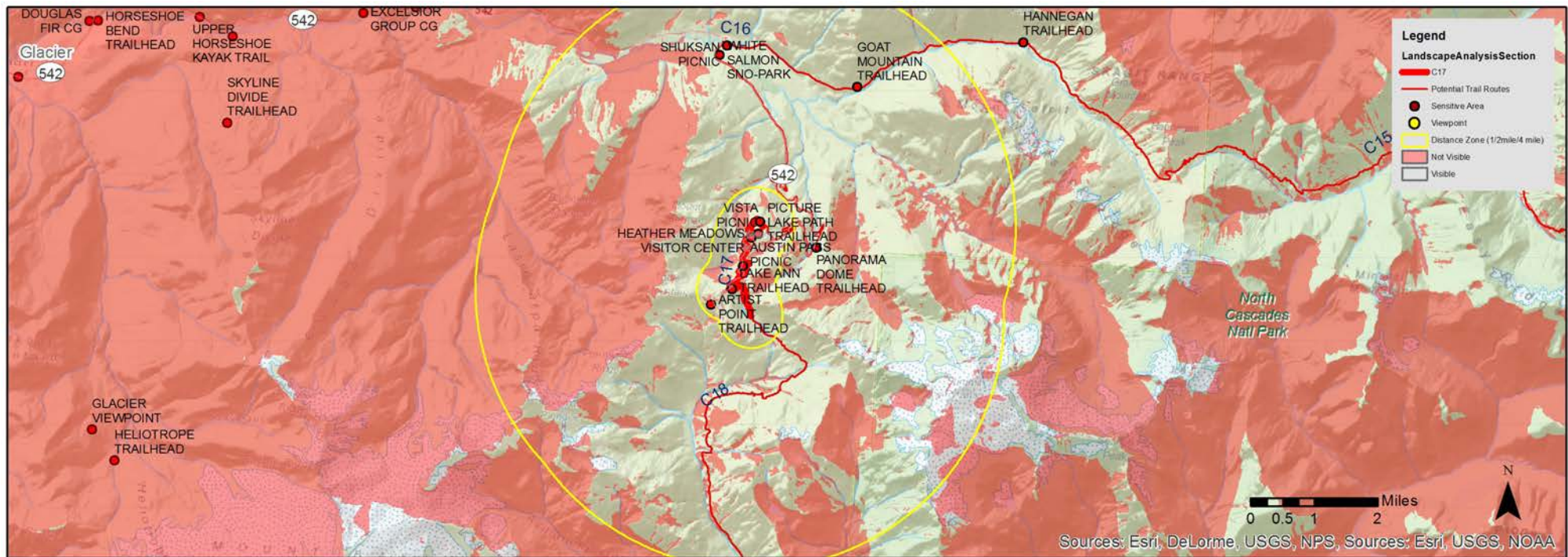
SCENIC CHARACTER

The Heather Meadows unit is a juxtaposition of developed recreation within the harsh environment of an alpine/ subalpine setting. Paved roads and parking lots facilitate unrestricted access to rare, glaciated high country. Views of jagged mountains and glacier fields captivate visitors in middleground and background views. An arm of the massive Mount Shuksan is the main attraction. Picnic spots and trailheads provide opportunities for exploration. Small lakes and meadows are nestled in picturesque basins. Hanging valleys emit cascading waterfalls. MT Baker ski area provides even more intimate access to upper slopes. Jovial Forest Service employees help inquisitive visitors interpret the landscape and its unique ecology.

Aerial Overview



UNIT MAP



VISUAL QUALITY/SCENIC ATTRACTIVENESS

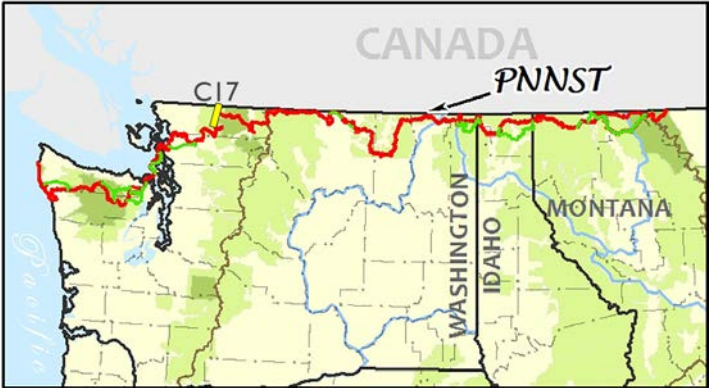
	Rating	Explanation or Rationale
Landform	5	Terrain includes glaciated mountains, alpine lakes and waterfalls, rock outcrops, cliff bands, and overall expansive views.
Vegetation	3	Smaller diameter trees, such as douglas fir and western hemlock, compared to lower elevations.
Water	3	Seen in the form of waterfalls and crisp, alpine lakes.
Color	3	Interesting color scheme with greens and browns from the trees against a backgroup of white and shades of grey found in the glaciated mountain sides.
Adjacent Scenery	5	A beautiful scenic landscape that consists of alpine lakes and waterfalls, glaciated mountains and peaks, and old growth forests surrounds this portion of trail.
Scarcity	5	The characteristics expressed and elements featured in this unit make it locally and regionally important and valued highly.
Cultural Modification	-4	The developed recreation activity in this area severely detracts from the dramatic character expressed by the landscape.
Total	20	RATING = A

Visual Inventory Form

Zone: 3 - North Cascades  
Unit # C17 Heather Meadows

Date: 08/28/15  
Jurisdiction (s): US Forest Service

LOCATION MAP



VISIBILITY

Viewsheds/ Screening/ Distance Zone	Foreground includes beautiful alpine meadows and lakes. Middleground includes valley bottoms, forested slopes, and rocky outcrops. Background is of the North Cascades.
Sensitivity/ Concern Level	Very High concern because of high recreational use.

SCENIC INTEGRITY

Level of Naturalness	Moderate to High
Wholeness	Moderate to High



PACIFIC NORTHWEST NATIONAL SCENIC TRAIL





Viewpoint - Panorama #01



Viewpoint #02



Viewpoint #03

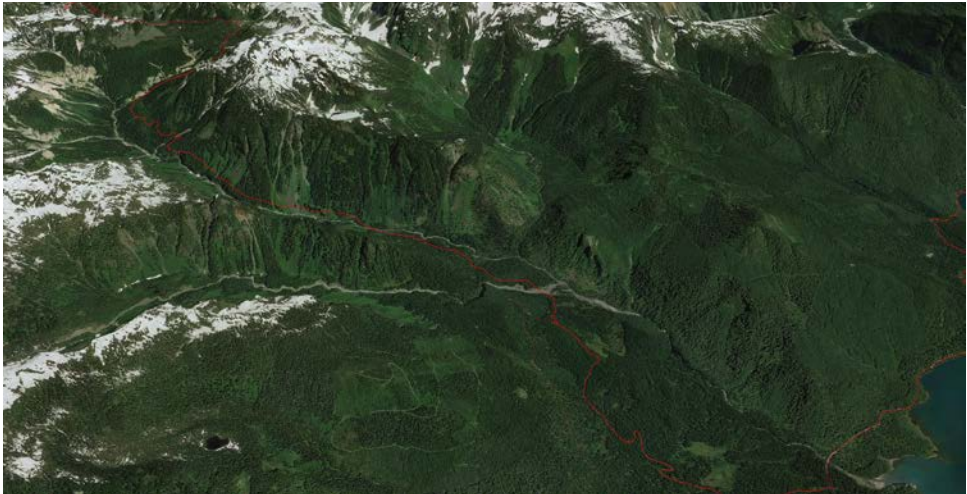




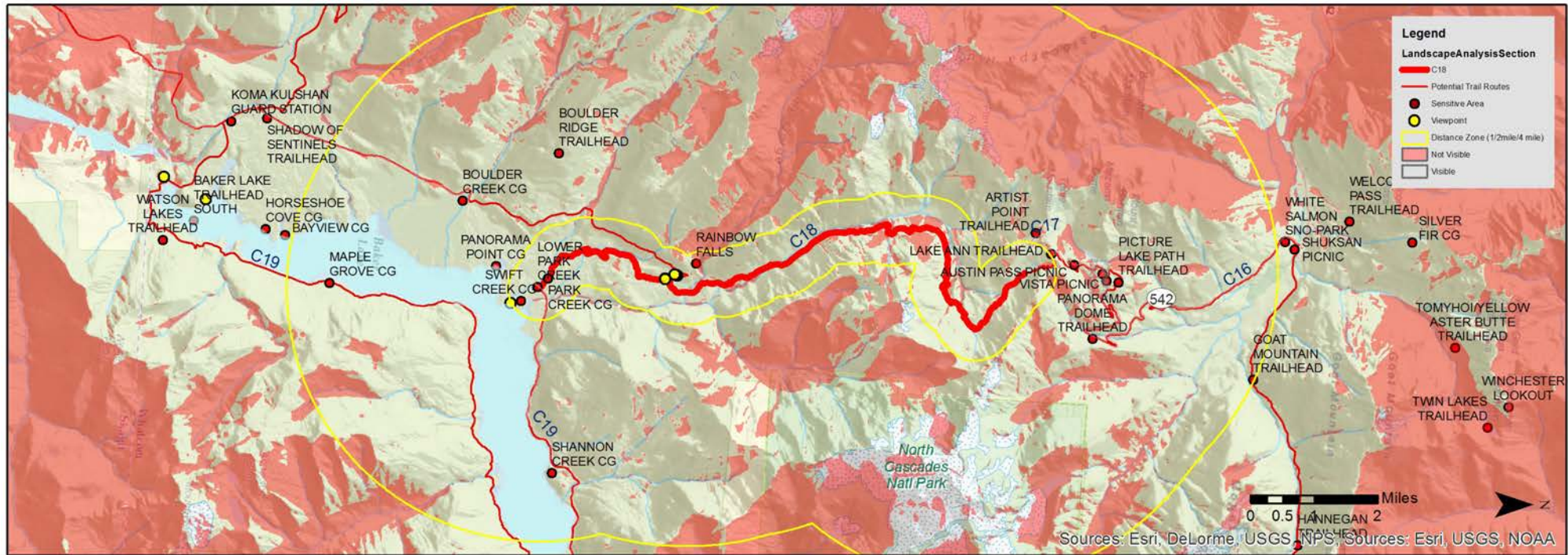
SCENIC CHARACTER

The Swift Creek unit is characterized by a high-gradient creek fed by persistent snowpack at upper elevations. The creek has cut a narrow valley through forest. At upper elevations, forests are primarily silver fir and mountain hemlock, adapted to colder climes and deeper snowpack. Lower elevation forests have western hemlock, Doug fir, and, western red cedar. The Mount Baker Wilderness setting is primitive and solitary. Views are limited by topography and vegetation.

Aerial Overview



UNIT MAP



VISUAL QUALITY/SCENIC ATTRACTIVENESS

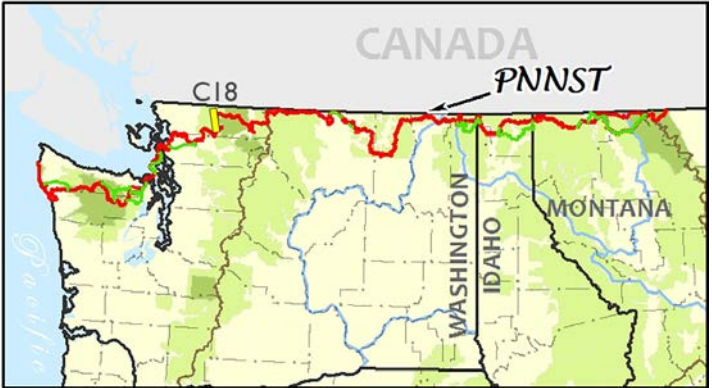
	Rating	Explanation or Rationale
Landform	4	Stream valley.
Vegetation	5	Old growth high elevation forest; lowland pacific northwest forest; riparian area.
Water	4	High-gradient stream.
Color	3	Evergreen.
Adjacent Scenery	4	Mostly foreground views.
Scarcity	2	Locally common.
Cultural Modification	0	Little modification.
Total	22	RATING = A-

Visual Inventory Form

Zone: 3 - North Cascades  
Unit # C18 Swift Creek

Date: 08/28/15  
Jurisdiction (s): US Forest Service

LOCATION MAP



VISIBILITY

Viewsheds/ Screening/ Distance Zone	Mostly foreground.
Sensitivity/ Concern Level	Moderate to High.

SCENIC INTEGRITY

Level of Naturalness	High to Moderate
Wholeness	High to Moderate



PACIFIC NORTHWEST NATIONAL SCENIC TRAIL





Viewpoint #01



Viewpoint #02



Viewpoint #03



Viewpoint #04

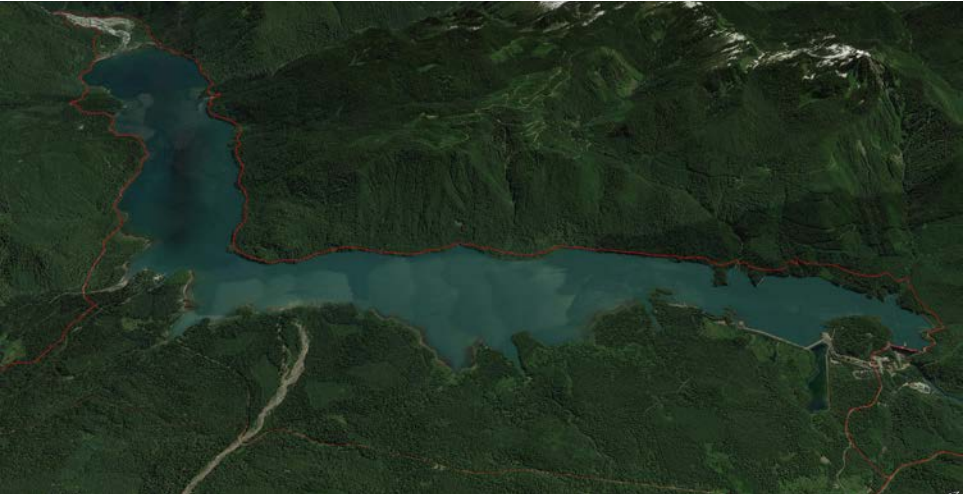




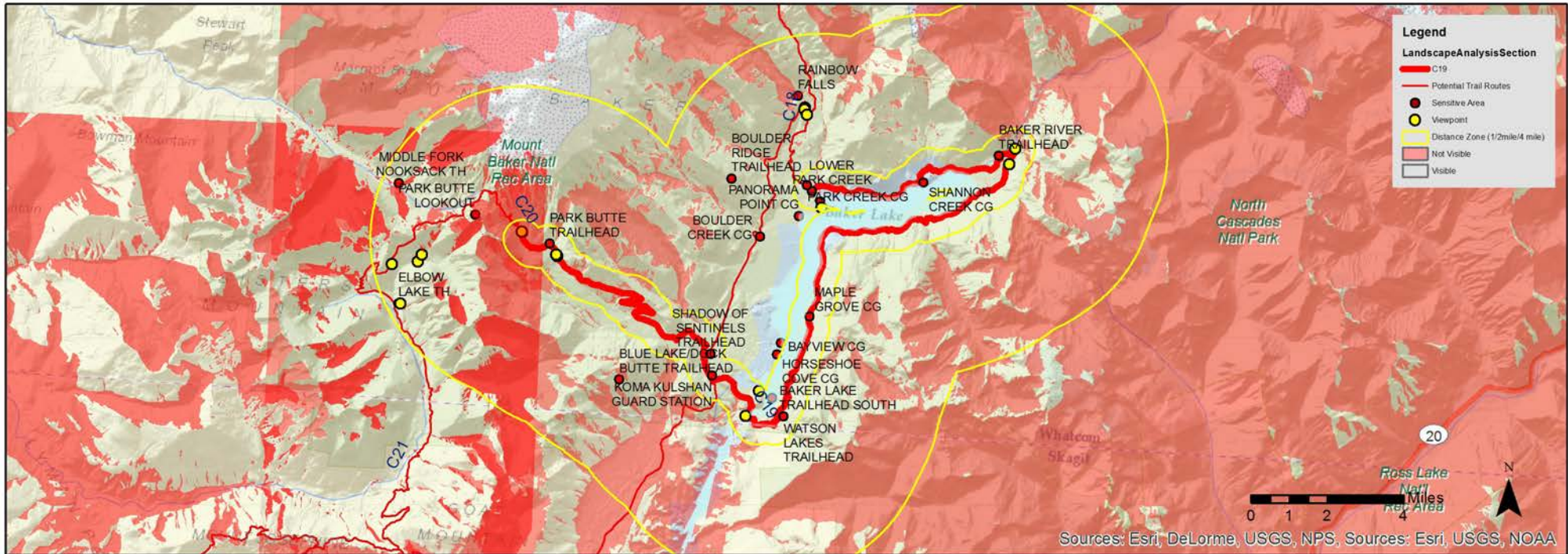
SCENIC CHARACTER

Baker Lake is the essence of this unit. It is a reservoir created by the impoundment of the glacial fed Baker River for hydroelectric power. It is also a popular recreation area. Situated in a broad valley between snowcapped peaks, iconic MT Baker is the focal point. A wet maritime climate nurtures forests of large trees and dense understory.

Aerial Overview



UNIT MAP



VISUAL QUALITY/SCENIC ATTRACTIVENESS

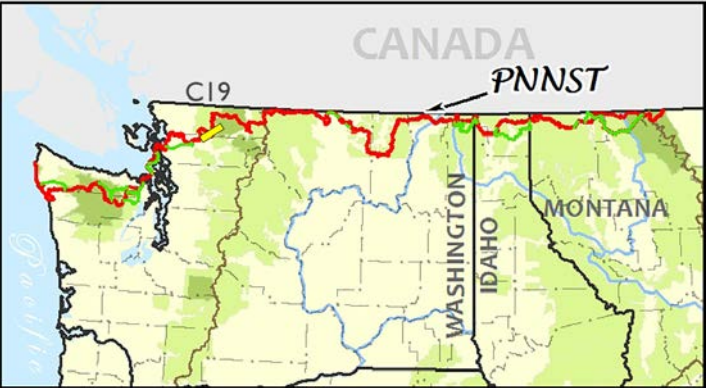
	Rating	Explanation or Rationale
Landform	4	Rock outcrops, steep canyons, and a large waterbody. Mt. Baker rises in the background.
Vegetation	4	High diversity of lush vegetation that includes ferns, western red cedar, and fir trees as well as a thick understory.
Water	5	Waterbodies are prominent in this unit. There is Mt Baker Lake and River as well as other tributaries.
Color	3	Average forest color scheme of yellow, brown, and green hues against the beautiful whites and grey shades of Mt Baker as well as blues of Baker Lake.
Adjacent Scenery	5	With Mt. Baker and other dramatically forested mountain tops in the background of Baker Lake, the surrounding scenery is breathtaking and highly valued.
Scarcity	3	Moderate significance is given to the landscape character and associated elements because certain components, such as the lake, dam, and plants, create local interest.
Cultural Modification	1	The Guard Station and dam add two interesting visual elements to this unit's landscape character.
Total	26	RATING = A

Visual Inventory Form

Zone: 3 - North Cascades  
Unit # C19 Baker Lake

Date: 08/26/15  
Jurisdiction (s): US Forest Service

LOCATION MAP



VISIBILITY

Viewsheds/ Screening/ Distance Zone	Foreground is Baker Lake, but heavy screening occurs at certain points. Middleground views are limited, but at times, canyons and mountain tops are seen. Mt Baker is seen in the background.
Sensitivity/ Concern Level	High concern levels along this section of trail because of the expansive views provided at times at areas around the lake as well as the breathtaking background.

SCENIC INTEGRITY

Level of Naturalness	Medium level because, for the most part, most of the landscape is intact. Some human use has modified the area for recreational purposes or power generation.
Wholeness	Medium to high level because a great area of the natural landscape functions as collective. Only certain areas have been divided by human presence.



PACIFIC NORTHWEST NATIONAL SCENIC TRAIL





Viewpoint #01



Viewpoint #02



Viewpoint #03



Viewpoint #04

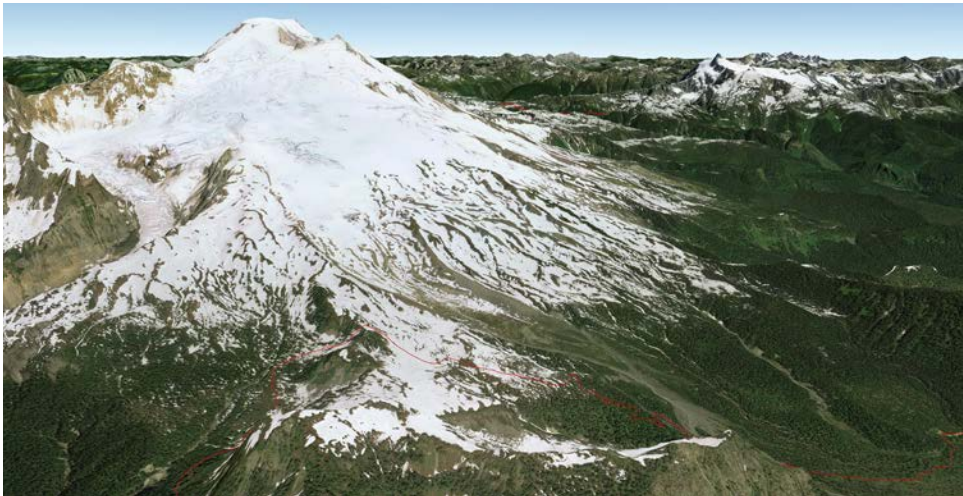




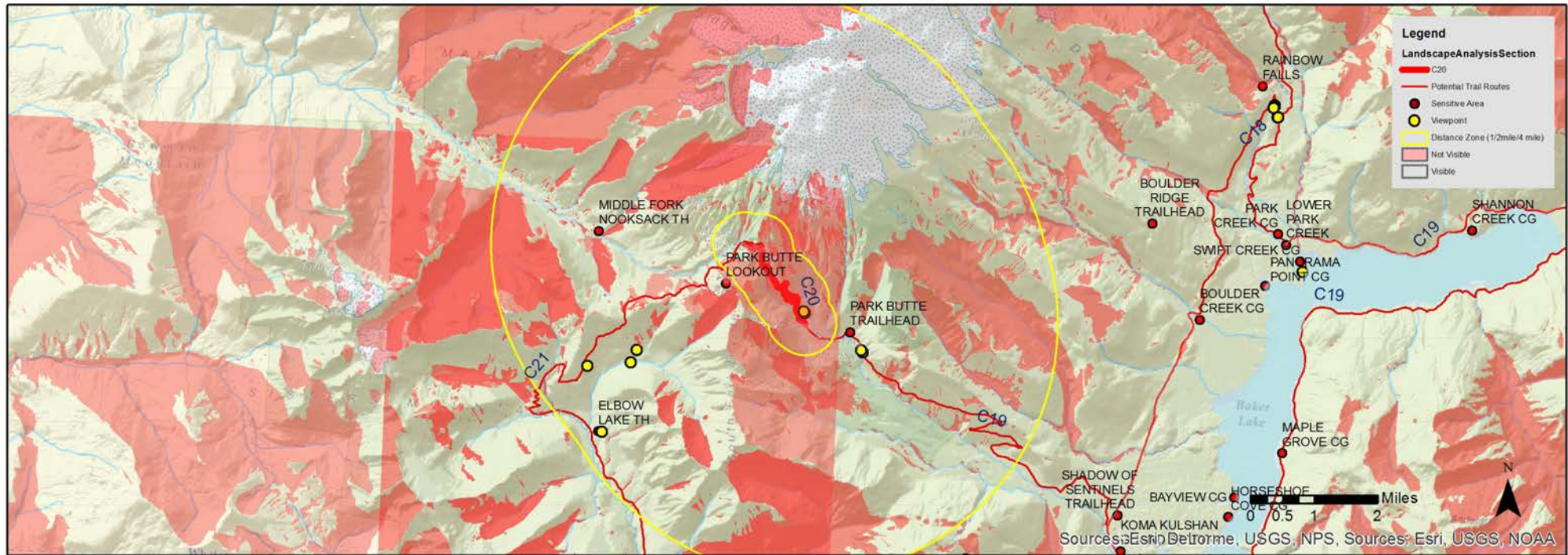
SCENIC CHARACTER

The Mount Baker unit is an area of high elevation on the flanks of the massive stratovolcano. Extensive glacier fields and extremely high annual snow fall give the classic mountain a year-round aurora. Its size and reflective nature make it an impressive landmark from many distance zones as it rises up from an apron of expansive, mixed coniferous forest. Craggy rock, arêtes, moraines, and cirques, instill a nascent quality to the landscape. The rugged ridge of Twin Sisters Mountain is also a prominent landmark. High-gradient streams rush down with sediment laden glacial melt. Trees are patchy and stunted. Rock and herbaceous plants dominate. The area is designated as a National Recreation Area.

Aerial Overview



UNIT MAP



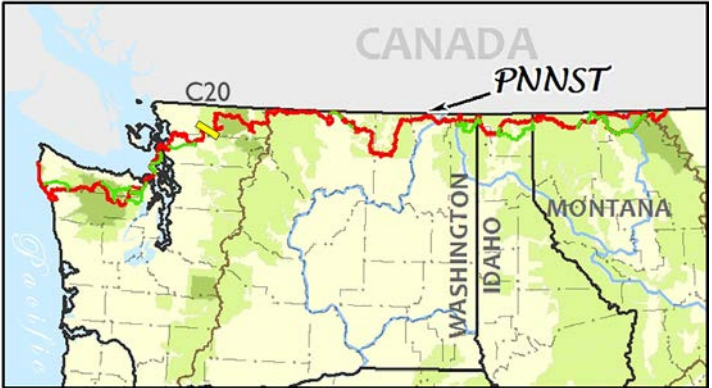
VISUAL QUALITY/SCENIC ATTRACTIVENESS

	Rating	Explanation or Rationale
Landform	5	Beautiful Mt Baker and it's environs are the defining features for this terrain.
Vegetation	4	Mix of conifer and deciduous trees, thick understory growth, and wildflower meadows. Ferns are not as prominent in this unit.
Water	3	Moderately significant in this unit. Rough water in both the local rivers and streams.
Color	3	Fairly common yellows, greens, and browns found in the forest, with the exception of beautiful color schemes coming out when the wildflowers are blooming.
Adjacent Scenery	4	Surrounding glaciers, meadows, riparian areas, and forested land create a dynamic and visually appealing scene around this unit.
Scarcity	3	Mt Baker is an appealing and highly valued landscape that is locally unique. It holds some regional significance since other mountains exist that exhibit this character.
Cultural Modification	0	No notable man made elements detract or add visual significance to the landscape.
Total	23	RATING = A

Zone: 3 - North Cascades  
Unit # C20 Mt Baker

Date: 08/26/15  
Jurisdiction (s): US Forest Service

LOCATION MAP



VISIBILITY

Viewsheds/ Screening/ Distance Zone	Foreground includes sights of heavy vegetation growth. Middle-ground and background views are glimpses of Mt. Baker and other ridge tops.
Sensitivity/ Concern Level	Very high concern for this section of trail because many people use the area and it has high scenic integrity.

SCENIC INTEGRITY

Level of Naturalness	High level of natural landscape character with minimal to no human use activities occurring or prevalent.
Wholeness	High level because much of the natural landscape is intact and functions as a perceivable collective.



PACIFIC NORTHWEST NATIONAL SCENIC TRAIL

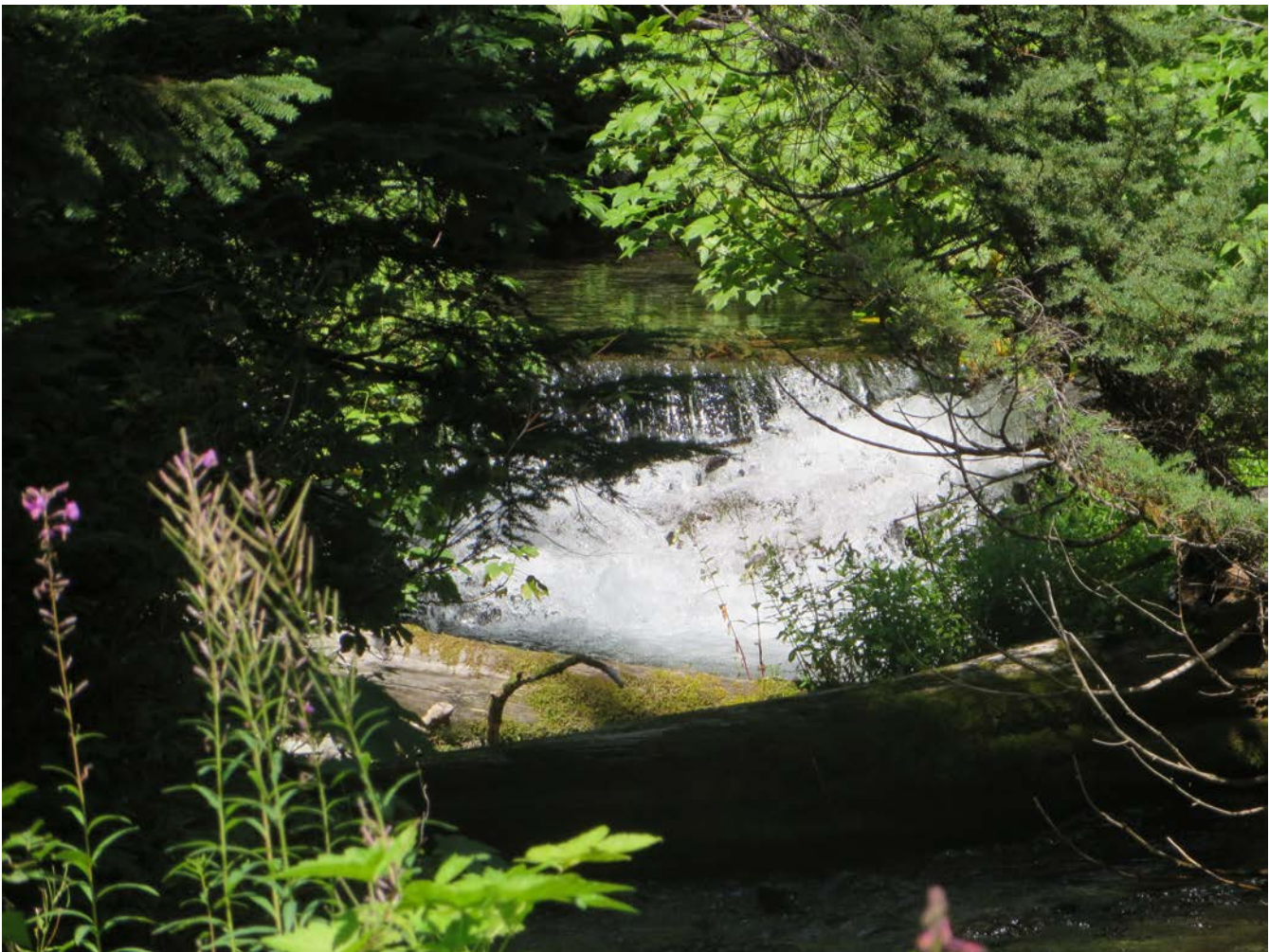




Viewpoint - Panorama #01



Viewpoint #02



Viewpoint #03

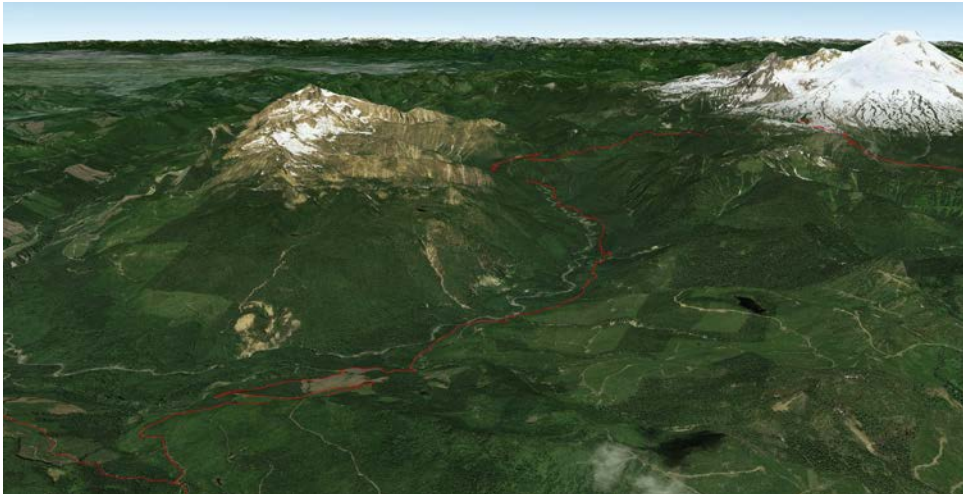




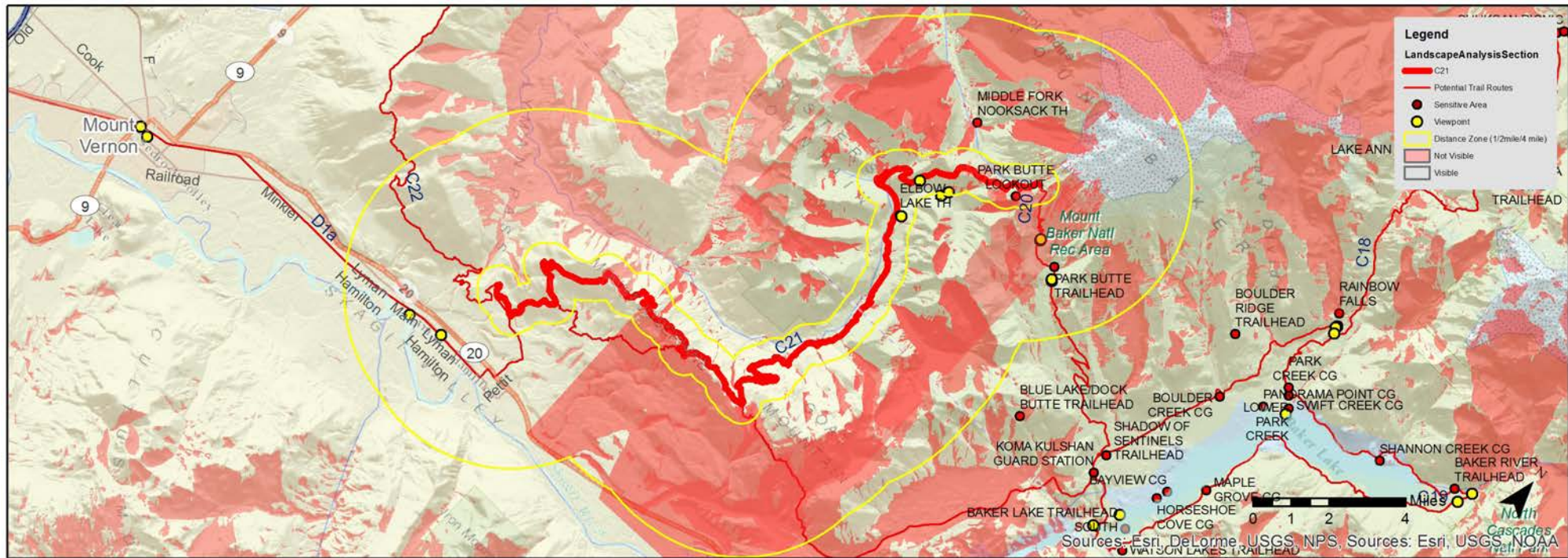
SCENIC CHARACTER

The South Fork of the Nooksack River is characterized by a moderate-gradient, large stream. Clear water cuts through deposited gravel point bars. Woody debris and boulders impound plunge pools. Riparian vegetation colonizes river banks and alluvial terraces. The creek corridor welcomes sun into an area dominated by dark forest. At upper elevations, mountain hemlock and silver fir are the primary trees. Lower elevations have western red cedar, western hemlock, and, Doug fir. Land ownership can be deciphered by the magnitude of timber harvesting. Private ownership has extensive timber management with active cuts and plantations in early seral stages. Climate is wet and mild, buffered by the Pacific Ocean.

Aerial Overview



UNIT MAP



VISUAL QUALITY/SCENIC ATTRACTIVENESS

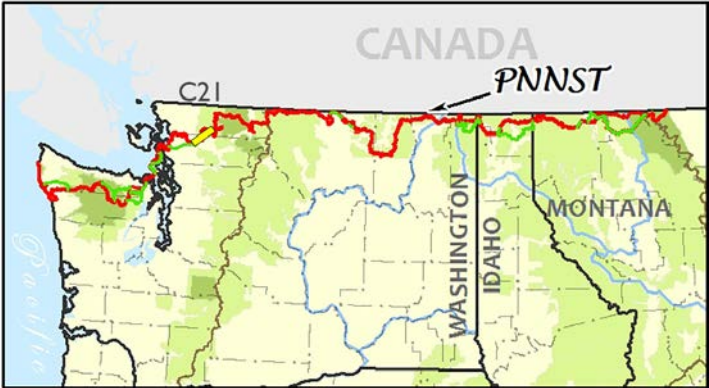
	Rating	Explanation or Rationale
Landform	3	River Valley.
Vegetation	4	Riparian area; diverse forest.
Water	5	High-gradient, medium order stream.
Color	3	Riparian vegetation.
Adjacent Scenery	5	MT Baker and Cascade Mountains.
Scarcity	3	Locally unique.
Cultural Modification	0	No notable man made elements detract or add visual significance to the landscape.
Total	23	RATING = A-

Visual Inventory Form

Zone: 3 - North Cascades  
Unit # C2I South Fork Nooksack River

Date: 08/26/15  
Jurisdiction (s): US Forest Service, WA DNR

LOCATION MAP



VISIBILITY

Viewsheds/ Screening/ Distance Zone	Constrained by vegetation with windows to further distance zones.
Sensitivity/ Concern Level	Moderate to High.

SCENIC INTEGRITY

Level of Naturalness	Moderate to High.
Wholeness	Moderate to High.



PACIFIC NORTHWEST NATIONAL SCENIC TRAIL





Viewpoint - Panorama #01

Viewpoint #02

Viewpoint #03



for the greatest good



SCENIC CHARACTER

The Lyman Hill unit is characterized by the land use of logging. Ownership is primarily private or Washington State. The amount of rainfall and productive forests render it premium timberland. Timber management has simplified forest composition to maximize production and imposed strong rectilinear geometries. Landform is an undulating decline to the west. Lyman Hill is a noticeable high point. Western vantages provide expansive views of Puget Sound region.

Aerial Overview



UNIT MAP



VISUAL QUALITY/SCENIC ATTRACTIVENESS

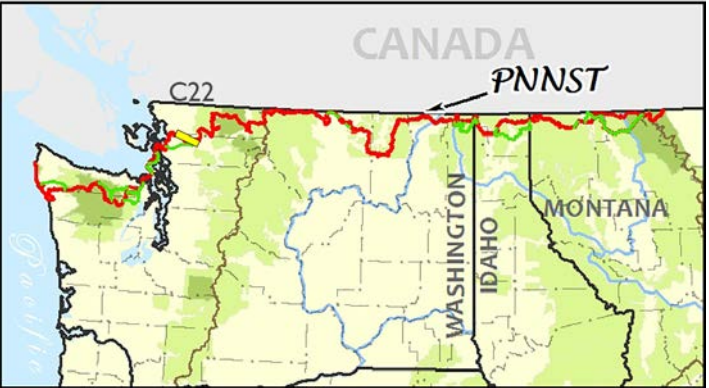
	Rating	Explanation or Rationale
Landform	2	Hills to mountain slopes that eventually move into a valley bottom.
Vegetation	3	Mix of deciduous and conifer type of plants that are harvested by logging operations.
Water	2	The Samish River runs through this unit. The river is fairly shallow, almost a wetland corridor instead of a moving body of water.
Color	1	Mundane forest colors, such as yellow, green, and brown with shades of grey. Water related features break up this monotony slightly with interesting blue hues.
Adjacent Scenery	2	Views of Puget Sound add visual quality. The other portion of surrounding landscape, mostly forested land impacted by timber operations, doesn't really add any more scenic quality.
Scarcity	1	Slight local differences make this unit interesting, but regionally it is just another piece of forested land.
Cultural Modification	1	Human use adds slight visual interest to the local landscape.
Total	12	RATING = B-

Visual Inventory Form

Zone: 3 - North Cascades  
Unit # C22 Lyman Hill

Date: 08/27/15  
Jurisdiction (s): WA DNR, Private

LOCATION MAP



VISIBILITY

Viewsheds/ Screening/ Distance Zone	Foreground views are screened by dense forest vegetation. Some views of mountain slopes are seen in the middleground. Topography renders views of the background.
Sensitivity/ Concern Level	Medium concern for this section of trail because weather conditions promote fast vegetation growth and most of the area is used for harvesting timber.

SCENIC INTEGRITY

Level of Naturalness	Low to medium levels because a great portion of the landscape is impacted by timber operations, but high amounts of rain promotes fast vegetation growth.
Wholeness	Low to medium level because the original natural systems that were in place have now been fragmented. Smaller areas work as a collective of natural scenery.



PACIFIC NORTHWEST NATIONAL SCENIC TRAIL





Viewpoint - Panorama #01

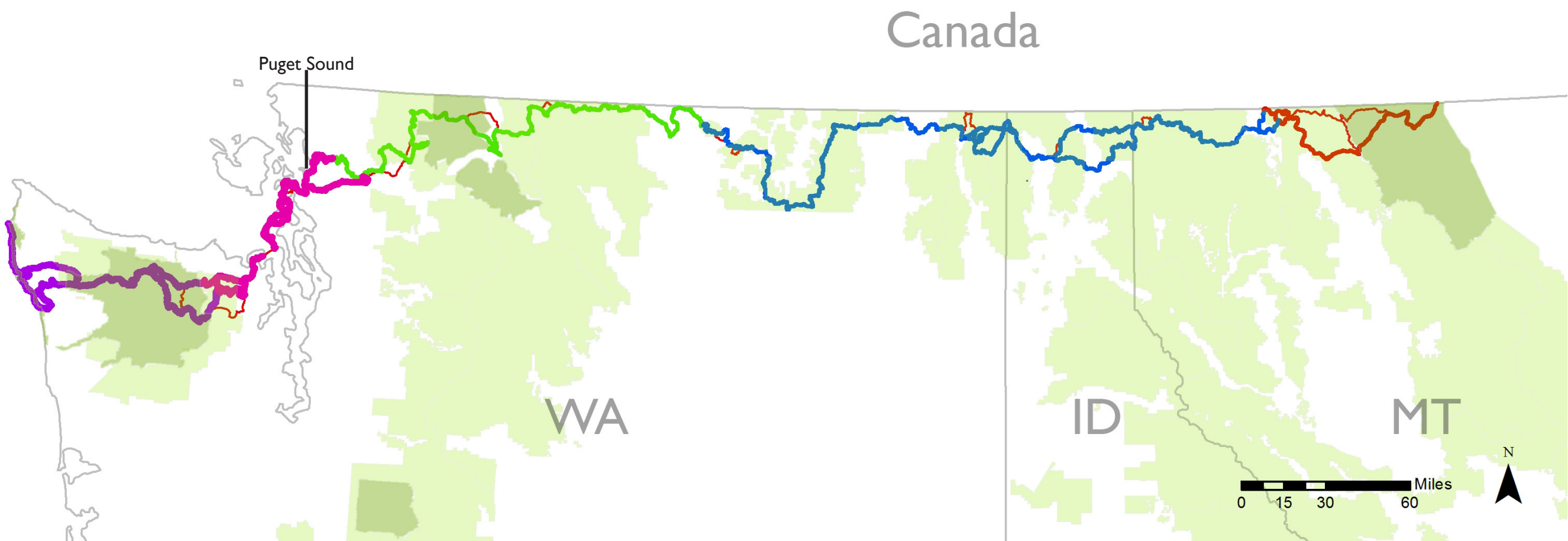
Viewpoint #02

Viewpoint #03





# Puget Sound Index:



D1 - Lake Samish  
Pg: 135 - 136

D1a - Skagit River Valley  
Pg: 137 - 138

D2 - Puget Sound  
Pg: 139 - 140

D3 - Fidalgo Island  
Pg: 141 - 142

D4 - Whidbey Island  
Pg: 143 - 144

D4a - Oak Harbor  
Pg: 145 - 146

D5 - Quimper Peninsula  
Pg: 147 - 148

D6 - Dungeness River  
Pg: 149 - 150

D6a - Mt. Zion  
Pg: 151 - 152





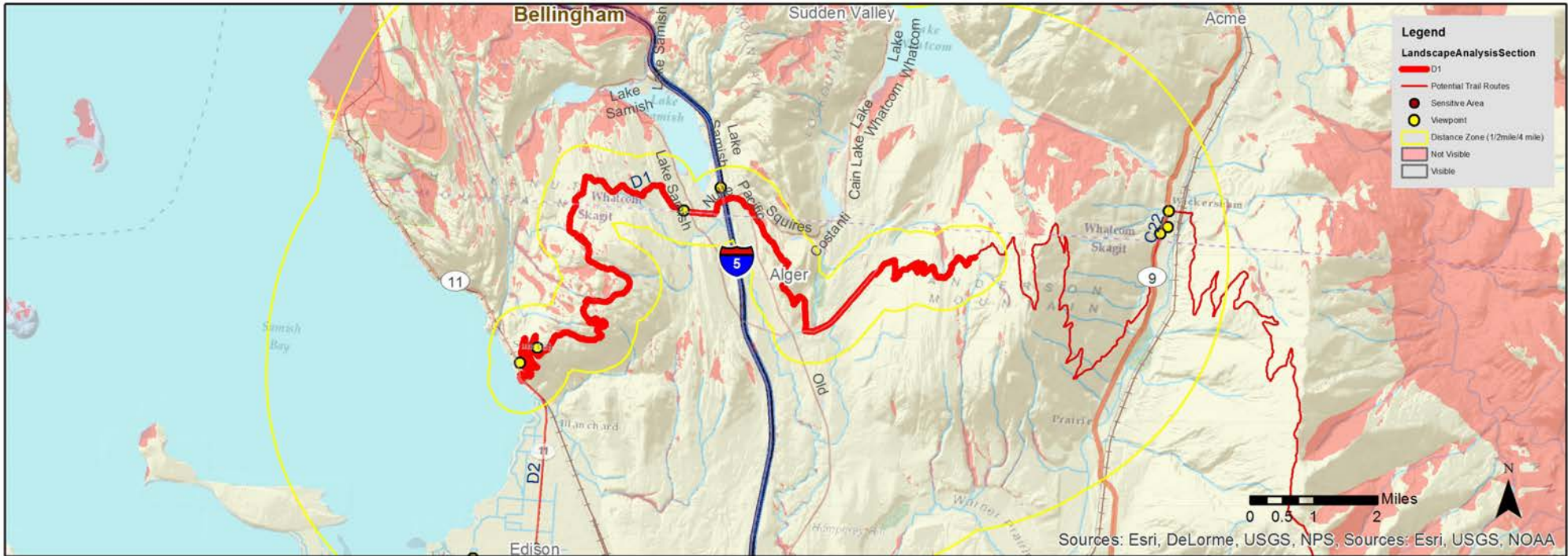
SCENIC CHARACTER

The Lake Samish unit is made up of rolling ridges and foothills. It is an area of transition between the lowlands of the Puget Sound and the higher elevations of the Cascades. Vegetation is a mix of both regions. Precipitation is higher than the Puget Sound areas but less than Cascades. Low density, rural residential development imbues sections with pastoral qualities. Private and state timber land have active cutting. Thick regeneration of plantation-like forests and human-made rectilinear geometry characterize the timber ground. The trail crosses under Interstate I-5, the only major interstate crossing along the trail. Recreational and residential land uses along Lake Samish add charm. Vantages with expansive views are intermittent, but views are typically screened by vegetation. Mt Baker and Twin Sister Mountains loom to the east.

Aerial Overview



UNIT MAP



VISUAL QUALITY/SCENIC ATTRACTIVENESS

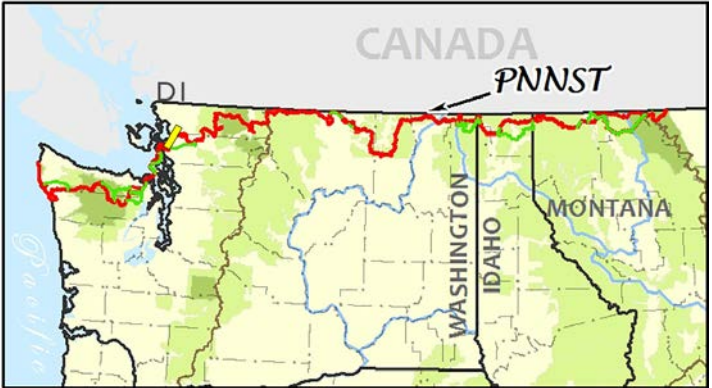
	Rating	Explanation or Rationale
Landform	3	Rolling ridges and foothills; Blanchard Hill is a landmark
Vegetation	4	Mixed-coniferous forest; Timber plantations
Water	2	Not a defining feature for this unit, but there are views of the sound at the overlook.
Color	2	Mostly variations of green hues.
Adjacent Scenery	3	Surrounding scenery, such as Puget Sound, is fascinating, but isn't seen much while in the unit.
Scarcity	1	Not very significant or mentionable in terms of character for the area.
Cultural Modification	-2	I - 5 and above ground utilities create a patchy network of differing landscapes.
Total	13	RATING = B-

Visual Inventory Form

Zone: 2 - Puget Sound  
Unit # D1 Lake Samish

Date: 08/27/15  
Jurisdiction (s): WA DNR, Private

LOCATION MAP



VISIBILITY

Viewsheds/ Screening/ Distance Zone	Views in the foreground are limited due to vegetation screening, little to no middleground and background views. View of Puget Sound from Samish Overlook.
Sensitivity/ Concern Level	High Concern due to its natural qualities among a very modified landscape.

SCENIC INTEGRITY

Level of Naturalness	Low level due to evident utility lines, timber harvest operations, and the large I - 5 corridor.
Wholeness	Low level with many man made structures fragmenting the landscape.

PACIFIC NORTHWEST NATIONAL SCENIC TRAIL

for the greatest good



Viewpoint #01



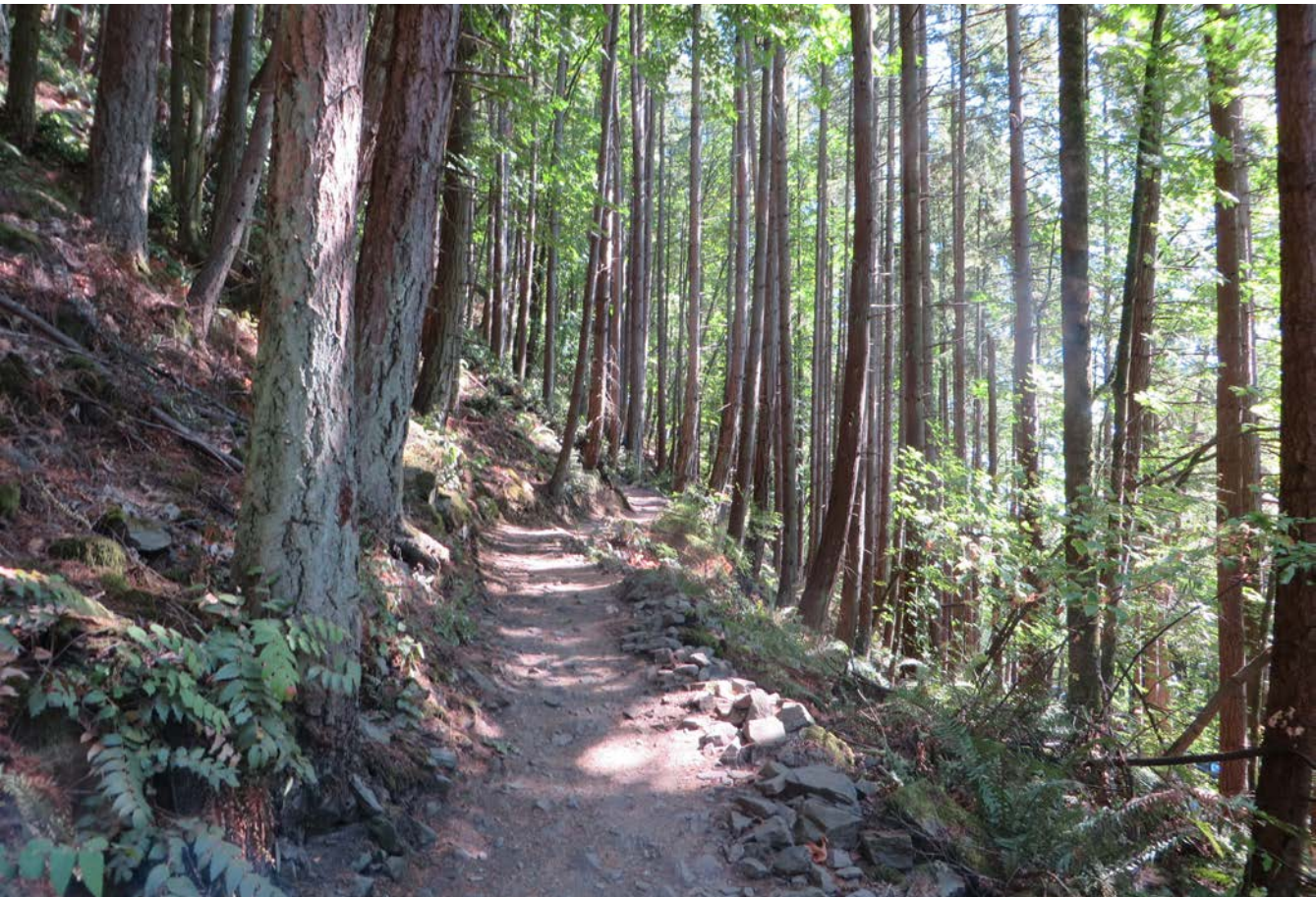
Viewpoint #03



Viewpoint #02



Viewpoint #04





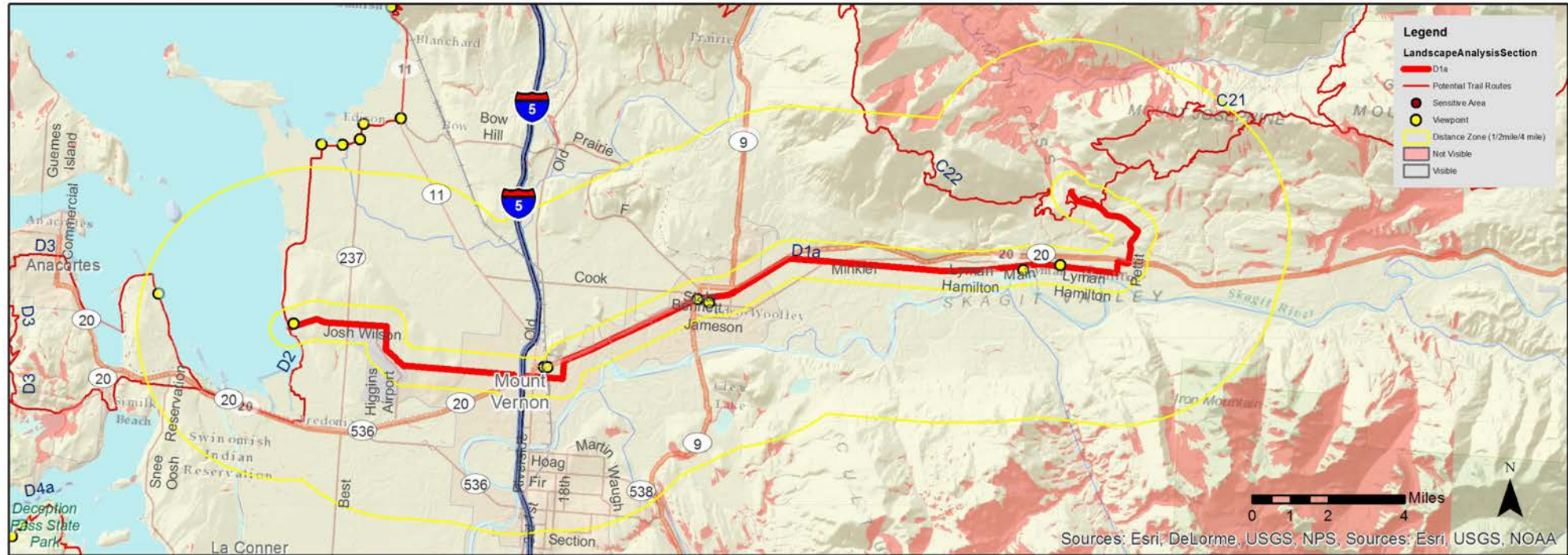
SCENIC CHARACTER

The Skagit River Valley unit is composed of floodplains and terraces. Western red cedar forest, western hemlock forest, and both riverine and wet-land habitat were common before the 19th century. Subsequently, many of the wetlands were drained. Pastures, cropland, forests, and urban centers now dominate the landscape. In sections, a re-purposed rail line is the trail platform. The trail corridor stitches together riparian area, patchwork of agriculture, residential and industrial development. The urban fabric of Sedro-Wooley and Burlington are brought into the fold. These cheerful communities provide lodging, fare, and, leisure for weary travelers. Views are often screened by vegetation and other land cover. The iconic Mt Baker is looms over the area.

Aerial Overview



UNIT MAP



VISUAL QUALITY/SCENIC ATTRACTIVENESS

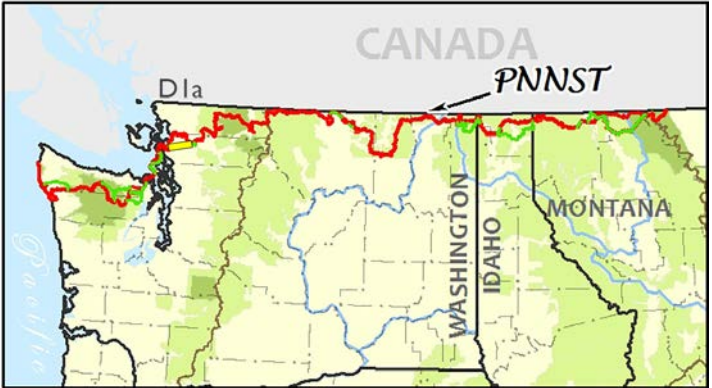
	Rating	Explanation or Rationale
Landform	1	Fragmented landscape, flat valley bottom.
Vegetation	3	Crops, cottonwoods line irrigation ditches.
Water	2	Irrigation ditches.
Color	3	Fall color, green agricultural land.
Adjacent Scenery	2	Hillsides of conifers.
Scarcity	1	Typical rural landscape.
Cultural Modification	2	Rail-to-trails and small towns of Hamilton, Lyman, Sedro-Wooley, and Burlington add to the uniqueness of the area, but portions of the built environment detract as well.
Total	14	RATING = B-

Visual Inventory Form

Zone: 2 - Puget Sound  
Unit # D1a Skagit River Valley

Date: 08/27/15  
Jurisdiction (s): Private

LOCATION MAP



VISIBILITY

Viewsheds/ Screening/ Distance Zone	Views are limited by screening of adjacent vegetation and built structures, but do open up in a few areas.
Sensitivity/ Concern Level	High concern because the the high use and population density.

SCENIC INTEGRITY

Level of Naturalness	Low levels of naturalness.
Wholeness	Fragmented landscape, low.



PACIFIC NORTHWEST NATIONAL SCENIC TRAIL





Viewpoint #01



Viewpoint #03



Viewpoint #02



Viewpoint #04



for the greatest good



SCENIC CHARACTER

The Puget Sound unit is composed of floodplains, terraces, and coastline. Elevation is mostly flat and at sea level. Western red cedar forest, western hemlock forest, and both riverine and wetland habitat were common before the 19th century. Subsequently, many of the wetlands were drained. Pastures, cropland, forests, and, residential and industrial uses now dominate the landscape. Views out across open water are dynamic- changing with tides, weather, and, lighting. Mudflats are characterizing elements with rich assemblages of coastal life, such as foraging shore birds. Industrial uses often create juxtaposition with natural coastal scenes. Verdant, western San Juan Islands are seen in the background. Inland views are more limited by topography and land cover, but often expansive, with the Cascade Mountains in the background. A section of pier spans open water allowing for unique perspective into bay life.

Aerial Overview



UNIT MAP



VISUAL QUALITY/SCENIC ATTRACTIVENESS

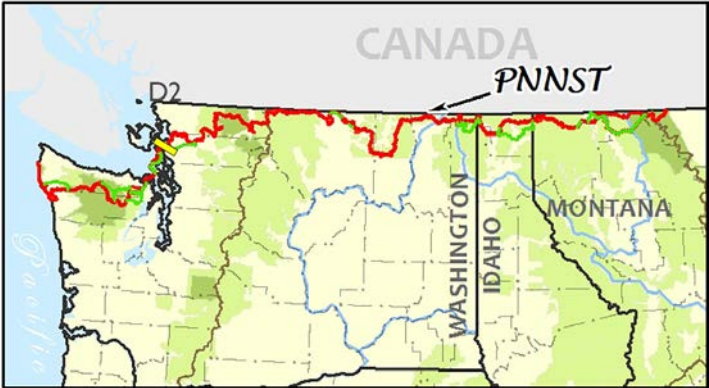
	Rating	Explanation or Rationale
Landform	2	Flat landscape consisting of seashore and mudflats.
Vegetation	2	Coastal vegetation such as salt grass as well as agricultural fields/pastures.
Water	4	Great views of Padilla and Fidalgo bays.
Color	2	Fairly common, bland coloring in brown and green color spectrum.
Adjacent Scenery	4	Diversity of natural elements, such as bays and parks, and man made structures, such as highway 20 and a refinery, create an interesting landscape mosaic.
Scarcity	4	Natural and man made elements make this unit unique and create interesting character in comparison to other units in the regional area.
Cultural Modification	-4 / +4	Many man made structures, such as roads, a refinery, and residential housing are prevalent but seem to be balanced out by the enormous setting of the bay, local parks, and coastline.
Total	18	RATING = A-

Visual Inventory Form

Zone: 2 - Puget Sound  
Unit # D2 Puget Sound

Date: 08/27/15  
Jurisdiction (s): Private

LOCATION MAP



VISIBILITY

Viewsheds/ Screening/ Distance Zone	Foreground and middleground views are dominated by the modern coastal landscape of natural and man made elements. Background view includes Mt. Baker to the east.
Sensitivity/ Concern Level	High Concern due to its natural qualities among a very modified landscape.

SCENIC INTEGRITY

Level of Naturalness	Low level due to the introduction of many man made elements, such as a refinery, highway 20, and town features into a less dominant natural landscape.
Wholeness	Low level with many diverse elements creating the landscape rather than a few.

PACIFIC NORTHWEST NATIONAL SCENIC TRAIL

for the greatest good



Viewpoint - Panorama #01



Viewpoint #02



Viewpoint #03

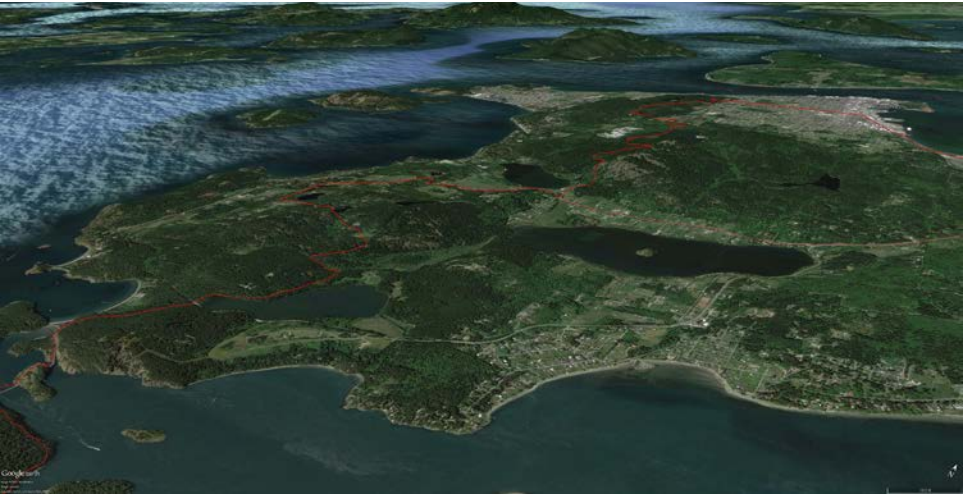




SCENIC CHARACTER

The glacial-scoured Fidalgo Island unit is underlain by sedimentary rock. Well-drained, shallow soils are typical. It is in the rain shadow of the Olympic Mountains and receives less precipitation than adjacent areas. Young, dry forest grow on low relief hills between rural and residential development. Urban forest are composed of Doug fir, shore pine, bigleaf maple, pacific madrone, red alder, and have understories of salal and vine maple. Small lakes occur intermittently. Trail traverses along coastline in sections with expansive coastal views. Inland views are limited by topography and vegetation. In the north, trail samples the urban fabric of the picturesque coastal community of Anacortes,

Aerial Overview



UNIT MAP



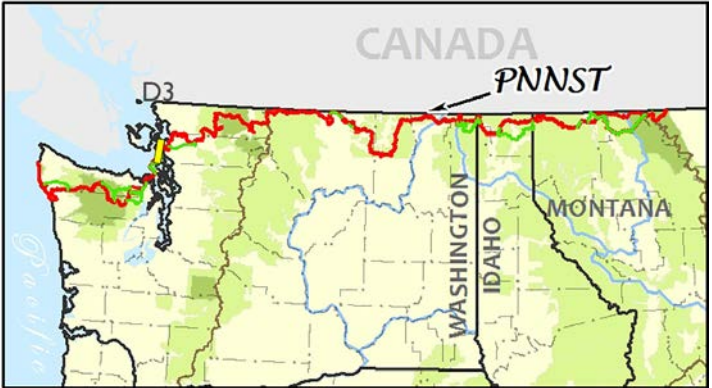
VISUAL QUALITY/SCENIC ATTRACTIVENESS

	Rating	Explanation or Rationale
Landform	2	Rocky shoreline and beach.
Vegetation	3	Thick coastal vegetation.
Water	4	Intermittent views of Fidalgo bay and the Strait of Juan de Fuca.
Color	2	Fairly common, bland coloring in brown and green color spectrum.
Adjacent Scenery	3	Interplay between the local community of Anacortes, corresponding coastline, and natural landscape gives a uniqueness to this unit.
Scarcity	4	Natural elements coupled with the town of Anacortes give more than average interest to this unit.
Cultural Modification	-2 / +4	Some elements of Anacortes detract from the character of this unit, but overall, the urban/ coastal landscape of this town positively influences the natural aspects of this unit.
Total	20	RATING = A-

Zone: 2 - Puget Sound  
Unit # D3 Fidalgo Island

Date: 08/28/15  
Jurisdiction (s): Washington State Park, Private

LOCATION MAP



VISIBILITY

Viewsheds/ Screening/ Distance Zone	Foreground includes intermittent views of the coast, but at times this view is closed/screened. Background zone is populated by distant views of Mt. Baker.
Sensitivity/ Concern Level	Very high concern to preserve views of Mt. Baker and surrounding coastal environment from encroaching town elements or man made structures.

SCENIC INTEGRITY

Level of Naturalness	Low level due to the widespread conversion and incorporation of natural land into the town of Anacortes as well as surrounding residential development.
Wholeness	Medium to low level with the town of Anacortes having a strong sense of community but at the same time the natural landscape being fragmented.



PACIFIC NORTHWEST NATIONAL SCENIC TRAIL





Viewpoint - Panorama #01



Viewpoint #02



Viewpoint #03





SCENIC CHARACTER

Whidbey Island is separated from Fidalgo Island by a dramatic rocky strait, Deception Pass. The unit receives, on the average, only 10 to 40 inches of precipitation each year, depending on location. Loamy soils support pasture land, cropland, forest, and, woodland. Trail primarily follows coastline with sections of chalky bluffs lined with coniferous trees. It bumps inland around Whidbey Island Naval Air Base that adds a militaristic mystique. It passes through woodlot, rural and residential development, which creates a tapestry of agriculture, pasture, and, ornamental plantings. The National Park Service unit, Ebey's Landing National Historic Reserve, actively conserves open space through the historic preservation of Euro-American settlement era agriculture. Views along coast are expansive, and those inland are typically screened by vegetation and topography. Coupeville is a rich artist community with good food and friendly neighborhood streets.

Aerial Overview



UNIT MAP



VISUAL QUALITY/SCENIC ATTRACTIVENESS

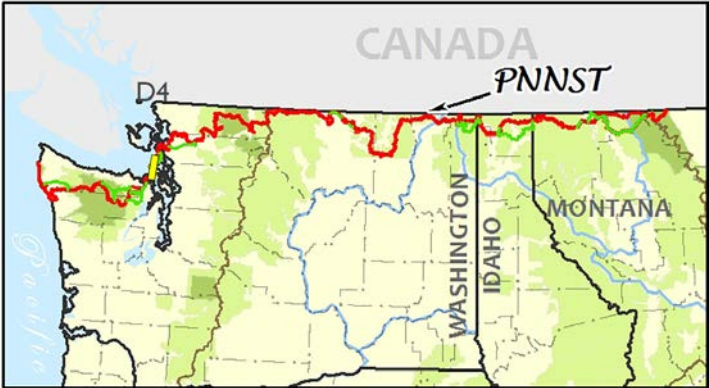
	Rating	Explanation or Rationale
Landform	4	Flat landscape intergrades with some hills. Coast and beaches are rocky.
Vegetation	3	Coastal vegetation such as native shrubs with berries and ferns- thick understory.
Water	4	Unit surrounded by notable views of the Strait of Juan de Fuca and outer limits of the Puget Sound.
Color	3	Average color scheme of blues, browns, and greens mixed with some interesting colors from flowering plants makes the scenery pleasing, but nothing more than that.
Adjacent Scenery	2	Adjacent scenery to the unit doesn't improve character, rather it detracts to create a somewhat distracting element.
Scarcity	4	A more than average rating for this unit was given due to the interesting landscape that was created after man made structures were thoughtfully placed among natural elements.
Cultural Modification	4	A seemingly smooth transition between natural and man made elements on the island create a strong sense of place. This gives a more than average score for this unit.
Total	24	RATING = A

Visual Inventory Form

Zone: 2 - Puget Sound  
Unit # D4 Whidbey Island

Date: 08/28/15  
Jurisdiction (s): Washington State Park, Private

LOCATION MAP



VISIBILITY

Viewsheds/ Screening/ Distance Zone	Foreground includes dramatic views but they are mostly screened by vegetation. Limited middleground except along the coastline. Background view is of the coastline.
Sensitivity/ Concern Level	High concern to keep views of the coast preserved because it is a very attractive visual element to this unit.

SCENIC INTEGRITY

Level of Naturalness	Low level due to much of the landscape being modified for human use.
Wholeness	Low level due to vast differences in land activities and landscape character throughout this unit.

PACIFIC NORTHWEST NATIONAL SCENIC TRAIL





Viewpoint #01



Viewpoint #02



Viewpoint #03



Viewpoint #04





SCENIC CHARACTER

Whidbey Island is separated from Fidalgo Island by a dramatic rocky strait, Deception Pass. The unit receives, on the average, only 10 to 40 inches of precipitation each year, depending on location. Loamy soils support pasture land, cropland, forest, and, woodland. In sections, trail follows coastline. It passes through patches of regenerating forests in others. Rural and residential development, create a tapestry of agriculture, pasture land, and, ornamental plantings. The National Park Service unit, Ebey's Landing National Historic Reserve, actively conserves open space through the historic preservation of Euro-American settlement era agriculture.Views along coast are expansive, and those inland are typically screened by vegetation. Oak Harbor and Coupeville are communities with rich artist communities and friendly neighborhood streets.

Aerial Overview



UNIT MAP



VISUAL QUALITY/SCENIC ATTRACTIVENESS

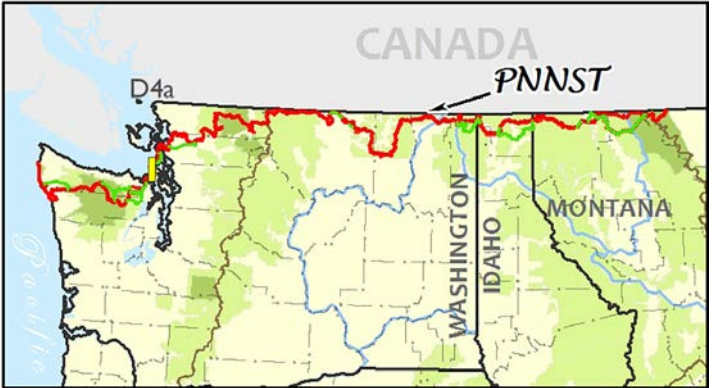
	Rating	Explanation or Rationale
Landform	2	Flat with some costal relief, shoreline, and a few inland hills.
Vegetation	2	Costal conifer vegetation, inland agricultural land crops, and berries.
Water	3	Cornet Bay.
Color	2	Moderate contrast in color.
Adjacent Scenery	3	Ocean bay.
Scarcity	2	Oak Harbor, Cornet Bay, and Deception State Park.
Cultural Modification	0	Housing and commercial developments contrast against the strong sense of place.
Total	14	RATING = B

Visual Inventory Form

Zone: 2 - Puget Sound  
Unit # D4a Oak Harbor

Date: 08/28/15  
Jurisdiction (s): Washington State Park, Private

LOCATION MAP



VISIBILITY

Viewsheds/ Screening/ Distance Zone	Views are primarily screened by vegetation however near the shoreline areas open up to expose wide open views.
Sensitivity/ Concern Level	High concern, populated.

SCENIC INTEGRITY

Level of Naturalness	Moderate to low.
Wholeness	Fragmented inland landscape.



PACIFIC NORTHWEST NATIONAL SCENIC TRAIL





Viewpoint - Panorama #01



Viewpoint #02



Viewpoint #03





SCENIC CHARACTER

The Quimper Peninsula unit is in the rain shadow of the Olympic Mountains. It is capped by the metropolitan community of Port Townsend, a cultural and social center. The community boasts tree-lined streets in well-established neighborhoods with classic architecture. Dense, young forests dominate land cover outside of residential, industrial, and, rural areas. Stands of broadleaf maple and alder soften mixed coniferous forest. Discovery Bay adds marine influence to the area, amplified when the trail is close to the brackish water. Tidal rhythms create dynamic scenes, such as mudflats that come and go. Views are limited to the middleground and screened by vegetation.

Aerial Overview



UNIT MAP



VISUAL QUALITY/SCENIC ATTRACTIVENESS

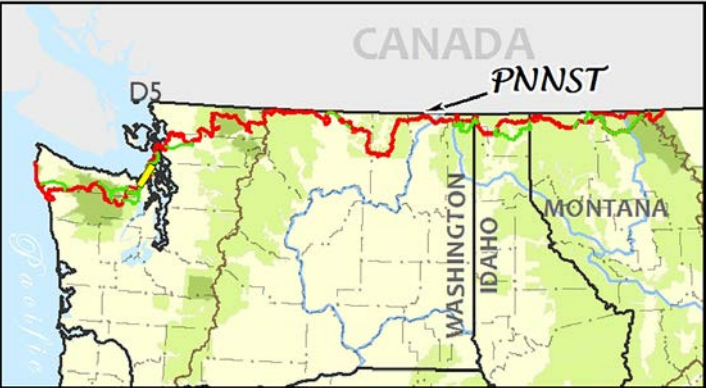
	Rating	Explanation or Rationale
Landform	3	Small hills to flat, coastal area.
Vegetation	3	Features various kinds of coastal vegetation.
Water	4	Views of Port Townsend Bay with limited views of Discovery Bay surround this unit.
Color	2	Various blues from the water bodies, greens of the vegetation, and browns/grays of the surrounding communities do not lend much color interest to the unit's landscape.
Adjacent Scenery	2	As in some other coastal units, the surrounding landscape does not contribute any more interest rather it almost detracts from the units character.
Scarcity	2	Locally, this unit is different than others. On the regional scale, it is just another unit exhibiting coastal qualities. In this case, reasoning of the latter determined the rating.
Cultural Modification	+4	Historic and community elements of Port Townsend, the ferry, and recreational features create a memorable landscape that is highly valued for this region.
Total	20	RATING = A

Visual Inventory Form

Zone: 2 - Puget Sound  
Unit # D5 Quimper Peninsula

Date: 08/29/15  
Jurisdiction (s): Private

LOCATION MAP



VISIBILITY

Viewsheds/ Screening/ Distance Zone	Foreground contains coastal views but these are screened inland. Middleground and Background views are only seen on the coast. Otherwise they do not exist.
Sensitivity/ Concern Level	High concern due to limited views of the coast from this unit.

SCENIC INTEGRITY

Level of Naturalness	Medium to low rating because small, natural tracts of landscape are intact, but signs of human use and/or structures throughout this unit are evident.
Wholeness	Low rating because the amount of natural elements are outweighed by a modified, dissimilar human landscape.

PACIFIC NORTHWEST NATIONAL SCENIC TRAIL



for the greatest good



Viewpoint #01



Viewpoint #03



Viewpoint #02



Viewpoint #04





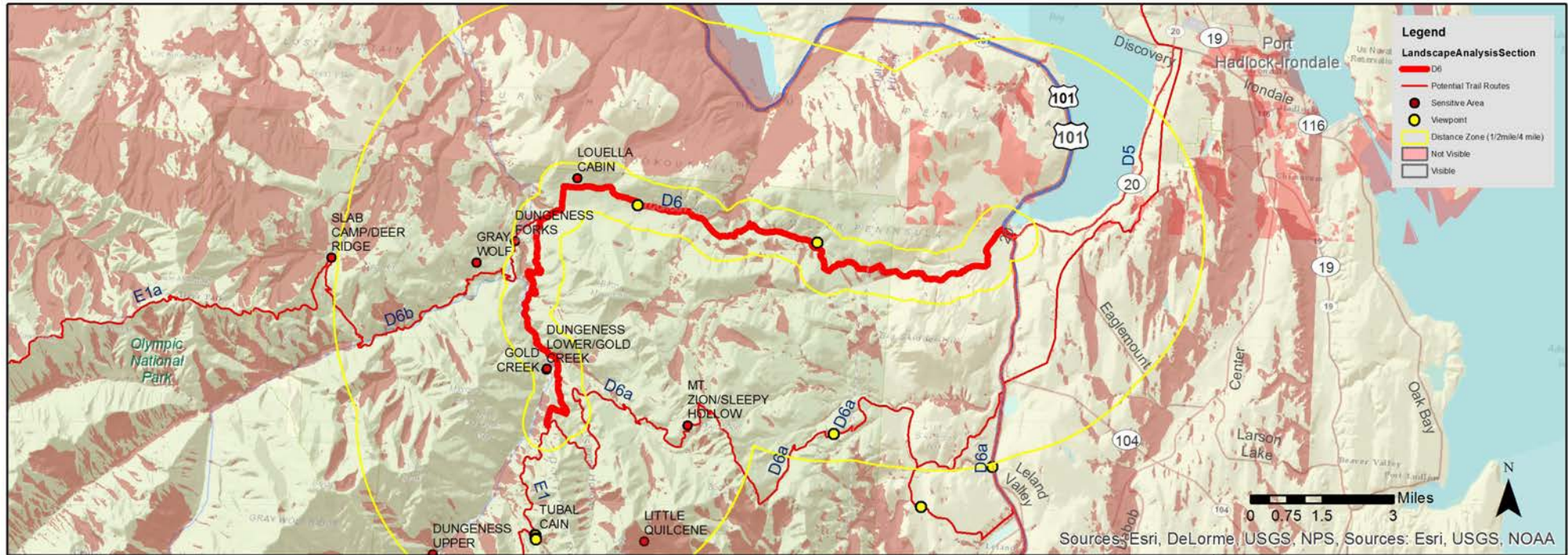
SCENIC CHARACTER

The Dungeness River unit is in the rain shadow of the Olympic Mountains. The amount of precipitation dictates the size and composition of plant communities. Mixed coniferous forest with patches of broadleaf trees, such as alder, is the predominant forest type. Rhododendron and salal are locally abundant in the understory. Streams on soils of glacial till, such as the Dungeness River, have low discharge, and their drainage pattern is often erratic. Loamy soils support pasture land, cropland, and woodland. Timber production is the predominant land use. Logging roads and active timber units are common. Federal ownership can be visually differentiated from private by the magnitude of timber production. Recreation is evident on Forest Service land in the form of campgrounds, trails, and the Buckhorn Wilderness. Landform is rolling foothills to steep slopes. Lower elevations have low density residential development. Views are limited by topography to the middleground and often screened by vegetation.

Aerial Overview



UNIT MAP



VISUAL QUALITY/SCENIC ATTRACTIVENESS

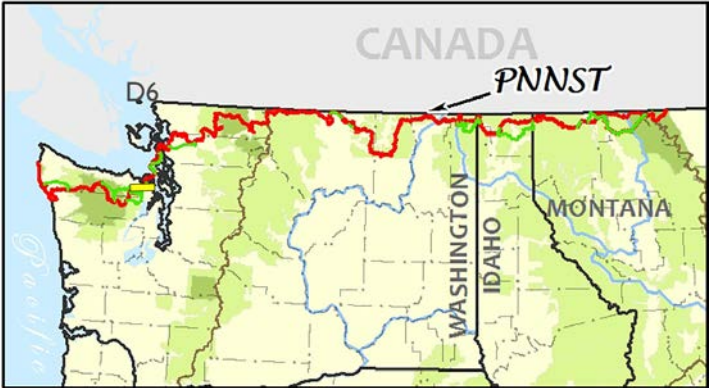
	Rating	Explanation or Rationale
Landform	2	Flat to moderate hills.
Vegetation	2	Thick, lush, green vegetation such as ferns and cedar trees.
Water	1	Not generally noticeable. Water is not common throughout this unit.
Color	1	Color palette is generally not that diverse. Mix of common browns and greens found in forests.
Adjacent Scenery	1	Surrounding landscape does not add any interest or make this unit uncommon in comparison to other areas in the region.
Scarcity	1	Common landscape character to the area makes this unit regionally insignificant. Locally, it possesses very slight differences to make it somewhat appealing.
Cultural Modification	-2	With heavy timber harvesting activities and limited agricultural practices occurring, human use dominates the landscape in a negative way.
Total	6	RATING = C

Visual Inventory Form

Zone: 2 - Puget Sound  
Unit # D6 Dungeness River

Date: 08/30/15  
Jurisdiction (s): US Forest Service, Private

LOCATION MAP



VISIBILITY

Viewsheds/ Screening/ Distance Zone	Immediate foreground views are screened by vegetation. No middleground or background views.
Sensitivity/ Concern Level	Moderate to high level due to existing vegetation screens surrounding heavy timber harvesting operations.

SCENIC INTEGRITY

Level of Naturalness	Low level due to the impact of human use to the natural landscape in this unit.
Wholeness	Medium level with many of the landscape being kept natural, just modified by resources being extracted.



PACIFIC NORTHWEST NATIONAL SCENIC TRAIL

  
for the greatest good



Viewpoint - Panorama #01



Viewpoint #02



Viewpoint #03





SCENIC CHARACTER

The Mt. Zion unit is in the rain shadow of the Olympic Mountains. The amount of precipitation dictates the size and composition of plant communities. Mixed coniferous forest with patches of broadleaf trees, such as alder, is the predominant forest type. Rhododendron and salal are locally abundant in the understory. Streams on soils of glacial till, such as the Dungeness River, have low discharge, and their drainage pattern is often erratic. Loamy soils support pasture land, cropland, and woodland. Timber production is the predominant land use. Logging roads and active timber units are common. Federal ownership can be visually differentiated from private by the magnitude of timber production. Recreation is evident on Forest Service land in the form of campgrounds, trails, and, the Buckhorn Wilderness. Landform is rolling foothills to steep slopes. Lower elevations have low density residential development. Views are limited by topography to the middleground and often screened by vegetation. Trail follows Highway 101.

Aerial Overview



UNIT MAP



VISUAL QUALITY/SCENIC ATTRACTIVENESS

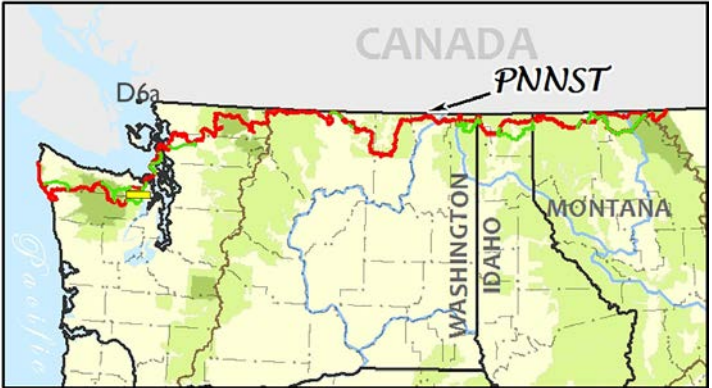
	Rating	Explanation or Rationale
Landform	3	Hills, valleys, and rock.
Vegetation	2	Thick lush understory vegetation.
Water	3	Leland lake, streams, wetlands/marshes.
Color	2	Lush green.
Adjacent Scenery	3	Bay area, distant peaks rise above the hills.
Scarcity	1	Typcial landscape.
Cultural Modification	-1	Highway 101 detracts. Mt. Zion and Snow Creek Trailhead are attractive built features. Timber harvesting is evident nearby.
Total	13	RATING = B-

Visual Inventory Form

Zone: 2 - Puget Sound  
Unit # D6a Mt. Zion

Date: 08/30/15  
Jurisdiction (s): US Forest Service, Private

LOCATION MAP



VISIBILITY

Viewsheds/ Screening/ Distance Zone	Primarily screened by thick vegetation, however some views open up to distant peaks.
Sensitivity/ Concern Level	Moderate.

SCENIC INTEGRITY

Level of Naturalness	Moderate.
Wholeness	Moderate to low.

PACIFIC NORTHWEST NATIONAL SCENIC TRAIL

for the greatest good



Viewpoint #01



Viewpoint #03



Viewpoint #02

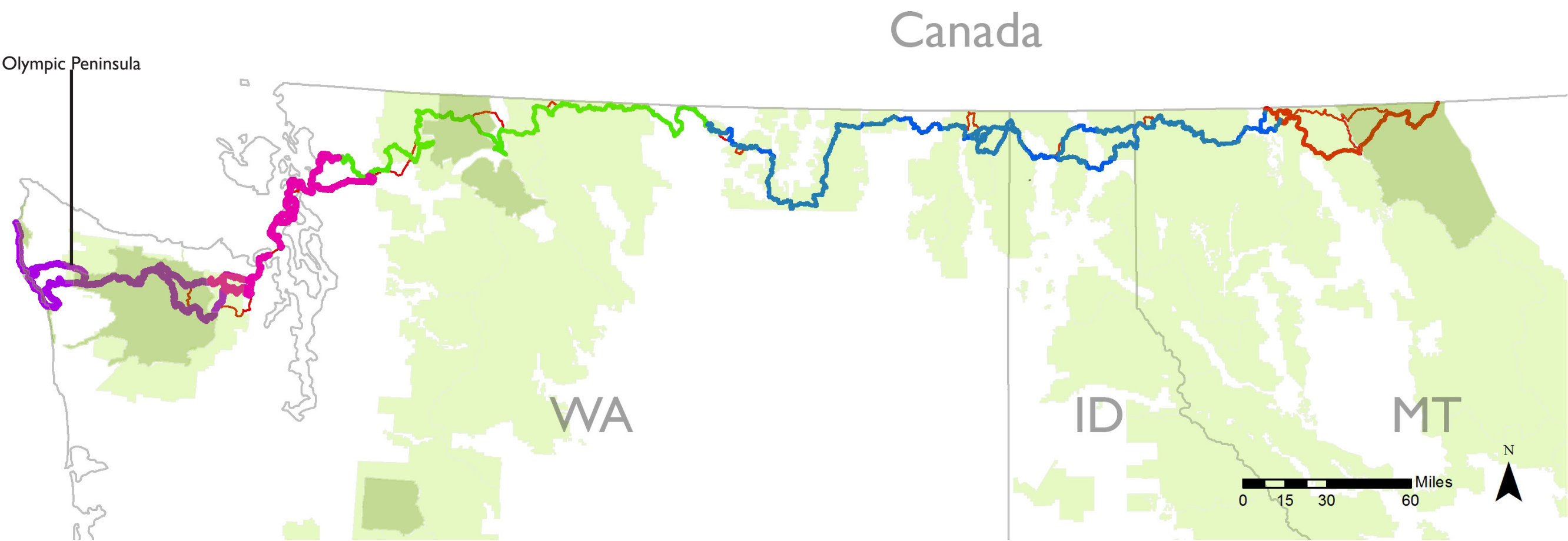


Viewpoint #04





# Olympic Peninsula Index:



E1 - Buckhorn Mountain  
Pg: 154 - 155

E1a - Hurricane Ridge  
Pg: 156 - 157

E2 - Dosewallips River  
Pg: 158 - 159

E3 - Dose Meadows  
Pg: 160 - 161

E4 - Elwha River:  
Pg: 162 - 163

E5 - Sol Duc Basin:  
Pg: 164 - 165

E6 - Bogachiel River  
Pg: 166 - 167

E6a - South Sitkum River  
Pg: 168 - 169

E7 - Mosquito Creek  
Pg: 170 - 171

E7a - Quillayute Rd.:  
Pg: 172 - 173

E8 - Pacific Coast:  
Pg: 174 - 175

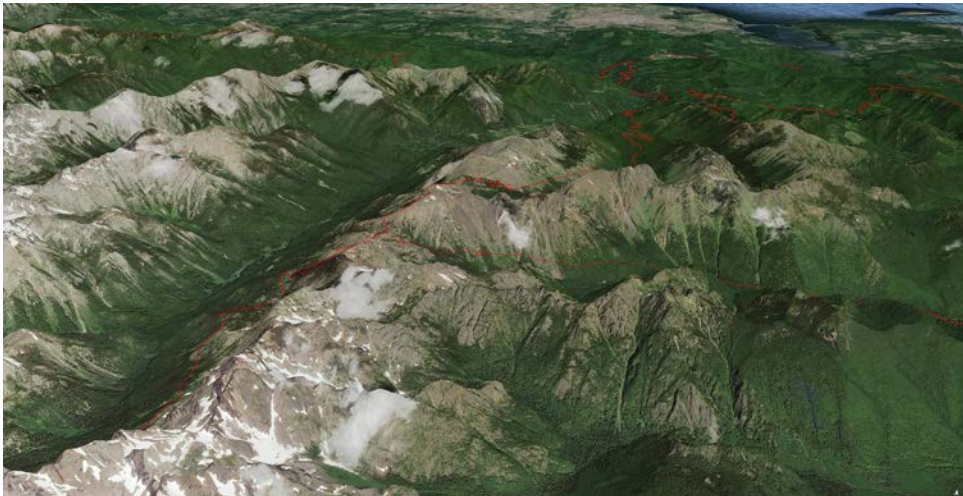




SCENIC CHARACTER

The Buckhorn Mountain unit is an area of high elevation in the eastern Olympic Mountains. The rugged terrain is flanked by steep finger ridges. Notches in the ridge are Buckhorn and Marmot Passes. Sections outside of wilderness have the telltale roads and rectilinear patterns of logging. Area inside the Buckhorn Wilderness is clad with dense, contiguous forest. Lower elevation forests are large in stature. At ridge tops, smaller stature trees are broken by meadow and rock. Deep river valleys dissect the mountainous terrain. Rustic shelters and the Tubal cabin stand testament to Forest Service stewardship and recreational land use. Picturesque campgrounds at Home Lake and Sunnysbrook Meadows extend hospitality to visitors of Olympic National Park. Low visitation to the wilderness areas ensures solitude for visitors.

Aerial Overview



UNIT MAP



VISUAL QUALITY/SCENIC ATTRACTIVENESS

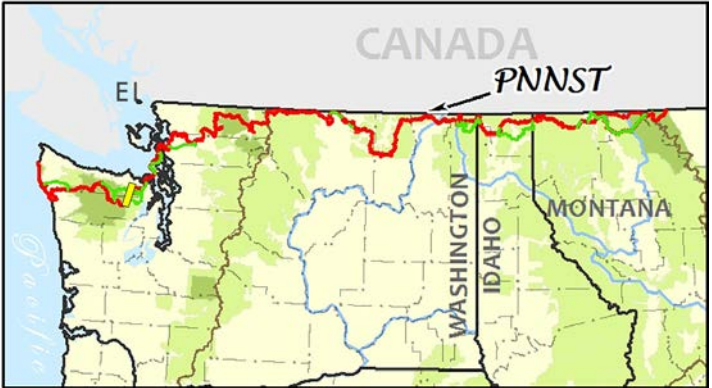
	Rating	Explanation or Rationale
Landform	4	Steep rugged mountains dissected by deep river valleys.
Vegetation	3	Productive timber ground, mixed coniferous forest with dense understory.
Water	3	High gradient small order headwater streams.
Color	3	Evergreen hues, tans, browns.
Adjacent Scenery	3	Rugged mountains add interest to vistas glimpses of water.
Scarcity	3	Solitude is a unique feature.
Cultural Modification	2	Shelters, trails, cabin.
Total	21	RATING = A-

Visual Inventory Form

Zone: I - Olympic Peninsula  
Unit # E1 Buckhorn Mountain

Date: 8/31/15  
Jurisdiction (s): US Forest Service/National Parks

LOCATION MAP



VISIBILITY

Viewsheds/ Screening/ Distance Zone	Typical views are constrained to the foreground because of vegetation but some vantages have expansive views.
Sensitivity/ Concern Level	High inside National Park and designated wilderness.

SCENIC INTEGRITY

Level of Naturalness	Very High inside Wilderness and the National Park, less outside.
Wholeness	Very High inside National Park and Wilderness, less outside.



PACIFIC NORTHWEST NATIONAL SCENIC TRAIL





Viewpoint #01



Viewpoint #02



Viewpoint #03



Viewpoint #04





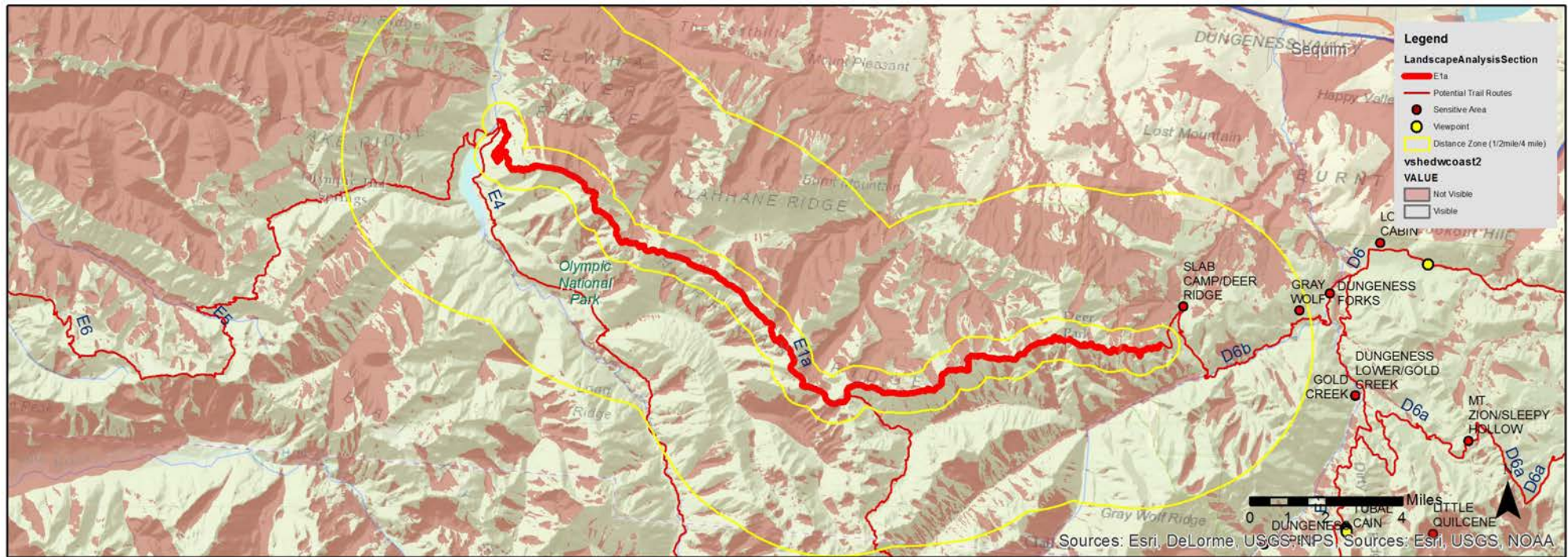
SCENIC CHARACTER

This unit is characterized by Hurricane Ridge, a high elevation wind-swept ridge. The area is on the northern edge of steep, glaciated mountains that reach an elevation of 8000 feet. Terrain is rugged with angular knobby peaks and ridges. Open ridge of rock and meadow contrasts with dense forest of lower elevations. High meadows have low species diversity and are low-growing. Grasses cure to light brown, adding to a late summer, color palette of greens, browns, and, grays. Spring green-up of meadows and frequent snow add seasonal variation. Valleys are deeply incised with steep slopes and clad with contiguous mixed coniferous forest. High elevation forest, contain silver and subalpine fir, mountain hemlock, and, intermittently western white pine and Alaska yellow cedar. A spectrum of development levels spans this section inside Olympic National Park: single track trail with natural surface, gravel road, paved road, and, paved walking path.Views are expansive and captivating. Glimpses of ocean are visible as are active glaciers. Lower elevation land uses can also be seen.

Aerial Overview



UNIT MAP



VISUAL QUALITY/SCENIC ATTRACTIVENESS

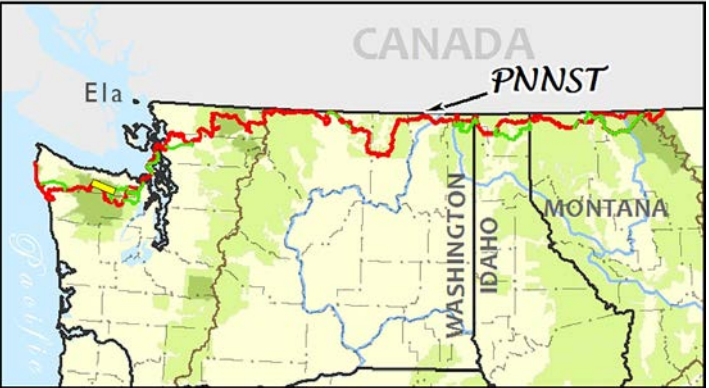
	Rating	Explanation or Rationale
Landform	5	Rugged, angular mountain peaks and ridges; deep river valleys.
Vegetation	3	Mixed coniferous high elevation forest; low meadow.
Water	1	Seeps and springs along dry ridges; river valleys in middleground.
Color	3	Greens, browns, and, grays.
Adjacent Scenery	5	Expansive views include Olympic Mountains with glaciers; glimpses of the open water of Puget Sound.
Scarcity	5	High elevation experience; rain shadow influence.
Cultural Modification	0	Human modification evident in the background; National Park Service facilities.
Total	22	RATING = A

Visual Inventory Form

Zone: I - Olympic Peninsula  
Unit # E1a Hurricane Ridge

Date: 8/30/15  
Jurisdiction (s): National Park

LOCATION MAP



VISIBILITY

Viewsheds/ Screening/ Distance Zone	Open ridges provide far reaching vistas.
Sensitivity/ Concern Level	Very high concern.

SCENIC INTEGRITY

Level of Naturalness	Very high.
Wholeness	Very high.

PACIFIC NORTHWEST NATIONAL SCENIC TRAIL





Viewpoint - Panorama #01



Viewpoint #02



Viewpoint #03

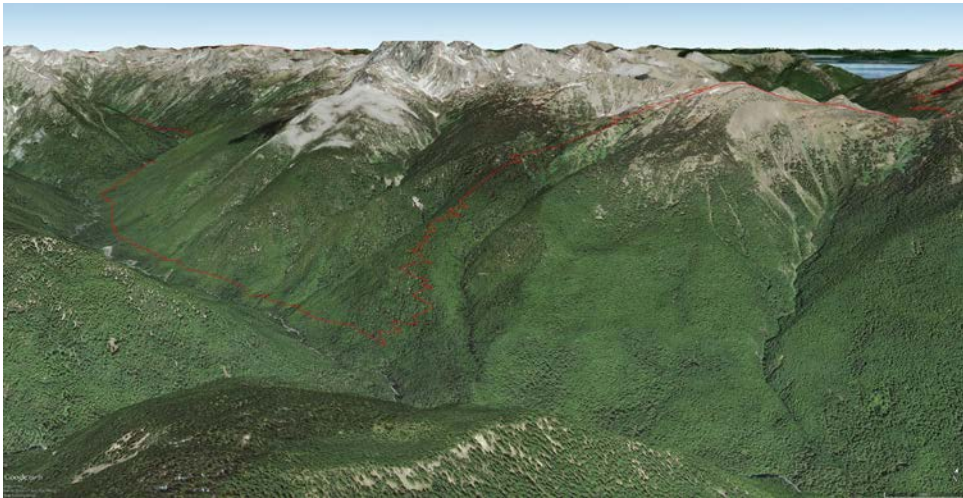




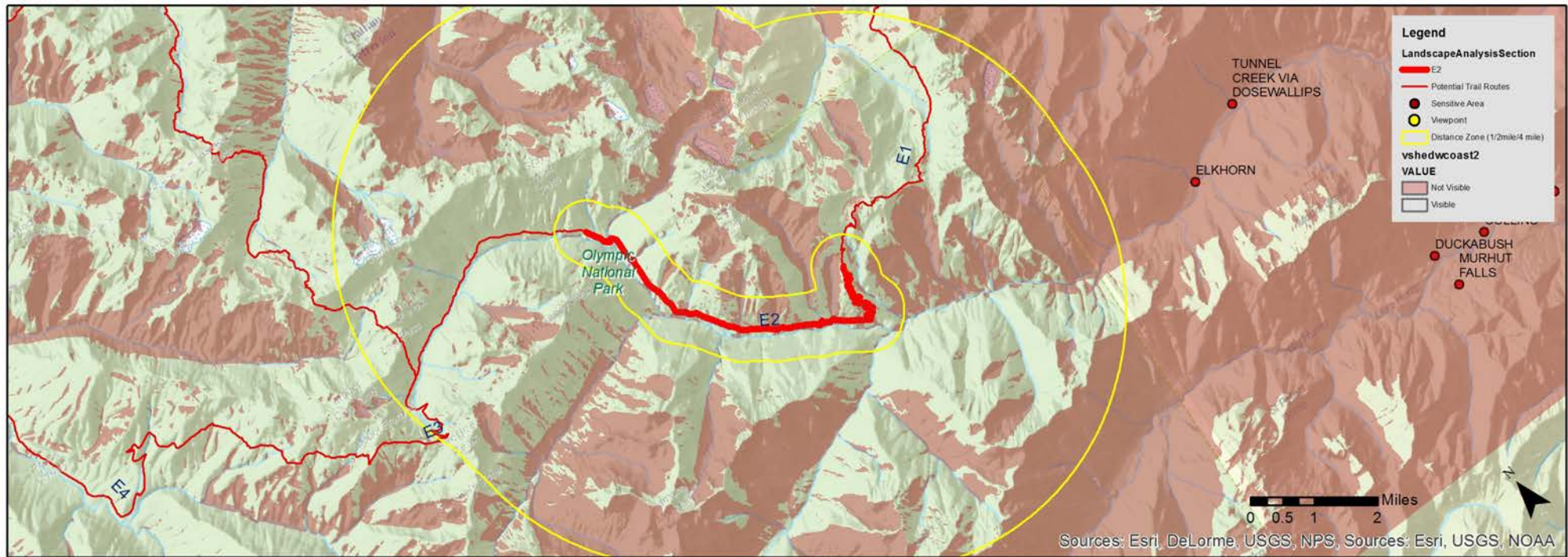
SCENIC CHARACTER

The Dosewallips River unit is characterized by ancient forest and a free-flowing river. The high-gradient, river is fed by glaciers, flowing through rugged terrain with little human-made modifications. Whitewater sections add to the soundscape. Ancient forests contain western red cedar, western hemlock, Doug fir, grand fir, and, maple. Epiphytes such as lichen and moss grow on trees. National Park Service stewardship is evident.

Aerial Overview



UNIT MAP



VISUAL QUALITY/SCENIC ATTRACTIVENESS

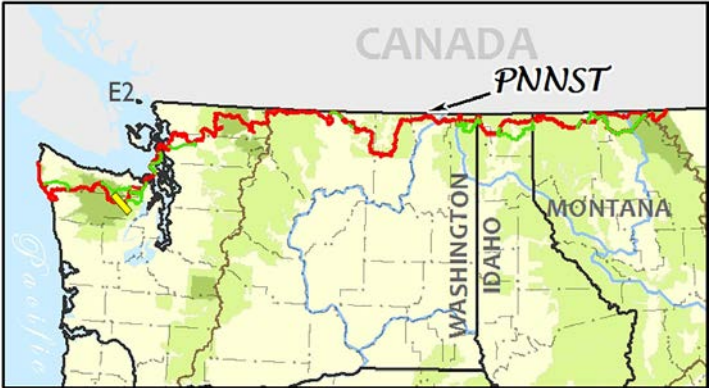
	Rating	Explanation or Rationale
Landform	5	Rugged Olympic Mountains.
Vegetation	3	Ancient forests; riparian area.
Water	3	Abundant; high gradient.
Color	3	Evergreen vegetation; whitewater; deciduous riparian.
Adjacent Scenery	5	Rugged mountain valley.
Scarcity	5	Unique protected riverine experience.
Cultural Modification	0	Trail and trail related facilities.
Total	24	RATING = A

Visual Inventory Form

Zone: I - Olympic Peninsula  
Unit # E2 Dosewallips River

Date: 8/31/15  
Jurisdiction (s): National Park

LOCATION MAP



VISIBILITY

Viewsheds/ Screening/ Distance Zone	Views are mostly screened by vegetation and topography.
Sensitivity/ Concern Level	Moderate because of remoteness.

SCENIC INTEGRITY

Level of Naturalness	Very high.
Wholeness	Very high.



PACIFIC NORTHWEST NATIONAL SCENIC TRAIL





Viewpoint #01



Viewpoint #02



Viewpoint #03



**Upper Left Corner Photo Credit:**  
Jim Patterson - National Park Service  
September 27, 2007  
[http://www.nps.gov/olym/planyourvisit/images/Main\\_Fork\\_Dosewallips\\_Trail.jpg](http://www.nps.gov/olym/planyourvisit/images/Main_Fork_Dosewallips_Trail.jpg)

**Lower Left Corner Photo Credit:**  
Pablo McCloud - National Park Service  
August 09, 2011  
<http://www.nps.gov/olym/planyourvisit/images/HaydenPass8-11.jpg>

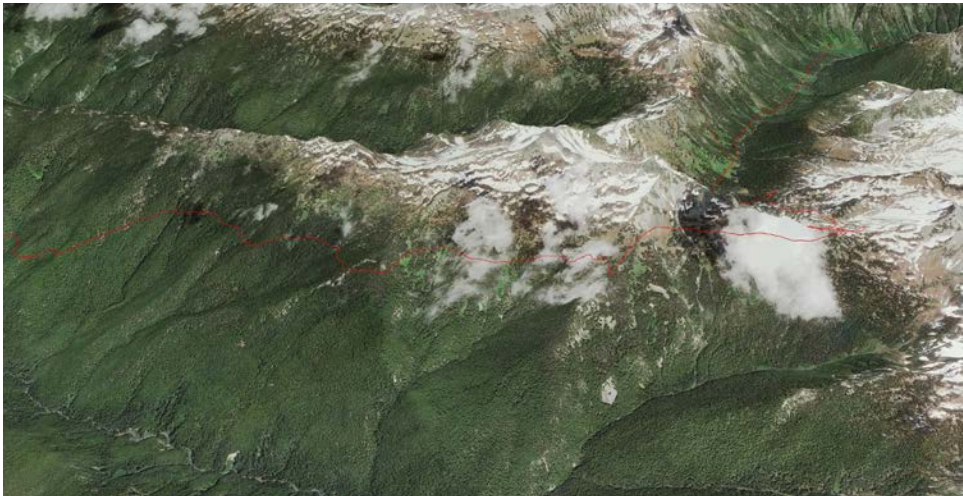
**Lower Right Corner Photo Credit:**  
National Park Service  
November 02, 2002  
[http://www.nps.gov/olym/planyourvisit/images/Bear\\_Camp.jpg](http://www.nps.gov/olym/planyourvisit/images/Bear_Camp.jpg)



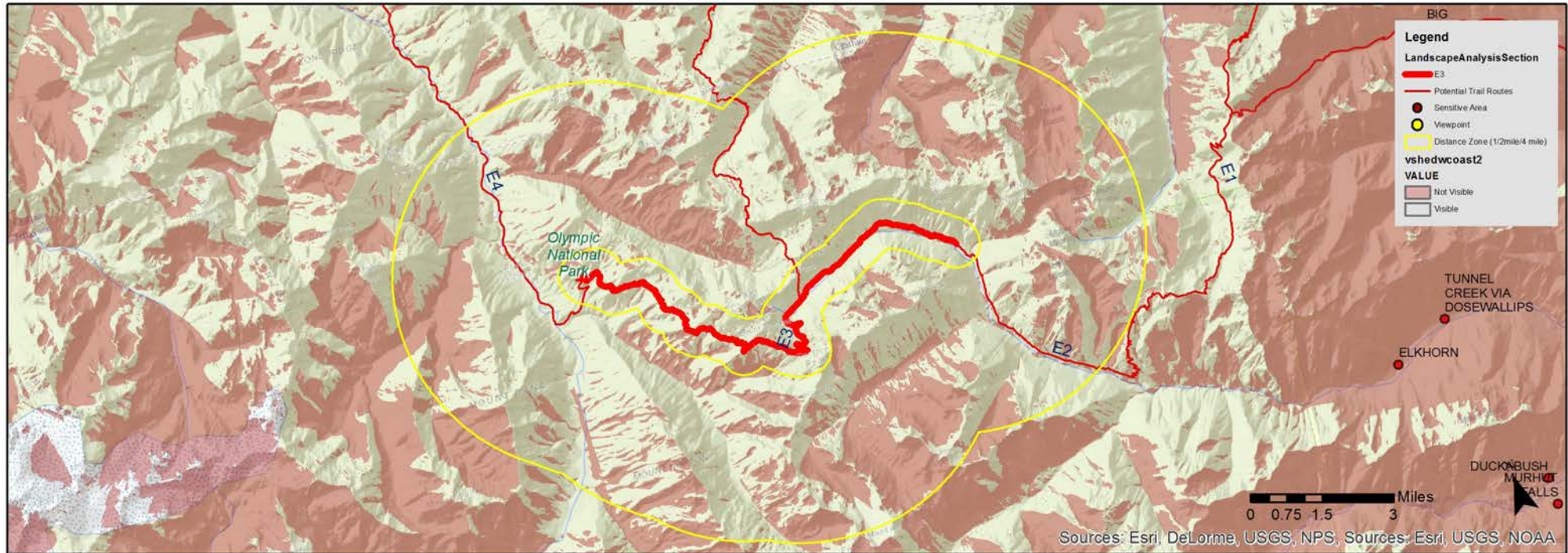
SCENIC CHARACTER

The Dose Meadows unit is embedded in the rugged high country of the Olympic Mountains. It is characterized by rock outcrops, tarns, persistent snow pack, alpine glaciers, and high-gradient, glacial-fed streams. High elevation forests contain subalpine fir, mountain hemlock, and, Pacific silver fir. Alpine meadows break up forests. National Park Service stewardship is evident in the form of trails and campgrounds.

Aerial Overview



UNIT MAP



VISUAL QUALITY/SCENIC ATTRACTIVENESS

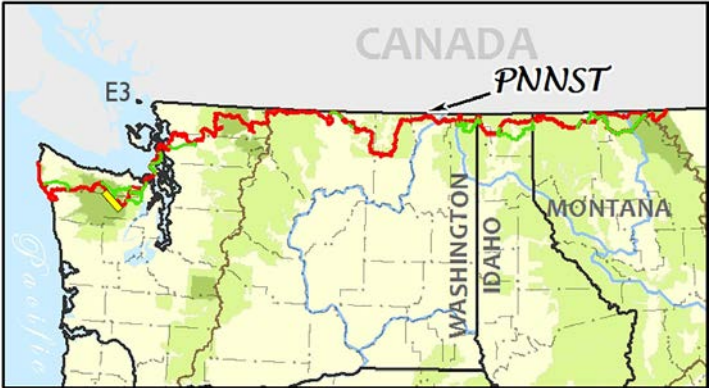
	Rating	Explanation or Rationale
Landform	5	Rugged Olympic Mountain high country.
Vegetation	3	High elevation mixed coniferous forest, meadow, and rock lands.
Water	3	Tarns; high gradient headwater streams.
Color	3	Hues of greens, browns, tans, and grays.
Adjacent Scenery	5	Stunning view of high Olympics.
Scarcity	5	Remote high country in a pristine setting.
Cultural Modification	1	Minor national park improvements such as trail.
Total	25	RATING = A

Visual Inventory Form

Zone: I - Olympic Peninsula  
Unit # E3 Dose Meadows

Date:  
Jurisdiction (s): National Park

LOCATION MAP



VISIBILITY

Viewsheds/ Screening/ Distance Zone	Ridges and summits provide far reaching views.
Sensitivity/ Concern Level	High because of visitation and national park status.

SCENIC INTEGRITY

Level of Naturalness	Very high.
Wholeness	Very high.



PACIFIC NORTHWEST NATIONAL SCENIC TRAIL





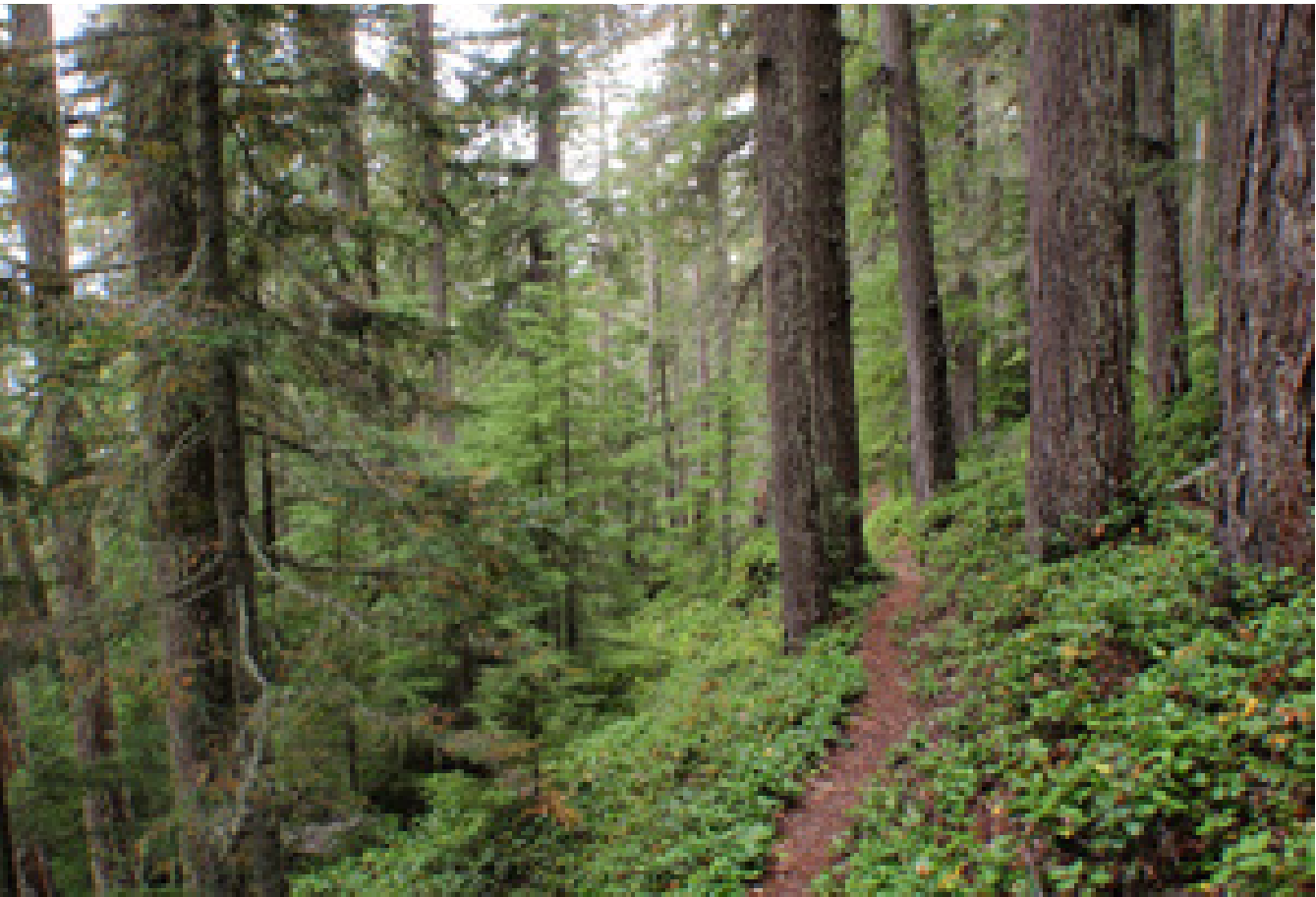
Viewpoint #01



Viewpoint #02



Viewpoint #03



**Upper Left Corner Photo Credit:**  
Pablo McCloud - National Park Service  
September 14, 2015  
<http://www.nps.gov/olym/planyourvisit/hayden-pass-trail.htm>

**Lower Left Corner Photo Credit:**  
Pablo McCloud - National Park Service  
September 10, 2015  
<http://www.nps.gov/olym/planyourvisit/hayden-pass-trail.htm>

**Lower Right Corner Photo Credit:**  
National Park Service  
September 14, 2015  
<http://www.nps.gov/common/uploads/photogallery/pwr/park/olym/FI78364C-I55D-45I9-3E955A-FA9C4DDA87/FI78364C-I55D-45I9-3E955AFA9C4DDA87-large.JPG>



SCENIC CHARACTER

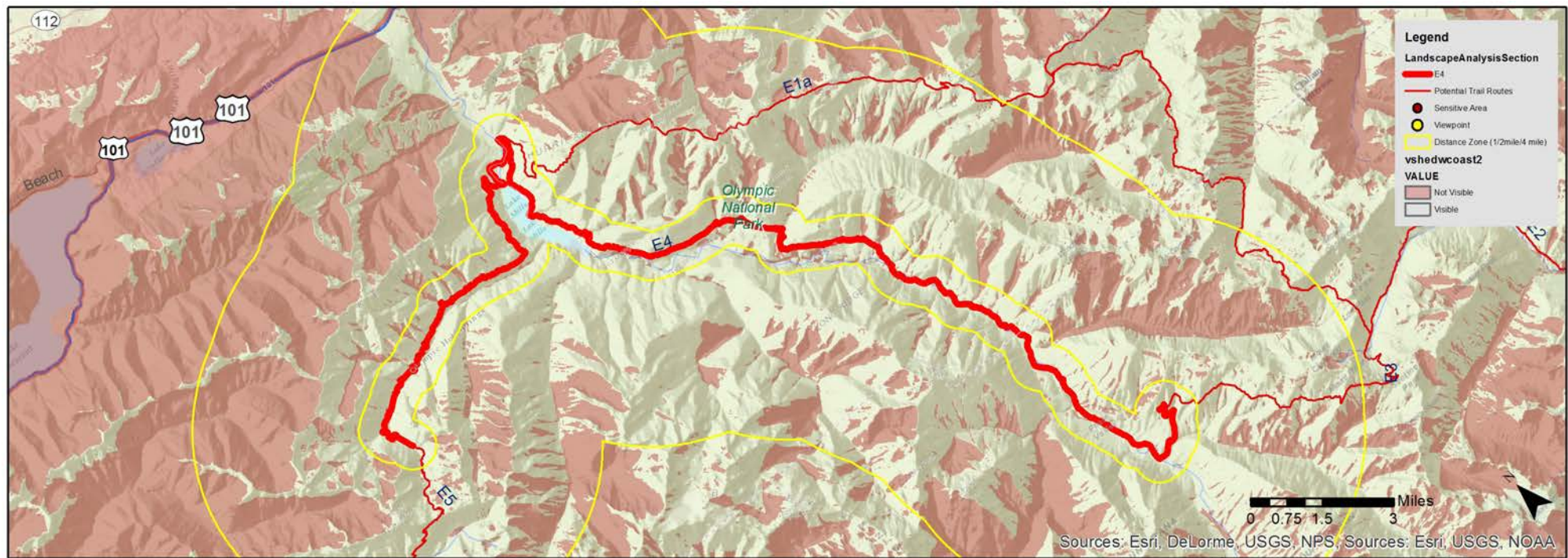
The essence of this unit is the free-flowing Elwha River. It has carved a steep valley through the rugged, Olympic Mountains. Some sections are very narrow such as the Grand Canyon. Other reaches have broad floodplains and meander scars with riparian vegetation. Throughout the valley, ancient forests abound with epiphytic mosses and lichens. Trees reach impressive sizes. Poorly drained wet areas harbor wetland communities. Pacific madrones grace rocky outcrops.

A dam on the lower Elwha has been breached to restore river connectivity. Subsequently, the drained Lake Mill's floor lays exposed and fallow as vegetation re-colonizes. The National Park Service facilities near Mill Lake add a rural character to the lower valley. Boulder Creek, a high-gradient tributary of the Elwha, has incised a narrow valley. It is characterized by lush, verdant forest. Nestled in the valley are the Boulder Hot Springs. Here shallow pools of warm, mineral-rich geothermal water instill an enchanted Elvin quality. Understory of sword fern and horsetail create a ferny texture.

Aerial Overview



UNIT MAP



VISUAL QUALITY/SCENIC ATTRACTIVENESS

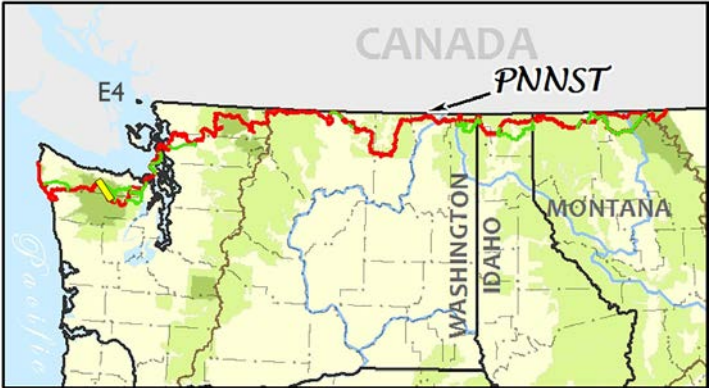
	Rating	Explanation or Rationale
Landform	3	River canyon; unbridled river processes; river restoration.
Vegetation	5	Ancient forests; riparian areas; recovering mixed coniferous forest.
Water	3	Large river; tributaries; geothermal pools; high gradient headwater reaches.
Color	3	Evergreen forest; deciduous color; texture.
Adjacent Scenery	3	Foothills of Olympics; montane slopes.
Scarcity	3	Unique river and restoration ecology.
Cultural Modification	4	Strong sense of place. Breached dam with interp areas and overlook.
Total	24	RATING = A

Visual Inventory Form

Zone: I - Olympic Peninsula  
Unit # E4 Elwha River

Date: 08/31/15  
Jurisdiction (s): National Park

LOCATION MAP



VISIBILITY

Viewsheds/ Screening/ Distance Zone	Limited sightlines because of topography and dense vegetation.
Sensitivity/ Concern Level	All very high concern.

SCENIC INTEGRITY

Level of Naturalness	Very High in park interior; high along roads in front country.
Wholeness	Very high.

PACIFIC NORTHWEST NATIONAL SCENIC TRAIL





Viewpoint - Panorama #01



Viewpoint #02



Viewpoint #03





for the greatest good



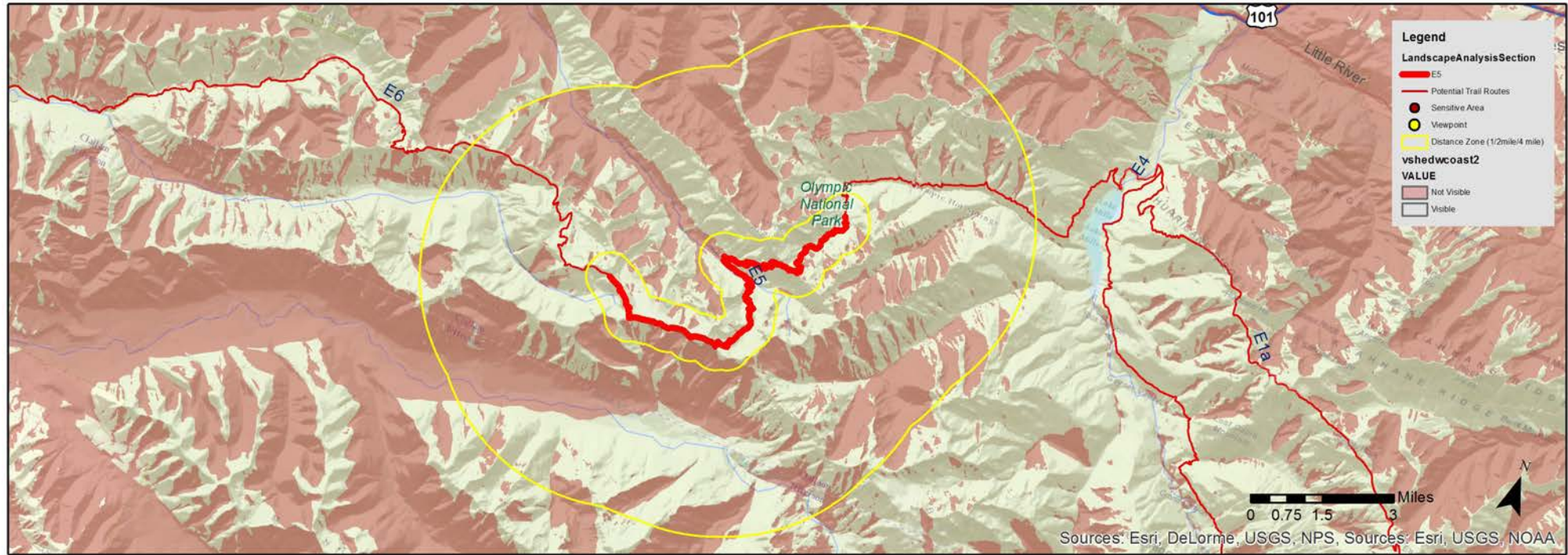
SCENIC CHARACTER

The Sol Duc Basin unit is characterized by a high elevation ridge. The High Divide ridge overlooks an assemblage of tranquil lakes cradled in a picturesque, glacial basin. Views are far-reaching and include Mt Olympus and glacier fields. Bogachiel Peak, Sol Duc Park ,and,Appelton Pass are landmarks. Higher elevation forests of mountain hemlock, fir, western white pine, and,Alaska yellow cedar are broken by open areas. Open areas include wetlands in depressions surrounded by low meadow and heather. At lower elevations, vegetation transitions into wet temperate rain forest of Doug fir, Sitka spruce, western red cedar, and, western hemlock. The area is popular with both day and overnight hikers, and campgrounds are often at capacity.

Aerial Overview



UNIT MAP



VISUAL QUALITY/SCENIC ATTRACTIVENESS

	Rating	Explanation or Rationale
Landform	3	Angular volcanic forms visable through trees. .
Vegetation	3	Bear grass, heather, western yellow cedar and red cedar. Small trees.White fir.
Water	5	Placid and tranquil lakes, wetlands.
Color	3	Earth tones of beige, brown, green, and gray.
Adjacent Scenery	3	High Olympic Mountains.
Scarcity	3	Unique high country and lake basin in pristine setting.
Cultural Modification	0	National Park facilities.
Total	20	RATING = A

Visual Inventory Form

Zone: I - Olympic Peninsula  
Unit # E5 Sol Duc Basin

Date: 09/01/15  
Jurisdiction (s): National Park

LOCATION MAP



VISIBILITY

Viewsheds/ Screening/ Distance Zone	Vantages allow for distant views; elsewhere screened by vegetation and topography.
Sensitivity/ Concern Level	Very high concern levels along this section of trail because high use within the National Park and high popularity.

SCENIC INTEGRITY

Level of Naturalness	Very high.
Wholeness	Very high.



PACIFIC NORTHWEST NATIONAL SCENIC TRAIL





Viewpoint - Panorama #01



Viewpoint #02



Viewpoint #03





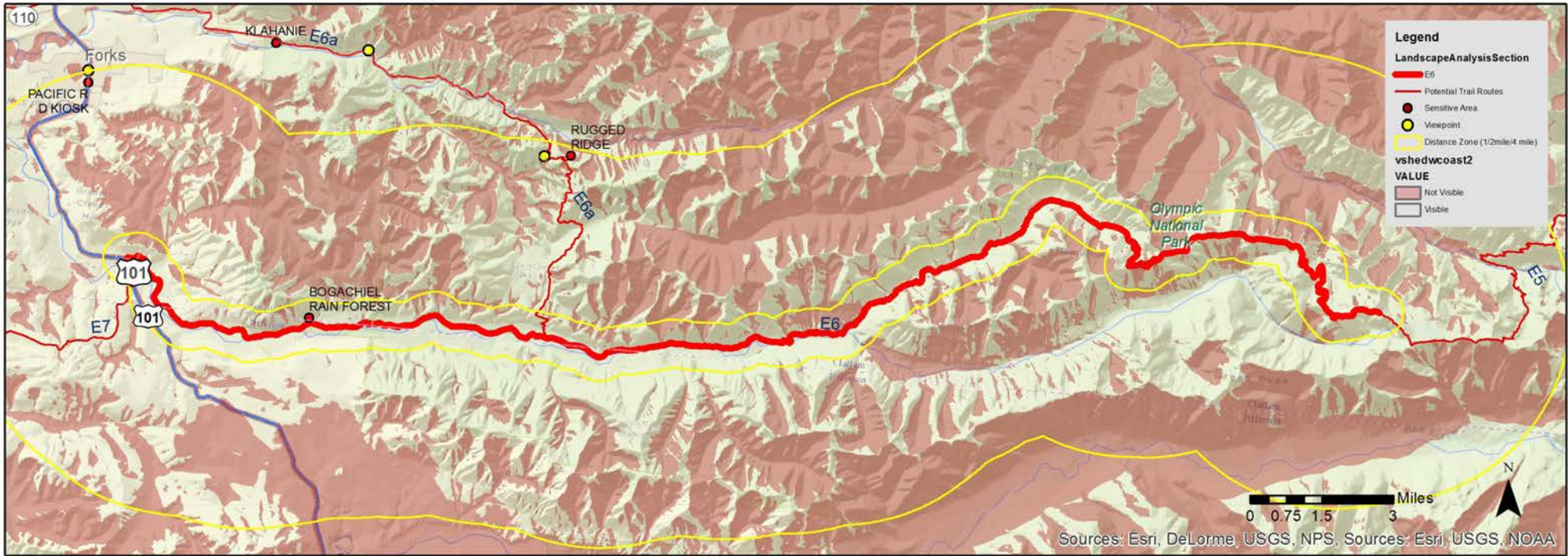
SCENIC CHARACTER

The Bogachiel River unit is characterized by lush temperate rain forest and a robust, free-flowing river. The river has extensive cobble beaches and large point bars. Riparian vegetation, such as swaths of alder, pioneer flood-prone banks. Areas in inside Olympic National Park shelter ancient old growth forests. Impressive specimens of large diameter cedars, fir, Sitka spruce and bigleaf maples are encountered on river terraces and alluvial flats. Verdant understory of sword fern, huckleberry, skunk cabbage, and, other unique plants absorb sunlight filtered by towering canopies. Views are limited by topography and screened by vegetation. Breaks in forest along cut banks and river edges, offer the best vantage. Most forest, outside of the national park, is in earlier seral stages- set back by logging.

Aerial Overview



UNIT MAP



VISUAL QUALITY/SCENIC ATTRACTIVENESS

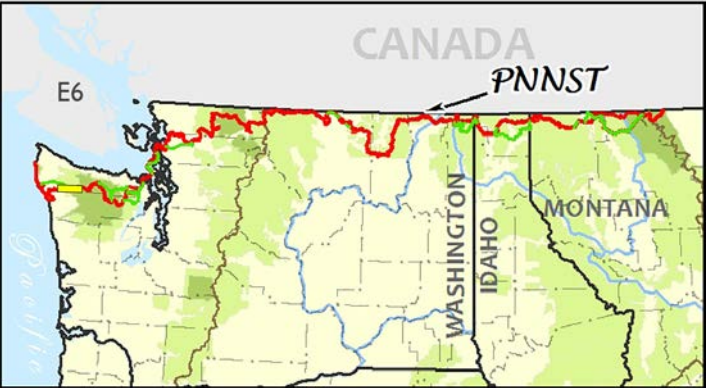
	Rating	Explanation or Rationale
Landform	3	River bottom, terrace, floodplain; unbridled river processes.
Vegetation	5	Big trees! Thick understory and alder groves.
Water	5	Bogachiel River; wetlands.
Color	3	Evergreens and deciduous seasonal color.
Adjacent Scenery	3	Foothills.
Scarcity	5	Unique big trees, old growth, and rain forest.
Cultural Modification	0	Some timber harvest evident.
Total	24	RATING = A

Visual Inventory Form

Zone: I - Olympic Peninsula  
Unit # E6 Bogachiel River

Date: 09/02/15  
Jurisdiction (s): U.S. Forest Service/National Park

LOCATION MAP



VISIBILITY

Viewsheds/ Screening/ Distance Zone	Limited views past the immediate foreground in the valley bottom. Thick vegetation screening.
Sensitivity/ Concern Level	Very high concern levels because of access portal to the Cascades National Park.

SCENIC INTEGRITY

Level of Naturalness	Landscape is natural appearing as you enter the park, but there is some evidence of timber harvests in the National Forest.
Wholeness	Very high.

PACIFIC NORTHWEST NATIONAL SCENIC TRAIL





Viewpoint - Panorama #01



Viewpoint #02



Viewpoint #03





SCENIC CHARACTER

The South Sitkum River traverses densely forested low mountains in Olympic National Park. The Indian Pass Trail crosses the Calawah River Valley, connecting the Bogachiel Valley with the Sitkum Valley. Ancient forests with large trees and epiphytic life abound inside park protection. Outside on Forest Service and private land, productive forests are managed for timber and recreation. Fog and large amounts of annual precipitation nurture vegetation.

Aerial Overview



UNIT MAP



VISUAL QUALITY/SCENIC ATTRACTIVENESS

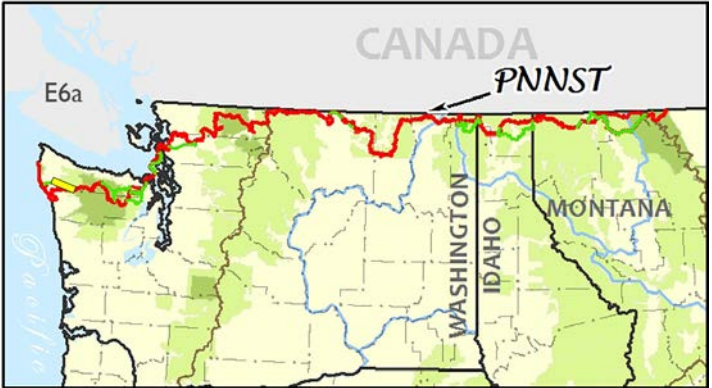
	Rating	Explanation or Rationale
Landform	3	Slowly rising grade with large hills having somewhat steep grades. Some flat terraces before amidst gentle grades.
Vegetation	3	Coniferous and deciduous tree mix. Conifer dominant. Very healthy understory.
Water	2	Serveral creeks and a large stream.
Color	2	Various shades of green that are expressed by the vegetation.
Adjacent Scenery	2	Limited views of distant mountain tops due to the vegetation screening foreground.
Scarcity	1	Slight difference in local features such as tree composition or terrain, but regionally insignificant.
Cultural Modification	0	Some bridges and paved sections of road. Also, there are parked tree harvesting equipment in this unit.
Total	13	RATING = B

Visual Inventory Form

Zone: I - Olympic Peninsula  
Unit # E6a South Sitkum River

Date: 09/01/15  
Jurisdiction (s): County, Private Lands

LOCATION MAP



VISIBILITY

Viewsheds/ Screening/ Distance Zone	Views are primarily restricted to the foreground, with sparse views through the trees.
Sensitivity/ Concern Level	Moderate to high sestivity.

SCENIC INTEGRITY

Level of Naturalness	Moderate to low levels. Tree harvesting is evident.
Wholeness	Low level of intactness as you move through the landscape.



PACIFIC NORTHWEST NATIONAL SCENIC TRAIL

  
for the greatest good



Viewpoint - Panorama #01



Viewpoint #02



Viewpoint #03



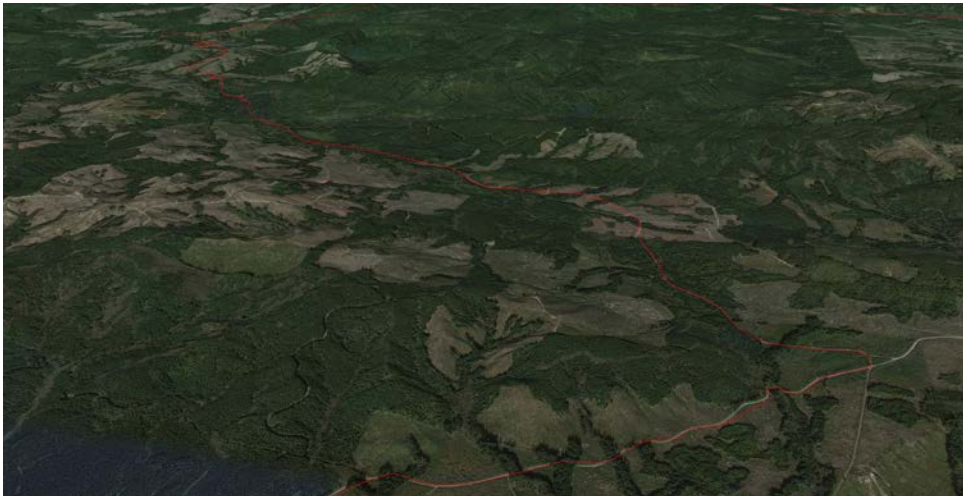


SCENIC CHARACTER

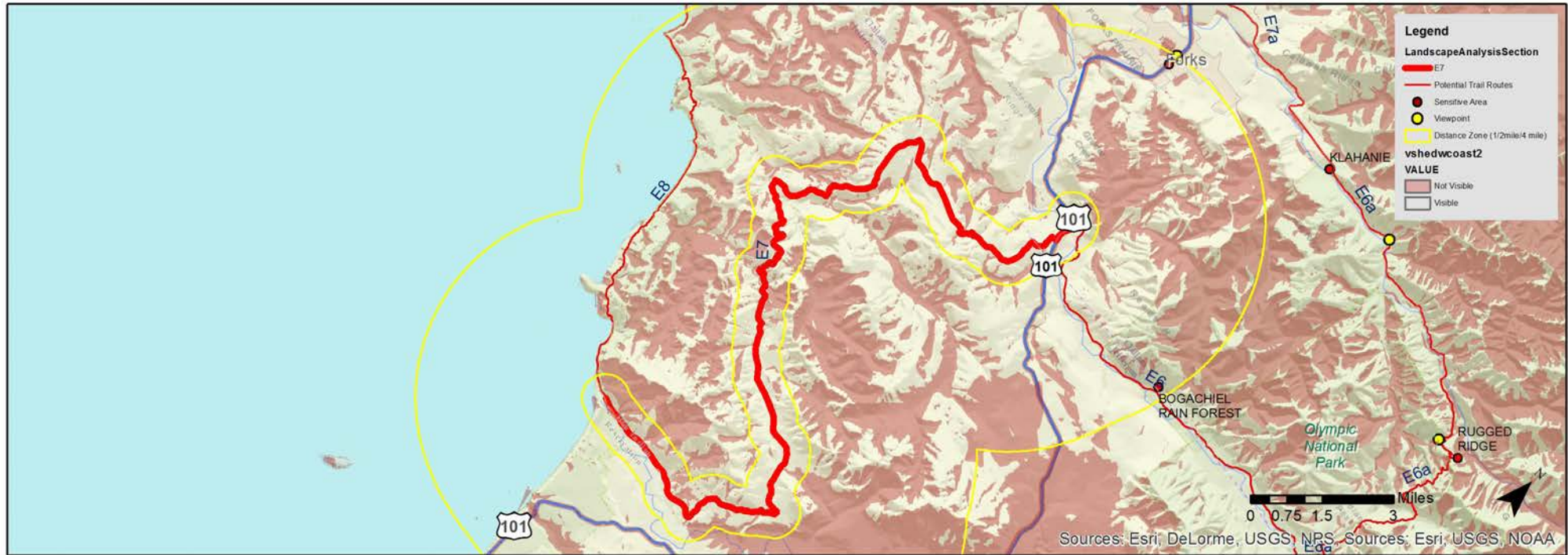
The Mosquito Creek unit is characterized by two extremes. In areas that have undergone extensive logging, much of the terrain is exposed. Encompassing views of background foothills and majestic coastal mountains have been revealed. The other extreme, is dense forest of spruce, cedar, and, fir with tangled understories. Here, views are typically screened by vegetation. Large amounts of rain and suitable soils create a highly productive verdant landscape.

Water is common. The high annual precipitation drains to many streams and rivers that dissect the terrain on its way to the ocean. Logging and recreation are major land uses. The undeveloped and remote character attracts recreationists for activities such as hiking, hunting, and fishing.

Aerial Overview



UNIT MAP



VISUAL QUALITY/SCENIC ATTRACTIVENESS

	Rating	Explanation or Rationale
Landform	3	Slowly rising grade with large hills having somewhat steep grades. Some flat terraces before amidst gentle grades.
Vegetation	3	Predominantly coniferous with deciduous tree pockets. Very healthy understory.
Water	2	Serveral creeks and a large stream.
Color	2	Various shades of green that are expressed by the vegetation.
Adjacent Scenery	2	Limited views of distant mountain due to the vegetation screening foreground.
Scarcity	1	Slight difference in local features such as tree composition or terrain, but regionally insignificant.
Cultural Modification	0	Some bridges and paved sections of road. Also, there are parked tree harvesting equipment in this unit.
Total	13	RATING = B

Visual Inventory Form

Zone: I - Olympic Peninsula  
Unit # E7 Mosquito Creek

Date: 09/01/15  
Jurisdiction (s): County, Private Lands

LOCATION MAP



VISIBILITY

Viewsheds/ Screening/ Distance Zone	Views are primarily restricted to the foreground, with sparse views through the trees.
Sensitivity/ Concern Level	Moderate to high sestivity.

SCENIC INTEGRITY

Level of Naturalness	Moderate to low levels. Tree harvesting is evident.
Wholeness	Low level of intactness as you move through the landscape.

PACIFIC NORTHWEST NATIONAL SCENIC TRAIL



Viewpoint - Panorama #01



Viewpoint #02



Viewpoint #03





for the greatest good



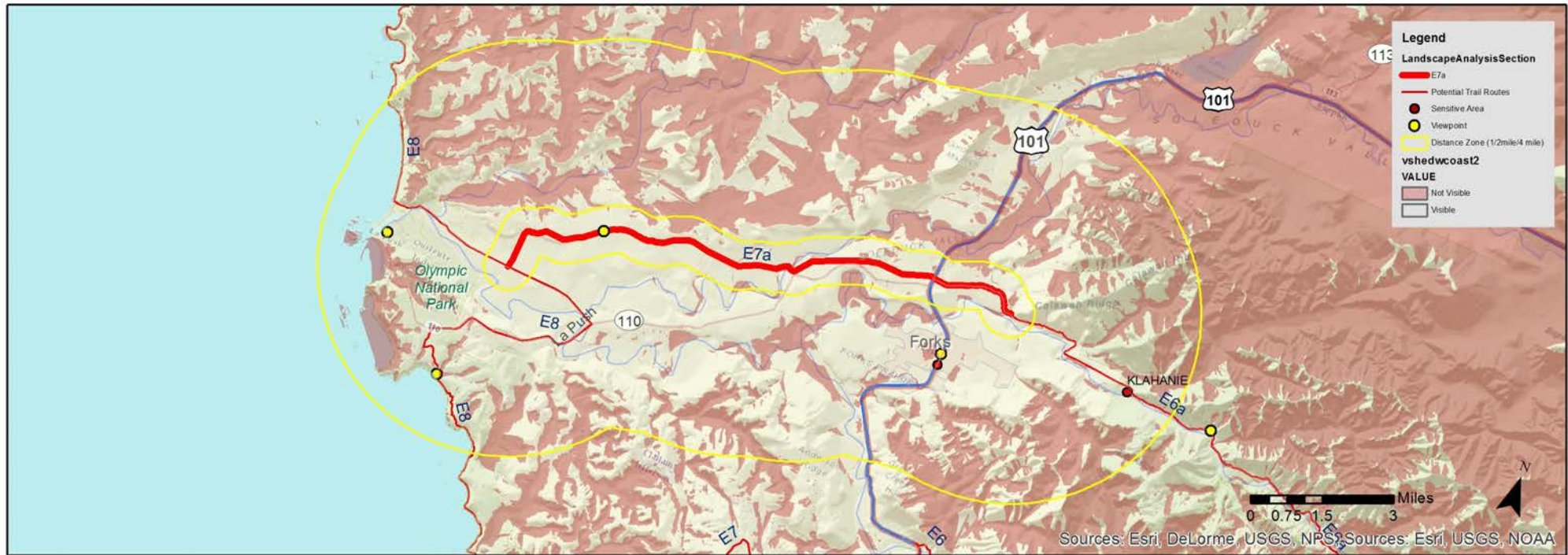
SCENIC CHARACTER

The Quillayute Road unit connects coastal uplands with the ocean. It traverses timber ground with geometric plantations. Vegetation is in various stages of seral development. Riparian areas line the Sol Duc River. Low density rural development punctuates productive forests. Fog and rainy weather is typical.

Aerial Overview



UNIT MAP



VISUAL QUALITY/SCENIC ATTRACTIVENESS

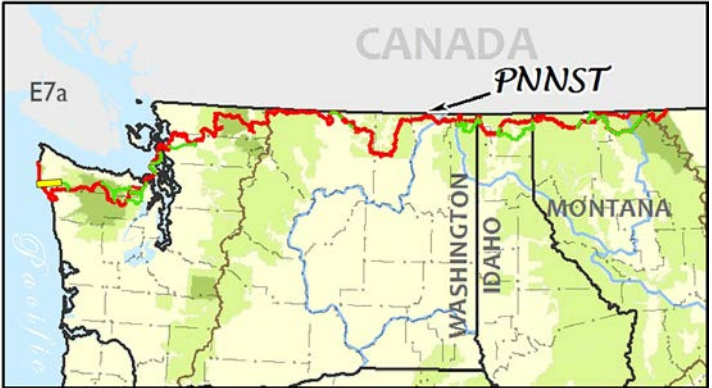
	Rating	Explanation or Rationale
Landform	2	Valley bottom sloping towards river.
Vegetation	3	Mix of riparian deciduous and coniferous trees and shrubs
Water	4	Quillayute River is a prominent feature.
Color	3	Green, lush understory vegetation.
Adjacent Scenery	2	Limited views of distant mountain tops.
Scarcity	2	Quillayute River view for a good portion
Cultural Modification	0	Some bridges. Tree harvesting evident. Forks has a positive sense of place, which counters the negative modifications in the landscape.
Total	16	RATING = B+

Visual Inventory Form

Zone: I - Olympic Peninsula  
Unit # E7a Quillayute Rd

Date: 9/31/15  
Jurisdiction (s): US Forest Service, County/Private

LOCATION MAP



VISIBILITY

Viewsheds/ Screening/ Distance Zone	Views are primarily restricted to the foreground, with sparse views through the trees. Some distance views of mountains to the east in the middleground/background.
Sensitivity/ Concern Level	Moderate to high sensitivity.

SCENIC INTEGRITY

Level of Naturalness	Moderate to low levels. Tree harvesting and thinning is evident.
Wholeness	Low intactness as you move through the landscape.

PACIFIC NORTHWEST NATIONAL SCENIC TRAIL





Viewpoint #01



Viewpoint #02



Viewpoint #03



Viewpoint #04



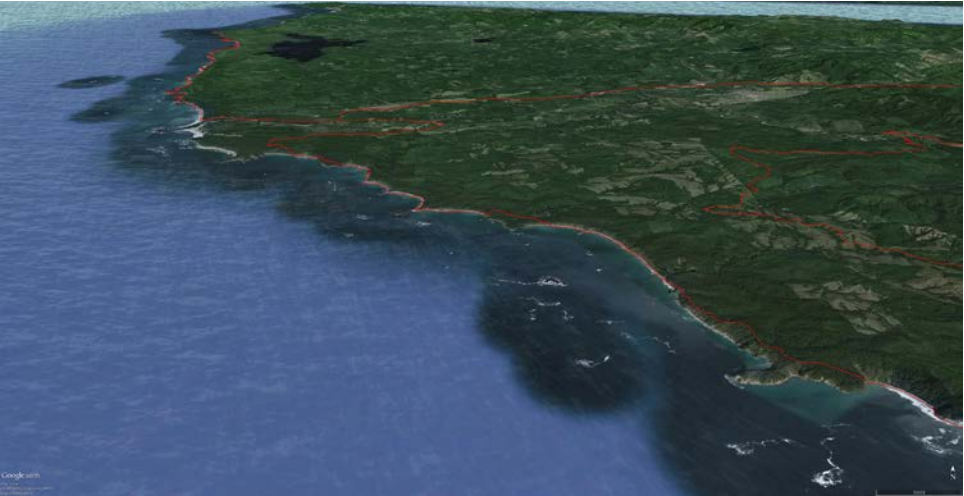


SCENIC CHARACTER

The Pacific Coast unit is the abrupt transition of mixed coniferous forest to coast. Forest is predominantly shore pine and Sitka spruce. Marsh occupies estuary areas. Grass and other pioneers stabilize beach terraces. Headlands make travel dangerous, and tides dictate opportunities. Beach is diverse with a range of substrates, including sand and basalt cobble. Pounding surf is an incessant and visceral force. Tide pools teem with colorful sea creatures. Ocean is dynamic and in perpetual motion. Sea stacks, vertical towers of rock, protrude from ocean. Salt laden wind and precipitation are common. Life is abundant and revolves around the rhythms of tide. Kelp and marine detritus collect in mats that swarm with insects and decomposers. Shore birds flock on tidal flats and cling to sea stacks. Sea otters and other marine mammals comb surf and bask on protected beaches.

Trail traverses the ecotone for prolonged experiences in solitude. Communities of people have long inhabited this productive coast and revere it as sacred ground. National Park Service designation speaks to its modern significance.

Aerial Overview



UNIT MAP



VISUAL QUALITY/SCENIC ATTRACTIVENESS

	Rating	Explanation or Rationale
Landform	5	Dramatic views of coastal tidal pools, sea stacks, sand and rock beaches.
Vegetation	5	Thick rain forest vegetation.: ferns, fungi, coastal conifers, kelp, salt grasses, and mosses.
Water	5	Pacific Ocean. Rolling waves and moving tides.
Color	3	Rock outcrops exuding browns against the blue water. Green ferns and colorful l fungi.
Adjacent Scenery	5	Distant sea stacks and shoreline add to the visual integrity.
Scarcity	5	Amazing views of the ocean shoreline.
Cultural Modification	5	Native American heritage and cultural features are positive elements. Some built elements take away.
Total	33	RATING = A+

Visual Inventory Form

Zone: I - Olympic Peninsula  
Unit # E8 Pacific Coast

Date: 09/02/15  
Jurisdiction (s): National Park

LOCATION MAP



VISIBILITY

Viewsheds/ Screening/ Distance Zone	Views are open along the seashore but as you move inland, vies are limited to the immediate foreground.
Sensitivity/ Concern Level	Very high concern levels along this section of trail because of the high use and portal access to the Cascades National Park.

SCENIC INTEGRITY

Level of Naturalness	Landscape is natural appearing along the undeveloped coastline, but has very low scenic integrity along developed sections.
Wholeness	Strong sense of intactness along most of the trail except in a few developed portions where there are a loss of continuity.



PACIFIC NORTHWEST NATIONAL SCENIC TRAIL





Viewpoint #01



Viewpoint #03



Viewpoint #02



Viewpoint #04

