

## N&P LRMP Scenery Resource Management Summary

Scenery impacts should be analyzed from all:

- system trails
- recreation areas
- lakes & rivers
- open roads
- closed roads used for trail opportunities (designated system trail)

Analyzed viewpoints can be on FS or non-FS lands. Generally we do not consider viewpoints from individual residences, but do look at public or private roads in neighborhoods if open to traffic. We also consider views from private businesses with public use, such as restaurants, observations areas, etc.

### Visual Quality Objectives by Management Area

MA	FG/SL1	FG/SL2	FG/SL3	MG/SL1	MG/SL2	MG/SL3	BG/SL1	BG/SL2	BG/SL3
1B	M*	M	M	M*	M	M	M*	M	M
2A	R	PR							
2C**	R	R	PR	R	R	PR	R	R	PR
3B	M*	M	M	M*	M	M	M*	M	M
4A	R	PR							
4C**	R	R	PR	R	R	PR	R	R	PR
4D	PR	M	M	PR	M	M	M	M	M

MA – Management Area

FG – Foreground Distance Zone (DZ), from viewer up to 0.5 miles away.

MG – Middleground Distance Zone (DZ), from FG up to 5 miles away.

BG – Background Distance Zone (DZ), from MG to horizon.

SL1, SL2, SL3 – Viewer Sensitivity Level (definitions below).

R, PR, M – Retention, Partial Retention, & Modification Visual Quality Objectives (definitions below).

\*Areas visible from Blue Ridge Parkway and Appalachian Trail must meet PR VQO.

\*\*Not in suitable timber base.

Note 1: The AT FG (MA 14) is the visible area within 0.5 mile of the trail. Boundaries are field verified and mapped for each project during leaf-off season.

Note 2: Grey cells indicate MA/DZ/SL combinations where scenery resources are a major concern. This is also true in MA 1B & 3B where BRP or AT are within or adjacent to the analysis area.

### Sensitivity Levels & Visual Quality Objectives (N&P LRMP, Appendix G)

**SL1:** Primary travel route, use area or water body where at least 1/4 of users have a major concern for scenic quality, OR secondary travel route, use area, or water body where at least 3/4 of users have a major concern for scenic quality.

**SL2:** Primary travel route, use area or water body where less than 1/4 of users have a major concern for scenic quality, OR secondary travel route, use area, or water body where at least 1/4, and not more than 3/4 of users, have a major concern for scenic quality.

**SL3:** Secondary travel route, use area, or water body where at less than 1/4 of users have a major concern for scenic quality.

Note: An example of a primary travel route or use area would be one of national or regional importance, such as the BRP, AT, Scenic Byway, Interstate Highway, etc.

**Retention VQO:** Management activities are not visually evident. Meet within 1 growing season.

**Partial Retention VQO:** Management activities remain visually subordinate to the characteristic landscape. Meet within 2 growing seasons.

**Modification VQO:** Management activities may visually dominate the original characteristic landscape. Vegetation and landform alteration must appear as natural occurrences. Roads, structures, etc. must remain visually subordinate. Meet within 3 growing seasons.