A3 VIEWSHED 1

GOAL

MANAGE THE AREA SEEN FROM A PRIMARY TRAVEL ROUTE, USE AREA, OR WATER BODY, WHERE FOREST VISITORS HAVE A MAJOR CONCERN FOR THE SCENIC QUALITIES (SENSITIVITY LEVEL 1) AS A NATURAL APPEARING LANDSCAPE.

DESCRIPTION

The strategy applies to all or parts of the defined Sensitivity Level 1 travel routes, use areas, or water bodies. Sensitivity levels are defined in the Umatilla National Forest landscape management text, and viewshed boundaries are defined on the Forest Visual Quality Objective (VQO) maps.

The following defined viewsheds, or parts of viewsheds, are included in the management area:

1. Tucannon River Road 4712 and Tucannon river from Junction 4713 to Columbia/Garfield County line) (Pomeroy);
2. Touchet River Road 64 (Forest Boundary to Forest Road 6437) (Walla Walla);
3. Tiger Creek Road 65 (Forest Boundary to Forest Road 6411) (Walla Walla);
4. Forest Road 6403 (Forest Road 64 to Forest Road 6411) (Walla Walla);
5. Skyline Road 64 (Tollgate to Jubilee Lake) (Walla Walla);
6. State Highway 204 (Forest Boundary to Forest Boundary*) (Walla Walla);
7. Bull Prairie Lake Road 2039 (State Hwy. 207 to Forest Boundary*) (Heppner);
8. State Highway 244 (Forest Boundary to Forest Boundary) (North Fork John Day [NFJD]);
9. Ukiah-Granite Road 52 (Bridge Creek to Forest Road 73*) (NFJD);
10. Forest Road 73 (Forest Road 52 to Forest Boundary*) (NFJD);
11. North Fork John Day River Road 55 (Forest Boundary to Big Creek*) (NFJD);
12. State Highway 395 (Dale to Meadow Brook Summit [Forest Boundary]*) (NFJD); and
13. Forest Road 10 (Olive Lake east to Forest Boundary*) (NFJD).

*with enclave(s)

DESIRED FUTURE CONDITION

Viewsheds will be managed primarily to meet the visual quality objectives of retention and partial retention. An attractive, natural appearing landscape will be created or maintained. A maximum of three distance zones for each viewshed, including foreground, middle ground, and background radiating from the viewer position (and a visual quality objective for each zone), have been delineated according to the process defined in the Agriculture Handbook 462, *National Forest Landscape Management*; Vol. 2, Chap. 1, The Visual Management System (USDA Forest Service 1974).

Management activities will be done with the highest sensitivity to people's concern for scenic quality. Vegetative manipulation will be conducted so that Forest management activities are not usually noticeable in the foreground and remain visually subordinate in the middle ground viewing area. All viewsheds will have vegetative management plans. Timber harvest areas will be sized and shaped to be compatible with the natural surroundings, but harvest may be noticeable in the background. Forest stands will occasionally be logged in order to maintain

long-term health and vigor, and to encourage a park-like, natural appearance with big trees in the immediate foreground. Recreational opportunities will be mostly road oriented

MANAGEMENT AREAS STANDARDS AND GUIDELINES

RECREATION

Manage dispersed recreation in the area to a Roaded Natural physical and social setting (ROS Users Guide, USDA Forest Service, n.d.).

Recreation facility development and maintenance and site modification level 1 or 2 are permitted (see Glossary). Recreation facility design, construction, and maintenance, including trails and trailheads, are to meet the visual quality objective assigned to the area and blend with the natural landscape.

Provide the opportunity for mostly road oriented activities.

Off-highway vehicle (OHV) use is allowed. OHV use may be limited to designated roads, trails, and areas.

VISUAL

Visual Quality Objective (VQO) will generally be Retention in the foreground and Partial Retention in the middle ground. Exceptions are defined through the process described in Agriculture Handbook 462. Activities within these viewsheds may only repeat form, line, color, and texture which are frequently found in the characteristic landscape. Changes of landscape should be of such size, amount, intensity, direction, and pattern that they continue to provide a natural appearance, except for short-term changes to meet long-term objectives.

Principles of visual management will be applied so that positive attributes of a managed forest can be enjoyed while negative visual aspects of activities will be minimized.

Landscapes containing negative visual elements will be rehabilitated. Landscapes will be enhanced by opening views to distant peaks, unique rock forms, unusual vegetation, or other features of interest

Viewshed corridor plans will be developed for all Sensitivity Level 1 viewsheds and will guide project activities when completed.

CULTURAL

Meet Forest-wide Standards and Guidelines.

WILDLIFE

Dead and down tree habitat will be managed to provide or maintain 60 percent of the potential population level for all primary cavity excavators.

Wildlife habitat improvement and maintenance projects are permitted provided they meet the visual quality objective of the distance zone in which they occur.

RIPARIAN

For all Class I, II, and III streams and associated riparian areas within the management area, anadromous fish habitat will be managed to produce at least 90 percent of potential smolt habitat capability index (SCHI) by meeting standards (for fish) shown in Management Area C5.

FISH

Fish habitat improvement and maintenance are permitted as long as projects meet the appropriate VQO in the distance zone in which they occur.

RANGE

A moderate level of livestock grazing is permitted. Openings created by management of timber stands should be available for management as transitory range. Development and maintenance of range improvements are permitted. Range utilization standards, management practices, and improvements are to be designed and managed to meet visual quality objectives.

TIMBER

Timber will be managed on a scheduled basis. All timber management practices and intensities shall be permitted consistent with achieving the primary visual quality goals.

EXCEPTION: Timber harvest will not be scheduled (or permitted) in the following viewshed corridor: The Tucannon River Road 4712 and river from Junction 4713 to Columbia/Garfield County line.

Uneven-aged management is the preferred and most commonly used silvicultural system; even-aged management techniques may also be used to meet objectives.

Scheduling of treatments and timber harvest, logging systems, debris disposal, reforestation, and stand improvement practices will be designed and implemented to accomplish visual management objectives.

1. Timber stands which have remained unmanaged in the past because of their visual sensitivity will begin receiving treatment, when desirable, to meet viewshed objectives.
2. Manage the viewshed for an overall mix of size classes of trees. The mix of age classes to be achieved as the overall long-term objective of the viewshed are:

	Foreground Age Classes	
Percent	Retention	Partial Retention
20	0-50	0-36
20	51-100	37-72
20	101-150	73-108
20	151-200	109-145
20	201-250	146-181

3. Emphasis will be on viewing large diameter trees and multi-age stands; both vertical and horizontal diversity are also to be emphasized. The large tree component should be as dispersed as necessary to give the overall character of large trees to the area. The standards in Tables 4-24 and 4-25 will be used in achieving desired visual characteristics.
4. A created opening is defined as an opening developed through management activities where tree heights are less than 20 feet. Created openings will be shaped and blended with the natural terrain.
5. Exceptions to created opening size and maximum percentage in openings at one time are permitted under catastrophic circumstances such as blow down, insect and disease attacks, wildfire, and others. Landscapes will be rehabilitated under these conditions.
6. Thinnings and plantings in the foreground will leave irregularly spaced trees. Mixed conifer stand regeneration in foregrounds and middle grounds will be planned for at least two species with no more than 65 percent in a single species.

TIMBER (Cont.)

Even-aged Management
Visual Resource Standards

TABLE 4-24. EVEN-AGED MANAGEMENT VISUAL RESOURCE STANDARDS

Standards		Ponderosa Pine Working Group North & South Associated		Lodgepole Pine Working Group
Factor		Retention	Part. Retent.	Retention/Part. Ret.
Maximum % Harvest per Decade	Foreground Middleground	4 9	5 10	5 10
Maximum % of Area in Created Openings at One Time [1]	Foreground Middleground	8 15	10 20	10 20
Target Tree Diameter (inches DBH)		30	24	12
Number of Target Trees at Final Removal (Per Ac.)		3-5	3-5	10
Maximum Unit Size (Ac.)	Foreground >500 ft. Middleground	3 5	5 10	5 10

1 Applies to regeneration harvests. Not applicable to intermediate or overstory removal harvests except where an opening is created.

Uneven-aged Management
Visual Resource Standards

TABLE 4-25. UNEVEN-AGED MANAGEMENT VISUAL RESOURCE STANDARDS

Umatilla National Forest

Standards		Ponderosa Pine Working Group North & South Associated		Lodgepole Pine Working Group
Factor		Retention	Part. Retent.	Retention/Part. Ret.
Maximum % of Area in Created Openings at One Time [1]	Foreground Middleground	8 15	10 20	10 20
Target Stand Diameter (inches DBH)		24	20	12
Maximum Unit Size (Ac.)	Immediate Foreground Foreground >500 ft. Middleground	1 2 2	1.5 2 2	2 2 2

1 Applies to group selection harvests. Not applicable to single tree selection or intermediate harvests except where an opening is created

WATER AND SOIL

Meet Forest-wide Standards and Guidelines.

MINERALS AND ENERGY

Meet the visual quality objectives within the intent of the Forest-wide Standards and Guidelines for minerals and energy.

Utilize existing access routes to developments where possible.

Provide for reclamation on completion of all projects within the viewshed corridors.

LANDS

Special use sites will be permitted provided they can be designed and located to blend with the characteristic landscape.

Existing special use sites will be reviewed for meeting visual management requirements at established permit renewal dates. If a special use site fails to meet standards, it will be brought into compliance.

Land Classification II (acquisition) will generally be used to meet special public needs.

Lands may be exchanged in cases of demonstrated positive net public benefit.

Meet other Forest-wide Standards and Guidelines for lands and land uses.

TRANSPORTATION

New roads and trails will be permitted and will be located, designed, and constructed to be mostly unnoticeable from the main travel route. Cut and fill slopes will be revegetated with species less palatable to livestock to minimize adverse visual effects.

Road maintenance activities will be permitted and conducted to minimize adverse visual impact by the retention of the maximum amount of existing vegetation, by encouraging the most rapid revegetation of disturbed areas outside of the surfaced roadway, and by reducing earthwork to a minimum.

Road closures in the foreground, such as gates and berms, should be designed and constructed to blend with the natural characteristics of the landscape while remaining consistent with safety requirements.

Gravel pits, borrow areas, etc., will meet the assigned visual quality objective.

Signs needed for traffic regulation and information should be few in number, be designed and located to meet aesthetic objectives, and be in accord with safety requirements.

FIRE

For moderate to high intensity wildfires, the appropriate suppression response will emphasize a control strategy.

Wildfire suppression efforts should utilize low impact methods. Use of heavy equipment may require restoration efforts to mitigate visual impacts.

FUELS

Prescribed low intensity fire with minimal scorch is acceptable. A 1 year or less recovery period is most desirable in the viewshed, if conditions are suitable.

Acceptable visual quality, including fuel loadings in the foreground, are depicted by the following photos from the Photo Series for Quantifying Forest Residues (Technical Reports PNW-52, PNW-51, PNW-105) (USDA Forest Service 1976a, 19760 1980):

	Ponderosa Pine	Lodgepole Pine	Associated Species
Natural Fuels	1 -PP4	1-LP3	3-PP and Assoc.3 1-PP and Assoc.4
Thinning Fuels	(No acceptable photos)		1-DF-1-TH
Clearcut	2-LP3-PC	2-LP3-PC	2-DF4-CC
Selection Harvest	I-PP4-PC	2-LP-3-PC	7-PP and Assoc.4-PC

Fuel treatments in foreground areas should be planned, timed, and implemented to avoid being highly visible and to minimize adverse visual effects. In the immediate foreground (within 200-300 feet of observers) handpiling, hauling material away, utilizing it for fuelwood, etc., are activities preferable to machine piling and crushing and should be completed prior to the next high human-use period.

In foreground areas, slash and damaged unmerchantable trees will be treated to a higher standard than in the middle ground and background. Fuel loadings meeting reforestation and wildlife standards in middle ground and background areas will normally be compatible with the visual objectives.

PESTS

Use integrated pest management (IPM) principles and strategies to manage insect and disease pests in meeting viewshed objectives. All treatment strategies may be utilized. Emphasize strategies that improve visual quality, aesthetics, and safety. Treatment of bark beetles and root rots is emphasized.

Suppress pests when outbreaks threaten users and/or managed resources. Use suppression methods that minimize site disturbance.