

A4 VIEWSHED 2

GOAL

MANAGE THE AREA SEEN FROM A TRAVEL ROUTE, USE AREA, OR WATER BODY WHERE SOME FOREST VISITORS HAVE A MAJOR CONCERN FOR THE SCENIC QUALITIES (SENSITIVITY LEVEL 2) AS A NATURAL APPEARING TO SLIGHTLY ALTERED LANDSCAPE.

DESCRIPTION

The strategy applies to all or parts of the defined Sensitivity Level 2 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. Pomeroy-Grouse Road 40 (Forest Boundary to Forest Boundary*) (Pomeroy);
2. Forest Road 4608 (Godman Guard Station to Teepee Springs) (Pomeroy);
3. Forest Road 46 (Godman Guard Station to Skyline Road 64) (Pomeroy/Walla Walla);
4. Skyline Road 64 (Forest Road 46 to Forest Road 6415') (Walla Walla);
5. Forest Road 4600300 (Forest Road 64 to Twin Buttes) (Walla Walla);
6. Tiger Creek Road 65 (A4 terminus to with Forest Road 64) (Walla Walla);
7. Forest Road 6415 (Forest Road 64 to Forest Road 6413) (Walla Walla);
8. County Highway 900 (Umatilla Indian Reservation to Forest Boundary) (Walla Walla);
9. Thomas Creek Road 32 (Forest Boundary to Summit Road 31) (Walla Walla);
10. Summit Road 31 (State Highway 204 south to Forest Boundary 13 segments) (Walla Walla);
12. State Highway 207 (Forest Boundary to Forest Boundary) (Heppner);
13. Forest Road 21 (Forest Road 53 to Forest Road 2103*) (Heppner);
14. Forest Road 2103 (Forest Road 21 to Penland Lake*) (Heppner);
15. Forest Road 53 (Forest Road 21 east to Forest Boundary*) (Heppner);
16. Pearson Creek Road 54 (Forest Boundary to State Highway 244); and
17. Desolation Creek Road 10 (Dale to Olive Lake [4 segments]) (North Fork John Day).

* with enclaves

DESIRED FUTURE CONDITION

Viewsheds will be managed primarily to meet the visual quality objectives of partial retention and modification. An attractive, near natural landscape will be maintained or created. A maximum of three distance zones for each viewshed including foreground, middleground, 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 sensitivity to people's concern for scenic quality (Level 2), with vegetative manipulation conducted so that Forest management activities remain visually subordinate in foregrounds of selected travel routes and sites. All viewsheds will have approved

vegetative management plans. Management activities will be obvious in the middleground and background viewing area, but designed to compliment their surroundings. Forest stands will occasionally be logged in order to maintain long-term health and vigor, and to encourage a park-like, near natural appearance with big trees in the immediate foreground. Recreation opportunities will be mostly road oriented

MANAGEMENT AREAS STANDARDS AND GUIDELINES

RECREATION

Manage dispersed recreation in the area for a range of physical and social settings from Rooded Natural to Rooded Modified (ROS Users Guide, USDA Forest Service, n.d.).

Recreation facility development and maintenance and site modification level 1 and 2 are permitted (see Glossary). Facilities (including trails and trailheads) designed, constructed, developed, and maintained in the area, are to blend with the natural landscape character and meet visual quality objectives.

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 Partial Retention in the foreground and Modification in the middleground. (Exceptions are defined through the process described in Agriculture Handbook 462.) Activities within these viewsheds may repeat or borrow from 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 appearing or slightly altered 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 prepared for all sensitivity level 2 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 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.

FISH

Fish habitat improvement and maintenance projects are permitted provided they meet the appropriate VQO in 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 (SCHL) by meeting standards (for fish) shown in Management Area C5

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.

Timber harvest will not be scheduled in the following viewshed corridors:

	EXCEPTED PORTIONS
Road 40	Road 44 to Forest Boundary
Road 4600300	Road 64 Easterly to Road 4608
Road 4600301	Road 46 to End
Road 4608	Road 4600300 to End
Road 64	Between Road 46 and W-T Wilderness Boundary
Road 46	Road 65 to Road 46

Uneven-aged management is the preferred and most commonly used silvicultural systems in the foreground; even-aged management techniques may also be used to meet objectives. Both systems are available in the middle and background zones.

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 following mix of age classes should be achieved as the overall long-term objective of the viewshed.

Percent	Foreground Age Classes
	Partial Retention
20	0-36
20	37-72
20	73-108
20	109-145
20	146-181

3. Emphasis will be on viewing large diameter trees and multi-age stands; both vertical and horizontal diversity will also be emphasized. The large tree component should be dispersed as necessary to give the overall character of large trees to the area. The

standards in Tables 4-26 and 4-27 will be used in achieving desired visual characteristics.

Even-aged Management Visual Resource Standards

TABLE 4-26. EVEN-AGED MANAGEMENT VISUAL RESOURCE STANDARDS

Umatilla National Forest

Standards		Ponderosa Pine Working Group North & South Associated	Lodgepole Pine Working Group
Factor		Partial Retention	Partial Retention
Maximum % Harvest per Decade	Foreground	5	5
	Middleground ²	10	10
Maximum % of Area in Created Openings at One Time ¹	Foreground	10	10
	Middleground ²	20	20
Target Tree Diameter (inches DBH)		24	12
Number of Target Trees at Final Removal (Per Ac.)		3-5	10
Maximum Unit Size (Ac.)	Foreground >500 ft.	5	5
	Middleground ²	10	10

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

2 Modification will be the general visual standard for middleground; where partial retention is assigned to the middleground, the above standards apply.

Uneven-aged Management Visual Resource

TABLE 4-27. UNEVEN-AGED MANAGEMENT VISUAL RESOURCE STANDARDS

Umatilla National Forest

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

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

2 Modification will be the general visual standard for middleground; where partial retention is assigned to the middleground, the above standards apply.

4. A created opening is defined as an opening developed through management activities where the 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 created openings at one time are permitted under conditions of catastrophic occurrence 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 will be planned for at least two species with no more than 65 percent in a single species.

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 upon 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 fails to meet standards, it will be brought into compliance.

Land Classification II (acquisition) will generally be used. Lands may be exchanged in cases of demonstrated positive net public benefit.

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

TRANSPORTATION

New roads and trails will be permitted and will be designed and constructed to meet the partial retention and modification visual quality objectives. Cut and fill slopes within view will be revegetated species with 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 the 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 control and/or contain strategies.

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 in the partial retention area. In the partial retention area a 1 year or less recovery period is most desirable, 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, 1976b, 1980):

	Ponderosa Pine	Lodgepole Pine	Associated Species
Natural Fuels	1-PP-4	1-LP-3	3-PP and Assoc.3
Thinning Fuels	(No acceptable photos)	(No acceptable photos)	1 -PP and Assoc.4 1-DF-1-TH
Clear Cut	2-LP3-PC	2-LP-3-PC	2-DF-4-CC
Selection Harvest	1-PP-4-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 methods preferable to machine piling and crushing. Treatment 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 middleground and background. Fuel loadings meeting reforestation and wildlife standards in middleground and background areas will normally be compatible with the visual objectives.

PESTS

Use integrated pest management (IPM) principles 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.