Table C.1-1. Visual Resource Management (VRM) Scenic Quality Rating System

| Component | Scenic Quality Rating | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| Landform | High vertical relief (prominent cliffs, spires, or massive rock outcrops); severe surface variation, highly eroded formations (major badlands or dune systems); detail features dominant and exceptionally striking/intriguing. 5 | Steep canyons, mesas, buttes, cinder cones, and drumlins; or interesting erosional patterns or variety in size and shape of landforms; or detail features, which are interesting though not dominant or exceptional. 3 | Low rolling hills, foothills, or flat valley bottoms; or few or no interesting landscape features. 1 |
| Vegetation | A variety of vegetative types as expressed in interesting forms, textures, and patterns. 5 | Some variety of vegetation, but only one or two major types. 3 | Little or no variety or contrast in vegetation. 1 |
| Water | Clear and clean appearing, still, or cascading white water, any of which are a dominant factor in the landscape. 5 | Flowing, or still, but not dominant in the landscape. 3 | Absent or present, but not noticeable. 0 |
| Color | Rich color combinations, variety or vivid color; or pleasing contrasts in the soil, rock, vegetation, water or snow fields. 5 | Some intensity or variety in colors and contrast of the soil, rock, and vegetation, but not a dominant scenic element. 3 | Subtle color variations, contrast, or interest; generally muted tones. 1 |
| Influence of Adjacent Scenery | Adjacent scenery greatly enhances visual quality. 5 | Some intensity or variety in colors and contrast of the soil, rock, and vegetation, but not a dominant scenic element. 3 | Adjacent scenery has little or no influence on overall visual quality. 0 |
| Scarcity | One of a kind; or unusually memorable, or very rare within region. Consistent chance for exceptional wildlife or wildflower viewing, etc. 5+* | Distinctive, though somewhat similar to others within the region. 3 | Interesting within its setting, but fairly common within the region. 1 |
| Cultural Modifications | Modifications add favorably to visual variety while promoting visual harmony. 2 | Modifications add little or no visual variety to the area, and introduce no discordant elements. 0 | Modifications add variety but are very discordant and promote strong disharmony. - 4 |

* A rating of greater than 5 can be given but must be supported by written justification

| Scenic Quality Rating: | A = 19 or more | B = 12 to 18 | C = 11 or less |
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Source: BLM, 1986a and 1986b. This table is identical to Draft EIR Table D.12-1.