

**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.	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.	Low rolling hills, foothills, or flat valley bottoms; or few or no interesting landscape features.
	5	3	1
Vegetation	A variety of vegetative types as expressed in interesting forms, textures, and patterns.	Some variety of vegetation, but only one or two major types.	Little or no variety or contrast in vegetation.
	5	3	1
Water	Clear and clean appearing, still, or cascading white water, any of which are a dominant factor in the landscape.	Flowing, or still, but not dominant in the landscape.	Absent or present, but not noticeable.
	5	3	0
Color	Rich color combinations, variety or vivid color; or pleasing contrasts in the soil, rock, vegetation, water or snow fields.	Some intensity or variety in colors and contrast of the soil, rock, and vegetation, but not a dominant scenic element.	Subtle color variations, contrast, or interest; generally muted tones.
	5	3	1
Influence of Adjacent Scenery	Adjacent scenery greatly enhances visual quality.	Some intensity or variety in colors and contrast of the soil, rock, and vegetation, but not a dominant scenic element.	Adjacent scenery has little or no influence on overall visual quality.
	5	3	0
Scarcity	One of a kind; or unusually memorable, or very rare within region. Consistent chance for exceptional wildlife or wildflower viewing, etc.	Distinctive, though somewhat similar to others within the region.	Interesting within its setting, but fairly common within the region.
	5+*	3	1
Cultural Modifications	Modifications add favorably to visual variety while promoting visual harmony.	Modifications add little or no visual variety to the area, and introduce no discordant elements.	Modifications add variety but are very discordant and promote strong disharmony.
	2	0	- 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**

Source: BLM, 1986a and 1986b. This table is identical to Draft EIR Table D.12-1.