



Existing Scenic Integrity: High, with Areas of Moderate. This existing landscape view is taken from Vetter Mountain Lookout at an elevation of approximately 5,890 feet, looking southwest toward Mt. Wilson electronic site on the skyline. The landscape visible from Vetter Mountain Lookout (and Charlton Flats) in general, and KOP-Center-8 specifically, is predominantly natural-appearing, consisting of foreground, middleground, and background landscapes with dense, dark green chaparral and evergreen tree-covered mountainsides. There are interesting vegetative patterns in this landscape view that are created by the folded terrain and microclimates. The sun angle and shadows emphasize the ruggedness of the steep slopes and broken terrain. The natural landscape has a coherent form and character with substantial visual variety created by the rugged, folded terrain. On the skyline, electronic facilities at Mount Wilson are visible and attract attention. On the midslope, the existing utility corridor contains 220-kV and 500-kV transmission lines. Also on the midslope, existing highway cutslopes are partially shielded from view by dark shadows. The natural landscape exhibits a high degree of intactness and scenic integrity, except for the visually discordant electronic sites, transmission line structures, and highway cutslopes. Access and spur roads to the existing towers are evident beyond the Angeles Crest Highway, and further detract from scenic integrity, leading to a rating of moderate scenic integrity for the utility corridor. This landscape currently does not meet the ANF High SIO because of the presence of these human-made features.

Scenic Integrity Objective: High. In the 2005 Forest Plan, the entire landscape in this vicinity is mapped as High SIO, where the management direction states that human activities should not be visually evident. Human-caused deviations may be present but must repeat the form, line, color, texture, and pattern common to the natural landscape character so completely and at such a scale that they are not evident.

Figure 3.14-71a
Existing Conditions
for KOP-Center-8
Vetter Mountain Lookout
(Alternative 6, Segment 6)

Source: USFS, 2007.