



View Description and Scenic Quality Data Instructions

Observation Data

NPS Unit Name: Enter the four-letter abbreviation for the park unit in which the inventory is being conducted.

Viewpoint No: Enter the viewpoint identification number assigned to the viewpoint.

Viewpoint Name: Enter the name of the inventory viewpoint.

Viewed Landscape Name: Use this field only if there are two views from the viewpoint. Distinguish between the two views by adding a viewed landscape name based on a well-known feature in the view (e.g. Pike's Peak), or if there are no well-known features, by a descriptive term, e.g. "mountains to west."

GPS Coordinates: Enter the GPS coordinates from your device for the inventory viewpoint and indicate if they are latitude/longitude or UTM. Note: Record lat/long coordinates as decimal degrees.

View Geometry Bearings: Enter the compass bearings for the left side, approximate center, and right side of the view. Indicate if the compass reading is magnetic or true north.

Weather

Use the definitions below to determine the weather condition for the viewed landscape.

- Clear/Sunny: There are few or no opaque clouds.
- Mostly Sunny: Approximately $\frac{1}{4}$ of the sky is covered by opaque clouds.
- Partly Cloudy: Approximately $\frac{1}{2}$ of the sky is covered by opaque clouds.
- Mostly Cloudy: Approximately $\frac{3}{4}$ of the sky is covered by opaque clouds.
- Cloudy/Overcast: $\frac{7}{8}$ or more of the sky is covered by opaque clouds.
- Cirrus: High-altitude clouds appear as wispy white patches, narrow bands, or tufts with a hair-like appearance, and often semi-transparent.

Observer Position: Indicate if a viewer is primarily looking down at the view, level with it, or looking up at the scene.

Photographs: Take a panoramic sequence from left to right with approximately $\frac{1}{3}$ overlap. Take additional photos of significant focal points or intrusions.

Photo Record

- **Photographer:** Enter the name of the photographer. If more than one, enter all names.
- **Camera/lens 1, 2:** Enter the camera make and model, for each camera used. For example:
 - Camera 1: Nikon D7000.
 - Camera 2: iPad
- **Photo Number(s):** Enter the number for each photo or bounding numbers for a range of photos, for example:
 - 1035, 1036–1038
- **Pan:** Check if the photograph is a panorama or the series is shot as a panorama that needs to be stitched.
- **Notes:** Describe the scene and record the direction of the photograph in the notes column of the photo record.

Distance Zones: Using the following descriptions as a guide, record where the foreground ends, where the middle ground begins and ends, and where the background begins.

Foreground

- Human scale is most important and the viewer may feel they are "part of the landscape."
- Surface textures are often visible and colors are distinct.
- Trees, buildings, and structures are seen as individual entities.
- Building elements such as doors, windows, and roof shapes are visible.
- Details of human activities, such as people hiking, fishing or camping are most apparent in the foreground, and wildlife is most easily observed.

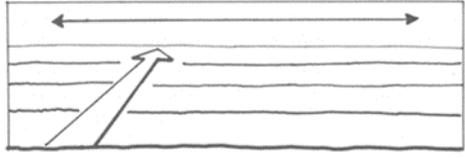
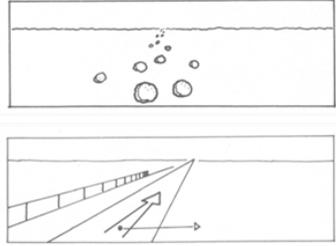
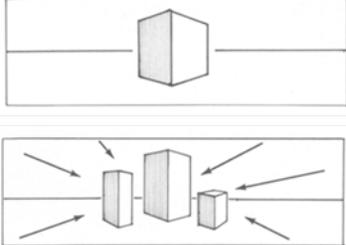
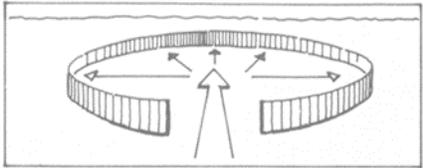
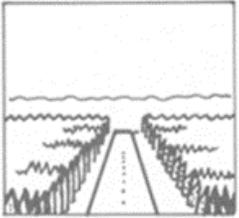
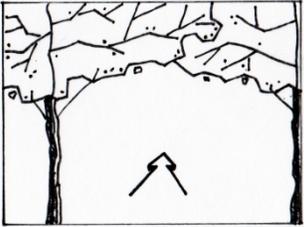
Middle-ground

- Viewers may feel more like they are looking "at the landscape" rather than "being in it."
- Patterns and landforms define the view, rather than individual elements. Objects such as trees, shrubs, rock outcrops and houses form a texture or pattern.
- The outlines of objects are less distinct, and colors become more muted.
- Details of many human activities will not be visible.

Background

- Landscape elements are very far away.
- The horizon, mountains, or other landforms dominate the backdrop.
- Forests, shrub lands, grasslands, and non-vegetated areas are seen as blocks of color. Texture and patterns have largely disappeared.
- Colors are muted, often taking on a bluish or purple hue because of atmospheric conditions

View Type: Use the following definitions, diagrams, and photos to determine the viewed landscape type. In the notes section, record any unusual or important information about the landscape type.

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|--|---|---|
| <p>Panoramic landscapes afford an essentially unobstructed and complete 180°+ view.</p> |  |  |
| <p>Focal landscapes have elements that lead the observer's eye to a point of convergence.</p> |  |  |
| <p>Feature landscapes are dominated by an object or group of objects to which your eye is drawn</p> |  |  |
| <p>Enclosed landscapes are surrounded by more or less continuous groupings of landscape elements that form visual "walls" and a "floor" that limit the view to the enclosed area.</p> |  |  |
| <p>Framed landscapes contain visible edges of landforms, vegetation, or structures that anchor the scene and create a feeling of "looking through a window" to the scene beyond.</p> |  |  |
| <p>Canopied landscapes feature an overhead "ceiling" such as that created by forest canopy or overhead structures.</p> |  |  |

Landscape Character Type Descriptions

NOTE: There will be regional variations in the typical elements for the various landscape character types. The typical element lists below should be adjusted accordingly, in advance of conducting the inventory.

Natural/Natural Appearing Landscapes are dominated by natural features. There may be evidence of human changes to the landscape but they are minimal and do not detract from the natural landscape character. Typical elements include:

- Coastal/Seashores
- Mountains
- Rivers, lakes, streams, creeks, waterfalls, etc.
- Valleys
- Forest
- Wetlands, marshes
- Deserts
- Plains

Pastoral Landscapes are predominantly grassland or shrub/scrub open rangeland. They may have natural or planted pastures or may appear as extensive natural/natural appearing areas with typically widely spaced, limited development. Typical elements include:

- Ranch/farm development such as houses, barns, stables
- Small windmills, sheds, fences, sheds, scattered natural hay fields, etc.

Agricultural Landscapes consist of planted fields of row crops, orchards, vineyards, and livestock pasture or confined feeding operations. The topography is typically flat to rolling, but generally does not occur on steep terrain. These landscapes are often developed in grid-like field patterns with a clustered farm complex. Typical elements include:

- Planted fields or row crops
- Barns and/or sheds
- Silos and/or grain bins, grain elevators
- Fences and/or rock walls
- Livestock yards

Rural Landscapes consist of isolated non-farm houses, or small settlements with low populations, often located away from larger cities, suburbs, and towns. Recreation areas and natural features may also be present. Typical elements include:

- Widely scattered single-family homes with associated structures and infrastructure
- Cluster of houses with outbuildings, churches or other structures and associated infrastructure
- Recreation and/or natural areas, including natural parks, forests, ponds, and wildlife areas

Suburban Landscapes contain residential communities and mixed-use commercial development near a city. Population density is typically less than that of a city but more than a rural area. Typical elements include:

- A mix of single family homes, townhomes, condominiums, and apartments
- Commercial areas, schools
- Golf courses, planned parks, and undeveloped open space
- Highways, roads, rail stations, and large parking lots

Urban Landscapes contain densely developed areas. Infrastructure and circulation patterns are present. Typical elements include:

- Buildings ranging from low to high rise, with a mix of uses including government, office, retail, and residential
- Highways, roads, bridges, and transit stations

Industrial Landscapes may be integrated into an urban development pattern or found on the edge of town and city centers, but are considered the dominant feature of the landscape and not isolated developments. Typical elements include:

- A concentration of conventional or renewable energy extraction, generation, or transmission facilities
- Factories, warehouses or other industrial appearing buildings
- Shipyards/railyards

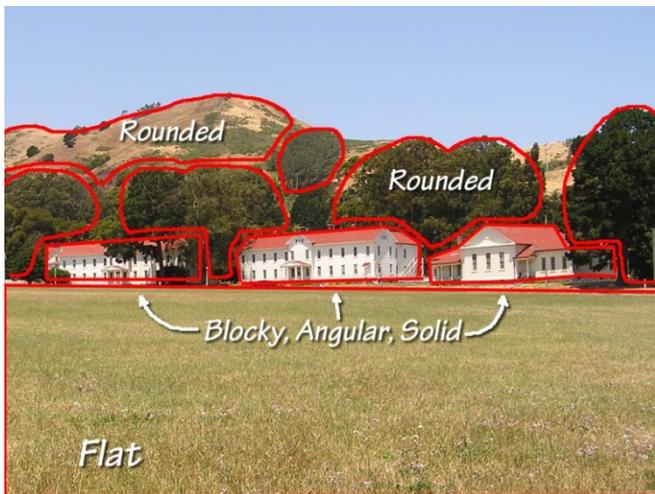
Landscape Elements

Landscape elements are visible objects and activities in the landscape that affect its scenic quality and help to distinguish its character type. This section records the primary landscape elements that are present and in which distance zone they occur. Place a check mark or “X” in the appropriate box for each element. If an element is not listed on the *View Description and Scenic Quality* data sheet, you may enter it in one of the blank spaces provided. Use the list of terms on the data sheet as a reminder of the most common landforms, landcovers, land uses, and structures.

Prominent Design Elements

Design elements include the forms, lines, colors, and textures visible in the landscape. In this section of the data sheet, record which prominent elements in the landscape correspond to the descriptors listed under each design element, e.g., rolling hills, vertical lines of wind turbines. Descriptors may not apply to every landscape. Use the following photos as a reminder to help you identify the prominent design elements in the viewed landscape.

FORM



LINE



Form is the visual mass, bulk, or shape of prominent objects in the viewed landscape.

Lines are the paths that the eye follows, such as the horizon, silhouettes, or edges of fields.

COLOR



TEXTURE



Color is the hue, lightness, and intensity of prominent features in the viewed landscape.

Texture is the visual surface pattern of prominent feature(s) in the viewed landscape.