



Pre-Permitting Environmental / Socio-Economic Data Report Series

Report Series M- Visual Resources

Report M-5 Referenced Terms

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Preliminary data. Do not cite or quote.

The Pebble Partnership is providing environmental and socio-economic baseline data collected to inform the development of the Pebble Project to state and federal agencies, project stakeholders and the general public prior to project permitting as part of its commitment to full and open disclosure.

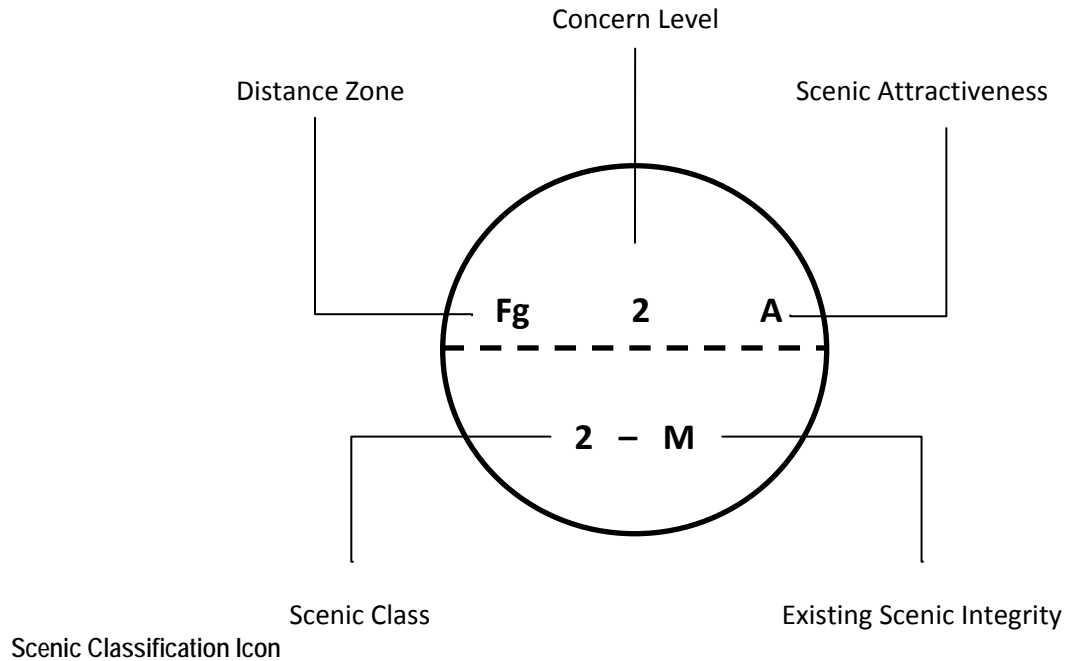
A comprehensive Environmental Baseline Document (EBD) will subsequently be prepared and appended to future project permit applications. The EBD will also be made publicly available when complete.

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The following are definitions commonly used in visual resource reports, based on The U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) Forest Service document *Landscape Aesthetics, A Handbook for Scenery Management* (USFS, 1995).



Landscape Analysis Units—geographical areas that can be identified based on common characteristics of landform, vegetation, hydrology, and social attributes where present. These are often based on ecological units that have been defined by land managers and ecologists.

Landscape Character—a description of key attributes found consistent throughout a mapped landscape analysis unit that conveys an image of the landscape based on landform patterns, water characteristics, vegetation patterns, and cultural elements.

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Scenic Attractiveness—a primary indicator of the intrinsic scenic beauty of a landscape and of the positive responses it evokes in people. It is based on commonly held perceptions of the beauty of landform, vegetation pattern, composition, surface-water characteristics, and land use patterns and cultural features.

Table M-1
Scenic Attractiveness

Class	Title	Description
A	Distinctive	Areas where landform, vegetative patterns, water characteristics, and cultural features combine to provide unusual, unique, or outstanding scenic quality. These landscapes have strong positive attributes of variety, unity, vividness, mystery, intactness, order, harmony, uniqueness, pattern, and balance.
B	Typical	Areas where landform, vegetative patterns, water characteristics, and cultural features combine to provide ordinary or common, scenic quality. These landscapes have generally positive, yet common, attributes of variety, unity, vividness, mystery, intactness, order, harmony, uniqueness, pattern, and balance. Normally they would form the basic matrix within the landscape unit.
C	Indistinctive	Areas where landform, vegetative patterns, water characteristics, and cultural land use have low scenic quality. Often water and rockform of any consequence are missing in class C landscapes. These landscapes have weak or missing attributes of variety, unity, vividness, mystery, intactness, order, harmony, uniqueness, pattern, and balance.

Scenic Integrity—an indication of the degree of intactness and wholeness of the landscape character. Scenic Integrity is indicated in the lower right of the scenic classification icon as follows:

VH – Very High scenic integrity

H – High scenic integrity

M – Moderate scenic integrity

L – Low scenic integrity

VL – Very Low scenic integrity

Constituents—represent those who may view project components and is a description of their expectations, desires, preferences, acceptable levels of quality, behaviors, and values.

Table M-2
Constituents

Viewer Group	Description
Residents	Limited number of residents. Seasonal occupancy of Williamsport, Camp Point (Iniskin Peninsula) and some cabins/lodges along coasts and creeks.
Tourists/ Recreationalists	Fishing, hunting, boating, sightseeing
Subsistence	Fishing, hunting
Aircraft	Scheduled carriers and small aircraft serving cabins and Camp Point.

Landscape Visibility—an indication of the area that may be seen as a function of the context of the viewers, the duration of view, the degree of discernible detail, the seasonal variations, and the number of viewers.

Concern Levels—a measure of the degree of public importance placed on landscapes viewed from travelways and use areas.

Distance Zones—a measure of the distance of potential viewers from areas of project components, usually measured as foreground (0 to .5 miles), middleground (.5 to 4 miles), background (4 miles to horizon), or seldom-seen.

Table M-3
Distance Zones

Distance Zones	Distance	Description
Foreground (Fg)	0-0.5 mile	Distinguish vegetative detail, medium to large birds, tree movement; receive animal/tree sounds, and smells.
Middleground (Mg)	0.5-4 miles	Distinguish individual tree forms, large boulders, flower fields, small openings in the forest, and small rock outcrops.
Background (Bg)	4 miles to horizon	Distinguish groves or stands of trees, large openings in the forest, and large rock outcrops. Texture has disappeared and color has flattened.
Seldom Seen (Ss)	Varies	Seldom seen as a result of topography and distance from viewing locations. May be seen by aircraft.

Concern Levels—a measure of the degree of public importance placed on landscapes viewed from travelways and use areas.

Scenic Class—a measure of the relative importance or value of discrete landscape areas having similar characteristics of scenic attractiveness and landscape visibility.

Table M-4
Scenic Class Determination

Scenic Class Ratings 1 to 2 = High Public Value 3 to 5 = Moderate Public Value 6 to 7 = Low Public Value		Landscape Visibility Distance Zone		
		Foreground	Middleground	Background
Scenic Attractiveness	A - Distinctive	1	1	1
	B - Typical	1	2	2
	C - Indistinctive	1	2	3