CONDUCTING A BASELINE VISUAL ASSESSMENT

FOR THE PACIFIC NORTHWEST NATIONAL SCENIC TRAIL

Presented by:
Brad Cownover and Matt Ramich
Landscape Architects, US Forest Service
OVERVIEW:

- Pacific Northwest National Scenic Trail
- Objectives & Benefits
- Methods & Results
- Next Steps & Lessons Learned
HISTORY OF THE PNT

1970: Ron Strickland’s big idea
1977: First thru-hike completed by Janet Garner & Rex Bakel
1980: Feasibility study
1990s: First local trail maintenance organization formed
2000s: Volunteers advocated for National Scenic Trail status
2009: Congress designated the PNT as a National Scenic Trail
Pacific Northwest National Scenic Trail
No one “owns” the view of scenic resources.
No one “owns” the view of scenic resources.

The charming landscape which I saw this morning is indubitably made up of some twenty or thirty farms. Miller owns this field, Locke that, and Manning the woodland beyond.

But none of them owns the landscape...

...This is the best part of these men's farms, yet to this their warranty-deeds give no title.

Ralph Waldo Emerson
BENEFITS...

- Document existing conditions
- Monitor change over time
- Assist with Optimal Location Review
- Protect Quality of Trail Experience
- Defines Zones of Experience
- Restore / Enhance (from what, to what?)
  - Public Lands
  - Private Land – (Scenic Easements, Acquisition, etc.)

- Inform Comprehensive Plan
LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE DETAIL

Byron Stringham
David Fothergill
Matt Ramich
OBJECTIVES AND PRINCIPLES

- Compile existing scenery resource information currently available across multiple jurisdictions

- Obtain a baseline visual (scenic) inventory and landscape character assessment;

- Evaluate existing landscape (scenic) character;

- Produce a seen – area (visibility) and viewshed analysis;

- Evaluate existing scenic integrity and stability; and

- Complete an on – site (field based) visual resource analysis and photographic documentation from the trail corridor.
EPA Ecoregion III/4
- Land Use / Protected Areas
- Conservation Lands
- Political Ownership
- Biophysical, Geology, VES
- Socio-cultural (+ Sense of Place)
- Landscape Character Descriptions (OK-WEN)
- Visibility / Sensitivity
- Scenic Quality / Iconic Views, Vistas
- Condition / Potential / Integrity / Sustainability / Stability
- Rec. Experience / Setting / Sequence / Gateways...
- User/Hiker Input
- Constituent Analysis "Survey"
- Outdoor Project
MERGING TWO SYSTEMS

- Forest Service Scenery Management System
  - Referenced Terminology from USFS Landscape Management and Landscape Aesthetics, Agriculture Handbook 701 for scenery analysis.

- Bureau of Land Management Visual Resource Inventory
  - Referenced Terminology from BLM Manual H-8410-1
The ‘SCENIC’ Resource Principles

✓ Condition
✓ Sensitivity to Change
✓ Visibility

Visual Quality
Concern Levels
Distance Zones

Landscape (Scenic) Character
FLOW CHART WALKTHROUGH
Landscape (Scenic) Character

“A combination of the physical, biological and cultural images that gives an area its positive scenic identity and contributes to its sense of place.”

Scenic Character

the *essential scenery resource*

to be protected and restored

**Seen Experience of the PNT Traveler**
WALKTHROUGH CONTINUED

PACIFIC NORTHWEST NATIONAL SCENIC TRAIL
SCENIC INVENTORY PROCESS

Trail Route

Constituent Information

Existing Scenic Integrity

Ecosystem Risk/ Landuse Threats /Sustainability

Existing Management Direction and Goals

Existing Scenic Integrity Narrative & Risk GIS Data

Existing Management Direction and Goals Reference Guide

Visual assessment tools for Comprehensive Management Planning to aid in identify priorities and gaps in data.

Visual Quality/ Scenic Attractiveness

Visibility Narrative & Mapping - Viewsheds and Concern Levels

Composite Mapping (i.e. Scenic Class/VRRI Class) would be mapped as needed for corridor planning efforts.

Geographic Area & Unit Character Map & Descriptions

Scenic Character

Sensitivity/ Concern Levels

Distance Zone & Viewsheds

Threats/ Trends

May 2016
Society of Outdoor Recreation Professionals
BOISE, IDAHO

May 2016
REGIONS

Rocky Mountains – A Units
REGIONS

Columbian Rockies - B Units

[Map of the region]
REGIONS

North Cascades – C Units
REGIONS

Puget Sound – D Units
REGIONS

Olympic Peninsula – E Units
WALKTHROUGH CONTINUED
Visual (Scenic) Quality/Scenic Attractiveness

Measures the scenic importance of a landscape based upon perceptions of the intrinsic beauty of landform, rock form, vegetative patterns, water characteristics, cultural land use.

- Class A = Distinctive
- Class B = Typical
- Class C = Indistinctive

- Variety
- Unity
- Vividness
- Mystery
- Intactness
- Coherence
- Harmony
- Uniqueness
- Pattern
- Balance

Physiographic Province
### PNNST Visual Inventory

**Geographic Area:** N Rookies  
**Scene Character Unit:** KOOTENAI VALLEY

#### Scenic Attractiveness/Visual Quality
- Variety, Unity, Vividness, Mystery, Intactness, Coherence, Harmony, Uniqueness

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Landform Spatial Definition</th>
<th>L</th>
<th>M</th>
<th>H</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Rock Features</td>
<td></td>
<td>M</td>
<td>H</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Vegetation Patterns</td>
<td>L</td>
<td>M</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Surface Water Characteristics</td>
<td>L</td>
<td></td>
<td>M</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Landmarks</td>
<td>L</td>
<td>M</td>
<td>H</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Landuse Patterns</td>
<td>L</td>
<td>M</td>
<td>H</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Built Features</td>
<td>L</td>
<td>H</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cultural/Sense of place</td>
<td>L</td>
<td>M</td>
<td>H</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

#### Scenic Integrity
- Level of Natural Intactness
- Wholeness

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Score (Circle One)</th>
<th>V</th>
<th>L</th>
<th>M</th>
<th>B</th>
<th>Y</th>
<th>H</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>

#### Visibility
- Foreground View: RIVER
- Middleground View: AGRICULTURE
- Background View: SELKIRKS, PORCELLS

#### Photographs:

| Photographs: | 80012-0345 |

#### Scenic Character Description:

**Vegetation:**
- LITTLE RHAPIDIAN EDGE
- COTTONWOODS
- TEEPEE OF FORESTED SLOPES
- PASTURAL

**Land Use:**
- FARM LAND: HOPS, WHEAT, MUSTARD?
- FOREST
- BLACKWATER RIVER
- LEVEES
- PATTERNS
- PASTURE OR GRASS - MONOCULTURE

**Landform:**
- FLAT VALLEY
- MEMBER OF LARGE RIVER
- FORRESTED, SELKIRK, TURCELLS
- WITH "BRUSHLANDS"
- JUST A HINT OF SELKIRK CREST
- STEEP SLOPES DOWN TO FLAT VALLEY

**Features:**
- RIVER
- FARM LAND
- MOUNTAINS
- BIG MEADOW

**Other Comments:**
- WAVING OF COTTONWOODS
- BUZZLE OF WIND BURST
- CHIRPING OF SWALLOWS
- FULL LIGHT
- QUIET
- PEACEFUL
- BORDER PATROL
- SLEEPY
- SMOKE
- NATURE STRUCTURES BUT EVIDENCE OF MODIFICATION FOR FLOODPLAIN AGRICULTURE

**Date:** 7/15/15
Scenic Quality

Seven scenic quality factors

- Landform
- Vegetation
- Water
- Color
- Adjacent Scenery
- Scarcity
- Cultural Modifications
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Key Factors</th>
<th>Rating Criteria and Score</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Landform</td>
<td>High vertical relief as expressed in prominent cliffs, spires, or massive rock outcrops, or severe variation or highly eroded formations including major dune systems or detail features dominant and exceptionally striking and intriguing such as glaciers.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Vegetation</td>
<td>A variety of vegetative types as expressed in interesting forms, textures, and patterns.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Water</td>
<td>Clear and clean appearing, still, or cascading white water, any of which are a dominant factor in the landscape.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Color</td>
<td>Rich color combinations, variety or vivid color, or pleasing contrasts in the soil, rock, vegetation, water or snow fields.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Influence of Adjacent Scenery</td>
<td>Adjacent scenery greatly enhances visual quality.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Scarcity</td>
<td>One of a kind or unusually memorable, or very rare within region. Consistent chance for exceptional wildlife or wildflower viewing, etc.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cultural Modifications</td>
<td>Modifications add favorably to visual variety while promoting visual harmony.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

*Figure Source: BLM Manual H-8410-1, Illustration 2.*

*A rating of greater than 5 can be given but must be supported by written justification.*
# PNNST Visual Inventory

**Geographic Area:** Coast Range Peninsula  
**Scenic Character Unit:** Low Olympics (Elwha River)  
**Date:** 5/31/2016

## Scenic Character Description:

### Vegetation:
- Big trees
- Dying fir
- Big leaf maple
- Snow fern
- Vine maples
- Epiphytic moss
- Lichen
- Ferns
- Heather
- Understory

### Land Use:
- Recreation
- Conservation
- Restoration

### Landform:
- Ephemeral processes
- Point bars
- River canyons
- Upstream deposition
- Lake Mills
- Exposed rock
- Expresses volcanism
- Ancient riparian history

### Features:
- Hot springs
- Cool cultural modification
- Breached dam
- Trail interacts with river
- Above Mary's Falls Campground
- Salmon runs
- Full shade in many areas
- Quiet wet climate
- Dense forest

### Foreground View:
- Riparian corridor
- Tunnel of trees
- Canopy is limited

### Middleground View:
- Glimpses of river
- Processed

### Background View:
- Limited
- Some rock outcrops
- Forested upland slopes

### Scenic Quality / Scenic Atrractiveness

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Category</th>
<th>Score</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Landforms</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Vegetation</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Water</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Color</td>
<td>5/6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Influence of Adjacent Scenery</td>
<td>5/6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Scarcity</td>
<td>5/5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cultural Modification</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sense of place</td>
<td>5/6</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

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**Visible (Sensitivity / Concern Level / Viewshed):**

- Foreground: Riparian corridor, tunnel of trees, canopy is limited
- Middleground: Glimpses of river, processed
- Background: Limited, some rock outcrops, forested upland slopes

**Location:**

- GPS Location: [Insert GPS coordinates]

**Photographs:** [Insert photograph references]
WALKTHROUGH CONTINUED
Constituent Information

- how people use area
- preferences and thresholds for scenery condition
- PNT-Local Field Office as surrogates for formal survey of trail hikers
- Crowd-source potential geo-photos
- Comp. Planning can augment
Concern Levels
A measure of public concern for scenery as viewed from travel ways, use areas, and special places.

Based on numbers of viewers & social importance of the scenery

high 1  moderate 2  low 3
Walkthrough Continued
Landscape Visibility

- **background = 4 mi to horizon**
- **middleground = 1/2 to 4 miles**
- **foreground = 300’ to ½ mile**
- **immediate foreground = 0-300 feet**

**seldom seen areas**
Viewsheds
PHOTO INVENTORY POINTS

Gaps
Grizzly Country
Pasayten Wilderness

Relied on Photographs from Local Units

Hiked/ Biked and Photographed ¼ of Total Trail Miles
Sampled 85-95% of all Landscape Inventory Units
KEY INDICATOR

Scenic Integrity

measures *scenery disturbance* of the scenic character, in 6 levels:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>SIO</th>
<th>VQO</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>very high</td>
<td>no disturbance</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>high</td>
<td>unnoticed disturbance</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>moderate</td>
<td>minor disturbance</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>low</td>
<td>co-dominant disturbance</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>very low</td>
<td>strong disturbance</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>no integrity</td>
<td>excessive disturbance</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Scenic Integrity is emphasized within view of travelways, use areas and special places – measures existing/future disturbance & can define thresholds for future disturbance.

very high integrity *(Preservation VQO)*

moderate integrity *(Partial Retention) vqo*

no integrity *(Unacceptable Modification)*
SUSTAINABILITY
STABILITY...
-ecological
-social
PACIFIC NORTHWEST NATIONAL SCENIC TRAIL
SCENIC INVENTORY PROCESS

Trail Route

Constituent Information

Existing Scenic Integrity

Ecosystem Risk/Landuse Threats/Sustainability

Existing Management Direction and Goals

Scenic Character

Visual Quality/Scenic Attractiveness

Sensitivity/Concern Levels

Distance Zone & Viewsheds

Existing Scenic Integrity Narrative & Risk GIS Data

Existing Management Direction and Goals Reference Guide

Visual Quality/Scenic Attractiveness Rating

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SCENIC CHARACTER

The Belly River Valley lies east of the Continental Divide in the rain shadow of the Rocky Mountains. The most eastern section of the PNNST coincides with an alternate route of the Continental Divide National Scenic Trail. The broad Belly River Valley extends into Canada cradling the north flowing river. Nested along the Rocky Mountain Front, here the Rocky Mountains dramatically uplift from the vast prairie to the east. Open meadows intersperse with aspen groves and mixed coniferous forest. Riparian corridors carve through rolling hills. Glacially scoured Cosley and Glenns Lakes display clear, azure water and are linked together by the Molawas River. High quality water abounds in many shades and forms. Expansive views of the surrounding Lewis Range are abundant. Chief Mountain presides over the valley, a landscape sacred to the Blackfoot Nation. The Belly River Ranger Station stands testament to National Park Service management and the primary land use of recreation. Wildlife is abundant with most of the entire suite of species still extant, including lynx and grizzly bears. Non-native plant species, such as Timothy grass, have been introduced.

Aerial Overview

UNIT MAP

VISUAL QUALITY/SCENIC ATTRACTIVENESS

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Rating</th>
<th>Explanation or Rationale</th>
</tr>
</thead>
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<tr>
<td>Landform</td>
<td>Dramatic; glaciated mountains and valleys of Lewis Range.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Vegetation</td>
<td>Mixed coniferous forest; meadow; riparian corridor; aspen groves.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Water</td>
<td>Abundant in many forms: river; streams; lakes high quality water.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Color</td>
<td>Meadow flowers; aspen; clear, clear lake water.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Adjacent Scenery</td>
<td>Rocky, rugged mountains including iconic Chief Mountain.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Scarcity</td>
<td>Exceptional; national significance.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cultural Modification</td>
<td>Excellent trails and campgrounds; Belly River Ranger Station and associated facilities.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total</td>
<td>26</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>RATING = A</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
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</table>

LOCATION MAP

VISIBILITY

Views are filtered by vegetation in sections but mostly far reaching into Middleground and Background of surrounding Lewis Range.

Sensitivity/Concern Level

Very high concern levels because of high use and portal access to Glacier National Park.

SCENIC INTEGRITY

Level of Naturalness

Very High except introduced pasture grass

Wholeness

Very High
SCENIC CHARACTER

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VISUAL QUALITY/SIGHTS

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<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Rating</th>
</tr>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Landform</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Vegetation</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Water</td>
<td>5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
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VISIBILITY

Viewsheds/Screening/Distance Zone

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UNIT MAP

VISUAL QUALITY/SCENIC ATTRACTIVENESS

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<tr>
<td>4</td>
<td>Dramatic, glaciated mountains and valleys of Lewis Range</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

Total 26  RATING = A

Legend

- PNNST Character Unit
- A1
- Potential Trail Routes
- Sensitive Area
- Not Visible
- Unscrened by Topo
- Viewpoint
- Distance Zone (1/2 mile/4 mile)
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<td>Water</td>
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<td>Abundant in many forms: river; streams; lakes high quality water.</td>
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<td>Color</td>
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<td>Meadow flowers; aspen; clear cerulean water.</td>
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Aerial Overview

UNIT MAP
SCENIC CHARACTER

The Tobacco Plains unit is a broad valley sculpted by glaciation. Drumlins, or hills composed of glacial till, create low relief and well-drained soils. The Tobacco River curves through the rolling landscape with rich riparian habitat replete with bird life. Land cover is largely treeless. Uplands, such as river terraces, supports dry, fragrant ponderosa pine forests. Pockets of aspen add to the pleasant mosaic. Suitable land has been converted to agriculture use, adding pastoral charm. Open expanses have distant views of the Whitefish and Salish Mountain ranges.

The convivial town of Eureka, a social oasis nestled in the Tobacco Plains, offers sustenance to weary travelers. Portions of the trail sample the residential and commercial fabric of this quiet community. The unit’s geologic history renders it rich with sand and gravel deposits.

Aerial Overview

UNIT MAP

VISUAL QUALITY/SCENIC ATTRACTIVENESS

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<th>Explanation or Rationale</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Landform</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>Lowland hills, alluvial terraces, river bluffs.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Vegetation</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>Mostly treeless, ponderosa pine, aspen, riparian corridor</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Water</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>Tobacco river, farm ponds.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Color</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>Full color of aspen and broadleaf riparian plants, agriculture</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Adjacent Scenery</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>Broad agricultural valley. Whitefish Range to the east.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Scarcity</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>Common agricultural landscape.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cultural Mod.</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>Historic rural farm houses, historic downtown Eureka.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total</td>
<td>17</td>
<td>RATING = B</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

VISIBILITY

Viewsheds/
Screening/
Distance Zone
Middleground views are open in the Ag land. Background is dominated by mountain ranges.

SCENIC INTEGRITY

Level of Naturalness
Low level because landscape is altered for the majority of the unit.

Wholeness
Low level because agricultural land has continuity but other land is fragmented.

Visual Inventory Form

Zone: 4 - Columbian Rockies
Unit # B1 Tobacco Plains
Date: 07/07/2015
Jurisdiction (s): Private, US Forest Service

LOCATION MAP

Sensitivity/Concern Level: Very High concern levels because of proximity to Eureka.
SCENIC CHARACTER

The Whatcom Pass unit is a high elevation vista with impressive far-reaching views, jagged mountain tops abound with active glaciers. Challenger and Whatcom Glaciers are in the middleground distance zone, allowing for close observation of details, such as crevasses and blue ice. Bare mountain, polished smooth and scarred by scraping, is exposed as glaciers recede. Slopes are unstable and constantly falling apart. Avalanche chutes are frequent. Rock is abundant with granite talus and cliff bands. Hanging valleys conceal clear, shallow tarns, such as Tapto Lakes. Water falls plummet from glaciers and snowpack. Pockets of woodland are stunted with predominantly mountain hemlock; Alaska yellow cedar and silver fir pick up at forest edges. Wet seeps are fringed with Lewis’s monkeyflower and other conspicuous wildflowers. Meadows are short in stature with low species diversity. Low-growing shrubs with berries cover large areas of high slopes. Bears are commonly seen foraging in late summer and early fall. The windswept pass is imbued with a microclimate of plentiful precipitation and cool temperatures.

Aerial Overview

UNIT MAP

VISUAL QUALITY/SCENIC ATTRACTIVENESS

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Landform</th>
<th>Rating</th>
<th>Explanation or Rationale</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>5</td>
<td>Mountain pass that features alpine lakes, granite and rock outcroppings as well as scree fields.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Vegetation</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>Landscape includes a great diversity of tree species with slight plant variety in the meadows. Blueberries are present at certain times of the year in this area.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Water</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>Beautiful alpine lakes and waterfalls reside in this unit and add dramatic visual character to the scenery.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Color</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>A beautiful mixture of greens, yellows, reds, blues, and browns play off each other simply to create a visually interesting landscape mosaic.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Adjacent Scenery</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>Glacier fields, mountain slopes with talus chutes or waterfalls, and/or old growth forest patches all join to create a stimulating and breathtaking scene surrounding the unit.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Scarcity</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>This is a visually significant and unique unit that is locally and regionally valued for its amazing landscape character.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cultural Modification</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>No presence of human use activities or structures that add or detract visual interest.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total</td>
<td>30</td>
<td>RATING = A+</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Visual Inventory Form

Zone: 3 - North Cascades
Unit #: C14 Whatcom Pass
Date: 08/28/15
Jurisdiction(s): National Park Service

LOCATION MAP

VISIBILITY

Viewsheds/
Screening/
Distance Zone
Foreground includes old growth groves, scree fields, and glacier chutes. Middleground includes glaciers, waterfalls, and scattered tree groups. Background includes aged mountain tops.

Sensitivity/Concern Level
Very High concern because of national park designation and high recreational use.

SCENIC INTEGRITY

Level of Naturalness
Very High

Wholeness
Very High
SCENIC CHARACTER

The Skagit River Valley unit is composed of floodplains and terraces. Western red cedar forest, western hemlock forest, and both riparian and wetland habitat were common before the 19th century. Subsequently, many of the wetlands were drained. Pastures, cropland, forests, and urban centers now dominate the landscape. In sections, the former rail line is the trail platform. The trail corridor stitches together riparian area, patchwork of agriculture, residential and industrial development. The urban fabric of Sedro-Woolley and Burlington are brought into the fold. These cheerful communities provide lodging, bars, and leisure for weary travelers. Views are often screened by vegetation and other land cover. The iconic Mt Baker is visible over the area.

VISUAL QUALITY/SCENIC ATTRACTIVENESS

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Landform</th>
<th>Rating</th>
<th>Explanation or Rationale</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>1</td>
<td>Fragmented landscape, flat valley bottom.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Vegetation</th>
<th>Rating</th>
<th>Explanation or Rationale</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>3</td>
<td>Crops, cottonwoods line irrigation ditches.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Water</th>
<th>Rating</th>
<th>Explanation or Rationale</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>2</td>
<td>Irrigation ditches.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Color</th>
<th>Rating</th>
<th>Explanation or Rationale</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>3</td>
<td>Full color, green agricultural land.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Adjacent Scenery</th>
<th>Rating</th>
<th>Explanation or Rationale</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>2</td>
<td>hillsides of conifers.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Scarcity</th>
<th>Rating</th>
<th>Explanation or Rationale</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>1</td>
<td>Typical rural landscape.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Cultural Modification</th>
<th>Rating</th>
<th>Explanation or Rationale</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>2</td>
<td>Rail-to-trails and small towns of Hamilton, Lyman, Sedro-Woolley, and Burlington add to the uniqueness of the area, but portions of the built environment detract as well.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Total 14

RATING = B-

VISIBILITY

Views are limited by screening of adjacent vegetation and built structures, but do open up in a few areas.

Sensitivity/Concern Level

High concern because of the high use and population density.

SCENIC INTEGRITY

Level of Naturalness

Low levels of naturalness.

Wholeness

Fragmented landscape, low.
SCENIC CHARACTER

The Pacific Coast unit is the abrupt transition of mixed coniferous forest to coast. Forest is predominantly shore pine and Sitka spruce. Marsh occupies estuary areas. Grass and other pioneers stabilize beach terraces. Headlands make travel dangerous, and tides dictate opportunities. Beach is diverse with a range of substrates, including sand and basalt cobbles. Punching surf is an incessant and visceral force. Tide pools teem with colorful sea creatures. Ocean is dynamic and in perpetual motion. Sea stacks, vertical towers of rock, protrude from ocean. Salt laden wind and precipitation are common. Life is abundant and revolves around the rhythms of tide. Kelp and marine detritus collect in mats that swarm with insects and decomposers. Shore birds flock on tidal flats and cling to sea stacks. Sea otters and other marine mammals comb surf and bask on protected beaches.

Trail traverses the ecotone for prolonged experiences in solitude. Communities of people have long inhabited this productive coast and revere it as sacred ground. National Park Service designation speaks to its modern significance.

Aerial Overview

UNIT MAP

VISUAL QUALITY/SCENIC ATTRACTIVENESS

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Landform</th>
<th>Rating</th>
<th>Explanation or Rationale</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Water</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>Dramatic views of coastal tidal pools, sea stacks, sand and rock beaches.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Vegetation</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>Thick rain forest vegetation: ferns, fungi, coastal conifers, kelp, salt grasses, and moss.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Color</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>Rocky outcrops exuding browns against the blue water. Green ferns and colorful l fungi.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Adjacent Scenery</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>Distant sea stacks and shoreline add to the visual integrity.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Scarcity</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>Amazing views of the ocean shoreline.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cultural Modification</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>Native American heritage and cultural features are positive elements. Some built elements take away.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Total 33
RATING = A+

LOCATION MAP

Viscosity

Views are open along the seashore but as you move inland, views are limited to the immediate foreground.

Sensitivity/Concern Level

Very high concern levels along this section of trail because of the high use and portal access to the Cascades National Park.

SCENIC INTEGRITY

Level of Naturalness

Landscape is natural appearing along the undeveloped coastline, but has very low scenic integrity along developed sections.

Wholeness

Strong sense of intactness along most of the trail except in a few developed portions where there are a loss of continuity.

PACIFIC NORTHWEST NATIONAL SCENIC TRAIL
NEXT STEPS
WHAT'S NEXT?

Comprehensive Plan
Scenic Class

*Relative Scenery Importance, 1 to 7 scale*

Table 4—2. Scenic Class Matrix

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Scenic Attractiveness</th>
<th>Distance Zones/Seldom-Seen</th>
<th>&amp; Concern Levels</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>fg1</td>
<td>mg1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>A</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>B</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>C</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Based on:
- Attractiveness
- Public Concern Level
- Viewing Distance/Visibility

Scenic Class Map
Quantification, Synthesis, Analysis

- **Scenic Quality** (% A/B/C)
- **Sensitivity** (% H/M/L)
- **Existing Scenic Integrity** (% VH, H, M, L, VL)
- **SCENIC CLASSES**~ relative scenic importance (DESIRED FC)

- **Land Jurisdiction** (% federal/ state/ private/ other)
  - Federal: NPS/FS/BLM/FWS etc.
  - Private: Small/Large/ Corporate

- **Level of Protection**
  - Designation- (Wilderness, WSR, or not …)
  - Conservation Easements (agr/scenic…)
  - Other projection (hillside, historic overlay… )
COMP. PLAN (ACTION PLAN)

- Prioritization of Lands for Protection
  - Forest Planning
    - Geographic Areas & Overlay Mgt. Area & Corridor
  - Land Acquisition, Conservation Easements, Voluntary Measures

- MANY APPROACHES...
  - ILARIS (Puget Sound TPL Greenprint)
  - Visual Prioritization Process (AZ Trail using)

- Compensatory Mitigation:
  - Information can help with identifying areas that might be targeted for scenic restoration, enhancement as offset for unavoidable impacts from nearby projects as part of a compensatory mitigation.
LESSONS LEARNED

• Benefits of Hybrid System
• Importance of Actual FIELD BASED Inventory
• Information for Future Route Alternatives
• Tap into Experience of Nomadic ‘PERPETUAL HIKERS’
in memoriam