

UNITED STATES  
DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT  
**SCENIC QUALITY FIELD INVENTORY**

|                         |          |
|-------------------------|----------|
| State Office:           | Date:    |
| District Office:        | SQRU ID: |
| Field Office:           |          |
| Land Use Planning Area: | IOP ID:  |
| SQRU Name:              |          |

1. EVALUATORS *(List names of persons inventorying this SQRU)*
2. LANDSCAPE CHARACTER *(Succinctly describe the major features and elements in the landscape. Refer to 8431-1 illustrations 3, 4, 5, and 6 for guidelines on descriptive terminology for form, line, color and texture and illustrations 7 and 8 for additional terms to describe landscape features and spatial orientation.)*

FEATURES

|          |         | LANDFORM/WATER | VEGETATION | STRUCTURES |
|----------|---------|----------------|------------|------------|
| ELEMENTS | FORM    |                |            |            |
|          | LINE    |                |            |            |
|          | COLOR   |                |            |            |
|          | TEXTURE |                |            |            |

### 3. NARRATIVE

*(Briefly describe the general landscape character. Describe how the feature elements from section 2 combine to create an overall landscape character in this SQRU. Evaluate how the general character of the landscape relates to the immediate surroundings and to similar landscape features within the physiographic provinces. Refer to H8410-1 illustration 5 for a map of physiographic provinces)*

**4. SCORE** Rate the scenic quality using the criteria and guidelines in the BLM Handbook 8410-1 Section II. Scores can be assigned at 0.5 increments. **If final rating falls between the threshold of SQ A and B (18.5) or SQ B and C (11.5), thoughtfully reassess the rating and either adjust the rating 0.5 upward or downward placing the unit into the most appropriate scenic quality class.**

| Key Factors/Explanation<br><i>(H8410-1 Illustrations 1 and 2)</i> | Scoring Range<br><i>Low to High</i> | Given Score<br><i>(Fill in blank)</i> | SCENIC QUALITY<br>CLASSIFICATION           |
|-------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------|---------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------|
| LANDFORM                                                          | 1 to 5                              |                                       | <i>(Place an "X" in the correct class)</i> |
|                                                                   |                                     |                                       |                                            |
|                                                                   |                                     |                                       |                                            |
| VEGETATION                                                        | 1 to 5                              |                                       | <u>    </u> A<br>Score of 19 or more       |
|                                                                   |                                     |                                       |                                            |
|                                                                   |                                     |                                       |                                            |
| WATER                                                             | 0 to 5                              |                                       | <u>    </u> B<br>Score of 12-18            |
|                                                                   |                                     |                                       |                                            |
|                                                                   |                                     |                                       |                                            |
| COLOR                                                             | 1 to 5                              |                                       | <u>    </u> C<br>Score of 11 or less       |
|                                                                   |                                     |                                       |                                            |
|                                                                   |                                     |                                       |                                            |
| ADJACENT SCENERY                                                  | 0 to 5                              |                                       |                                            |
|                                                                   |                                     |                                       |                                            |
|                                                                   |                                     |                                       |                                            |
| SCARCITY                                                          | 1 to 5                              |                                       |                                            |
|                                                                   |                                     |                                       |                                            |
|                                                                   |                                     |                                       |                                            |
| CULTURAL MODIFICATION                                             | -4 to 2                             |                                       |                                            |
|                                                                   |                                     |                                       |                                            |
|                                                                   |                                     |                                       |                                            |
| KEY FACTOR SCORE TOTAL<br><i>(Avoid totals of 11.5 or 18.5)</i>   |                                     |                                       |                                            |

## SCENIC QUALITY INVENTORY AND EVALUATION CHART

| Key Factors                          | Rating Criteria and Score                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                   |                                                                                                                                                                                                                              |                                                                                                             |
|--------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <b>Landform</b>                      | High vertical relief as expressed in prominent cliffs, spires, or massive rock outcrops; or severe surface variation or highly eroded formations including major badlands or dune systems; or detail features dominant and exceptionally striking and intriguing such as glaciers. <b>5</b> | 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. <b>3</b> | Low rolling hills, foothills, or flat valley bottoms; or few or no interesting landscape features. <b>1</b> |
| <b>Vegetation</b>                    | A variety of vegetative types as expressed in interesting forms, textures, and patterns. <b>5</b>                                                                                                                                                                                           | Some variety of vegetation, but only one or two major types. <b>3</b>                                                                                                                                                        | Little or no variety or contrast in vegetation. <b>1</b>                                                    |
| <b>Water</b>                         | Clear and clean appearing, still, or cascading white water, any of which are a dominant factor in the landscape. <b>5</b>                                                                                                                                                                   | Flowing, or still, but not dominant in the landscape. <b>3</b>                                                                                                                                                               | Absent, or present, but not noticeable <b>0</b>                                                             |
| <b>Color</b>                         | Rich color combinations, variety or vivid color; or pleasing contrasts in the soil, rock, vegetation, water or snow fields. <b>5</b>                                                                                                                                                        | Some intensity or variety in colors and contrast of the soil, rock, and vegetation, but not a dominant scenic element. <b>3</b>                                                                                              | Subtle color variations, contrast, or interest; generally mute tones. <b>1</b>                              |
| <b>Influence of Adjacent Scenery</b> | Adjacent scenery greatly enhances visual quality. <b>5</b>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                  | Adjacent scenery moderately enhances overall visual quality. <b>3</b>                                                                                                                                                        | Adjacent scenery has little or no influence on overall visual quality. <b>0</b>                             |
| <b>Scarcity</b>                      | One of a kind; or unusually memorable, or very rare within region. Consistent chance for exceptional or wildflower viewing, etc. <b>** 5+</b>                                                                                                                                               | Distinctive, though somewhat similar to others within the region. <b>3</b>                                                                                                                                                   | Interesting within its setting, but fairly common within the region. <b>1</b>                               |
| <b>Cultural Modifications</b>        | Modifications add favorably to visual variety while promoting visual harmony. <b>2</b>                                                                                                                                                                                                      | Modifications add little or no visual variety to the area, and introduce no discordant elements. <b>0</b>                                                                                                                    | Modifications add variety but are very discordant and promote strong disharmony. <b>-4</b>                  |

## INSTRUCTIONS

**Purpose:** To rate the visual quality of the scenic resource on all BLM managed lands.

**How to Identify Scenic Value:** Refer to 8431-1 illustrations 3, 4, 5, and 6 for guidelines on descriptive terminology for form, line, color and texture and illustrations 7 and 8 for additional terms to describe landscape features and spatial orientation.

**How to Determine Minimum Suitability:** All BLM lands are rated for scenic values. Also rate adjacent or intermingling non-BLM lands within the planning unit.

**When to Evaluate Scenic Quality:** Rate for scenery under the most critical conditions (i.e., the highest user period or season of use, sidelight, proper atmospheric conditions, etc.).

**How to Delineate Rating Areas:** Consider the following factors when delineating rating areas.

1. Like physiographic characteristics (i.e., landform, vegetation, etc.).
2. Similar visual patterns, texture, color, variety, etc.
3. Areas which have a similar impact from cultural modifications (i.e., roads, historical and other structures, mining operations, or other surface disturbances).

**Explanation of Criteria:**  
(See H8410-1, Illustration 1.)

**NOTE ABOUT SCORING:** Values for each rating criteria are maximum and minimum scores only. Scores may be assigned at 0.5 increments within the ranges given.

**NOTE ABOUT TOTAL SCORE:** When the Key Factor Score Total equals 11.5 (between B and C) or 18.5 (between A and B), then reassess the factor ratings and either adjust the rating 0.5 upward or downward placing the unit into the most appropriate scenic quality class.

## SCENIC QUALITY CLASSIFICATION

**A = 19 or more**  
**B = 12-18**  
**C = 11 or less**

**\*\*** A rating of greater than 5 can be given but must be supported by written justification.