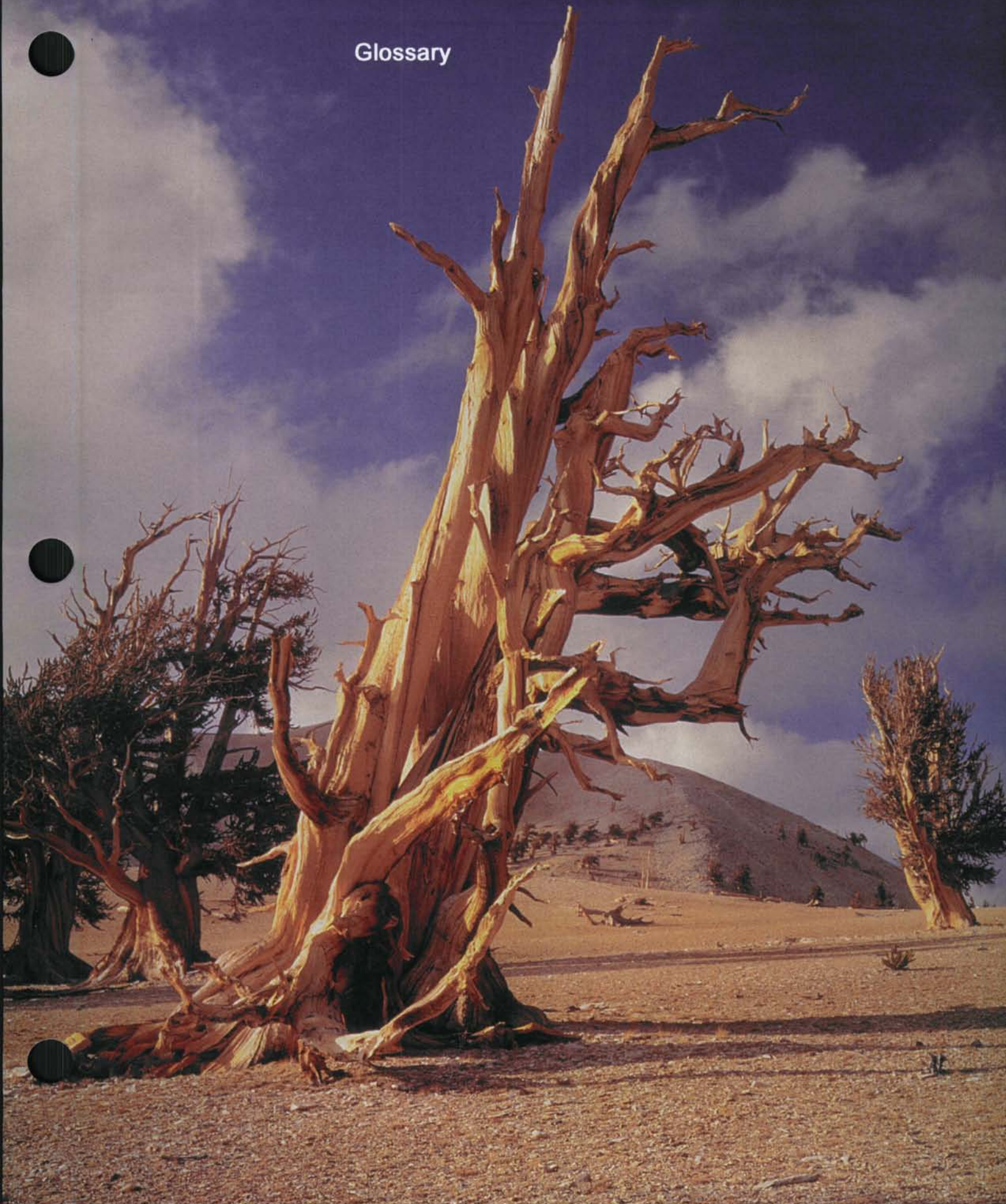


Glossary





Glossary

Acceptable Levels of Quality

The lowest standard permissible in the constituents' view.

Aesthetics (Esthetics)

Generally, the study, science, or philosophy dealing with beauty and with judgments concerning beauty. In scenery management, it describes landscapes that give visual and sensory pleasure.

Attribute

An inherent landscape characteristic, trait, or quality.

Background

The distant part of a landscape. The landscape area located from 4 miles to infinity from the viewer.

Balance

A visual stability produced, and an equilibrium established in a landscape, by natural forces or human intervention.

Base Map

The document that graphically records existing physical and administrative features of a given landscape area.

Characteristic

Qualities that constitute a character, that characterize a landscape; a distinguishing trait, feature, or quality; uniqueness; attribute.

Coherence

Quality or state of being united in principles and relationships or to be logically and aesthetically connected.

Color

The property of reflecting light of a particular wavelength that enables the eye to differentiate otherwise indistinguishable objects. A hue (red, green, blue, yellow, and so on), as contrasted with a value (black, white, or gray).

Composition

Assembly and organization of components in a work of art or such organization in a landscape.

Contrast

Diversity or distinction of adjacent parts. Effect of striking differences in form, line, color, or texture of a landscape.

Constituents

People who authorize others to act for them or a body of citizens entitled to elect a representative to act for them. Forest Service personnel manage public lands for their constituents, whether or not they are visitors to the national forest.

Cultural Element

Attributes in a human-altered landscape; scenically positive cultural elements, most of which have historical backgrounds or nostalgic connotations. Examples include split-rail fences, stone walls, barns, orchards, hedgerows, and cabins.

Cultural Landscape

Human-altered landscapes, especially those slowly evolving landscapes with scenic vegetation patterns or scenic structures. Addition of these elements creates a visually pleasing complement to the natural character of a landscape.

Cumulative Effect

The effect on the environment that results from the incremental impact of a proposed action when added to other past, present, and reasonably foreseeable future actions.

Desired

What constituents would like to have if they were unconstrained in their choices.

Desired Future Condition

The combination of desirable attributes to be attained in the future by management of a national forest. For scenery management, desired future condition is comprised of interrelated components, including desired travelways, desired use areas, desired landscape character and desired scenic condition.

Desired Landscape Character

Appearance of the landscape to be retained or created over time, recognizing that a landscape is a dynamic and constantly changing community of plants and animals. Combination of landscape design attributes and opportunities, as well as biological opportunities and constraints.

Deviation

Departure from existing landscape character or from landscape character goals. Deviation from existing landscape character can be positive, negative, or have no effect.

Distance Zones

Landscape areas denoted by specified distances from the observer. Used as a frame of reference in which to discuss landscape attributes or the scenic effect of human activities in a landscape.

Distinctive

Refers to extraordinary and special landscapes. These landscapes are attractive, and they stand out from common landscapes.

Disturbance

A discrete event, either natural or human induced, that causes a change in the existing condition of an ecological system.

Dominance Elements

In scenery management, the dominance elements are form, line, color, and texture. They are the attributes that make up the landscape character.

Dominant Human Alterations

In scenery management, dominant human alterations override the natural character of the landscape and are very noticeable.

Dynamic

Active or changing, marked by continuous activity or change. In a landscape, vegetative screening is dynamic, being subjected to natural forces or human alteration.

Ecological Approach

Natural resource planning and management activities that assure consideration of the relationship among all organisms (including humans) and their environment.

Ecological Classification

A multifactor approach to categorizing and delineating, at different levels of resolution, areas of land and water having similar characteristic combination of the physical environment (such as climate, geomorphic processes, geology, soil, and hydrologic function), biological communities (such as plants, animals, microorganisms, and potential natural communities), and the human dimension (such as social, economic, cultural, and infrastructure).

Ecological Principles

The biological bases for sound ecosystem management through which ecosystem sustainability is ensured.

Ecological Process

The actions or events that link organisms (including humans) and their environment such as disturbance,

successional development, nutrient cycling, carbon sequestration, productivity, and decay.

Ecological Unit

An assessment area based on vegetation, soils, geology, and geomorphology.

Ecoregion

A continuous geographic area over which the macroclimate is sufficiently uniform to permit development of similar ecosystems on sites with similar properties. Ecoregions contain multiple landscapes with different spatial patterns of ecosystems.

Ecosystem Function

The process through which the constituent living and nonliving elements of ecosystems change and interact, including biogeochemical processes and succession.

Ecosystem Management

The use of an ecological approach that blends social, physical, economic, and biological needs and values to assure productive, healthy ecosystems.

Ecosystem Structure

The spatial arrangement of the living and nonliving elements of an ecosystem.

Edge

The line where an object or area begins or ends. Edge serves to define borders, limits, or boundaries.

Enhancement

A short-term management prescription with the express purpose of increasing positive scenic attributes where few exist.

Evident

That which is noticeable, apparent, conspicuous, or obvious.

Existing Scenic Integrity

("Existing visual condition") Current state of the landscape, considering previous human alterations.

Expected

What constituents anticipate encountering in the national forests.

Expected Image

A mental picture that a person expects to see in a national forest.

Feature

A visually distinct or outstanding part, quality, or characteristic of a landscape.

Foreground

Detailed landscape generally found from the observer to 1/2 mile away. See also immediate foreground.

Form

Structure, mass, or shape of a landscape or of an object. Landscape form is often defined by edges or outlines of landforms, rockforms, vegetation patterns, or waterforms, or the enclosed spaces created by these attributes.

Frame of Reference

An area or framework against which various parts can be judged or measured.

Harmony

Combination of parts of a landscape into a pleasing or orderly whole. A state of agreement, congruity, or proportionate arrangement of form, line, color, and texture.

Hierarchical Approach

An analysis approach accounting for differences in space and time.

Hierarchy

A sequence of sets composed of smaller subsets.

High Scenic Integrity Level

A scenic integrity level meaning human activities are not visually evident. In high scenic integrity areas, activities may only repeat attributes of form, line, color, and texture found in the existing landscape character.

Historical Ecosystem

An ecosystem at a specified previous time.

Historical Variation

The range of the spatial, structural, compositional, and temporal characteristics of ecosystem elements during a period specified to represent "natural" conditions.

Human Dimension

An integral component of ecosystem management that recognizes people are part of ecosystems, that people's pursuits of past, present, and future desires, needs, and values (including perceptions, beliefs, attitudes, and behaviors) have and will continue to influence ecosystems and that ecosystem management must include consideration of the physical, emotional, mental, spiritual, social, cultural, and economic well-being of people and communities.

Human Impact or Influence

A disturbance or change in ecosystem composition, structure, or function caused by humans.

Immediate Foreground

The detailed feature landscape found within the first few hundred feet of the observer, generally, from the observer to 300 feet away. This distance zone is normally used in project level planning, not broad scale planning.)

Intactness

Untouched or unaltered, especially by anything that harms or diminishes its character.

Landform

One of the attributes or features that make up the Earth's surface, such as a plain, mountain, or valley.

Landscape

An area composed of interacting ecosystems that are repeated because of geology, land form, soils, climate, biota, and human influences throughout the area. Landscapes are generally of a size, shape, and pattern which is determined by interacting ecosystems.

Landscape Character

Particular attributes, qualities, and traits of a landscape that give it an image and make it identifiable or unique.

Landscape Character Goal

A management prescription designed to maintain or modify the existing landscape character to a desired future state. See desired landscape character.

Landscape Fragility

See visual absorption capability.

Landscape Setting

The context and environment in which a landscape is set; a landscape backdrop.

Landscape Unit

A small area of land that, at a micro-scale, has similar existing landscape character attributes— landform, rockform, waterform, and vegetative communities patterns. A geographic area that is useful for inventorying and analyzing scenery.

Landscape Visibility

Accessibility of the landscape to viewers, referring to one's ability to see and perceive landscapes.

Line

An intersection of two planes; a point that has been extended; a silhouette of form. In landscapes—ridges, skylines, structures, changes in vegetation, or individual trees and branches—may be perceived as line.

Low

A scenic integrity level meaning human activities must remain visually subordinate to the attributes of the existing landscape character. Activities may repeat form, line, color, or texture common to these landscape characters, but changes in quality of size, number, intensity, direction, pattern, and so on, must remain visually subordinate to these landscape characters.

Management Activity

An activity humans impose on a landscape for the purpose of managing natural resources.

Middleground

The zone between the foreground and the background in a landscape. The area located from 1/2 mile to 4 miles from the observer.

Mystery

Characteristics in a landscape that excite wonder, curiosity, or surprise.

Natural Disturbance

Periodic impact or natural events such as fire, severe drought, insect or disease attack, or wind.

Natural Ecosystem

An ecosystem that is minimally influenced by humans and that is, in the larger sense, diverse, resilient, and sustainable.

Natural Landscape Character

Landscape character that originated from natural disturbances, such as wildfires, glaciation, succession of plants from pioneer to climax species, or indirect activities of humans, such as inadvertent plant succession through fire prevention.

Natural-Appearing Landscape Character

Landscape character that has resulted from human activities, yet appear natural, such as historic conversion of native forests into farmlands, pastures, and hedgerows that have reverted back to forests through reforestation activities or natural regeneration.

NEPA

The National Environmental Policy Act of 1969. NEPA establishes legal requirements for management of aesthetic resources.

NFMA

The National Forest Management Act of 1976. NFMA establishes legal requirements for scenery management (called "visual resource management" in the Act).

Observer Position

Specific geographic position in the landscape where the viewer is located. Also known as viewer platform.

Pastoral Landscape Character

Landscape character that has resulted from human activities, containing positive cultural elements such as historic conversion of native forests into farmlands, pastures, and hedgerows, plus some remnants of native forests.

Pattern

An arrangement of parts, elements, or details that suggests a design or somewhat orderly distribution.

Perception

Human impression of a landscape. Perception translates and evaluates the landscape that one "sees" in context of previous experiences and expected images.

Positive Cultural Element

Human alterations that are scenically positive attributes, most of which have historical backgrounds or nostalgic connotations. Examples include split-rail fences, stone walls, barns, orchards, hedgerows, and cabins. There may be **nodes**, **enclaves** or **constellations** of positive cultural elements.

Positive Cultural Landscape

A landscape having human alterations that are positive cultural elements, complementing and improving a particular landscape by adding variety, unity, vividness, intactness, coherence, mystery, balance, uniqueness, harmony, or pattern.

Preferred

What constituents would choose from among a set of available options.

Potential Vegetation

Vegetation that would develop if all successional sequences were completed under present site conditions (e.g., habits type).

Range of Variability

The spectrum of conditions possible in ecosystem composition, structure, and function considering both temporal and spatial factors.

Recreation Visitor

One who is in an area temporarily for refreshment of the body and mind. In the national forests, the visitor usually has a significant conscious or subconscious interest in the scenic qualities of the area.

Reference Conditions

Conditions characterizing ecosystem composition, structure and function, and their variability.

Rehabilitation

A short-term management goal used to return a landscape with existing visual impacts and deviations to a desired level of scenic quality formerly found in the natural landscape.

RPA

The Forest and Rangeland Renewable Resources Planning Act of 1974. RPA establishes legal requirements for scenery management.

Rockform

A significant composition of mineral matter constituting the Earth's crust. One of the attributes or features that make up part of the Earth's surface, such as a mountain, cliff, peak, bluff, valley wall, or bedrock.

Rural/Agricultural Landscape Character

Landscape character that has resulted from extensive human activities, no longer appearing natural, such as conversion of native landscapes into extensively cultivated farmlands, vineyards, pastures, or an area of intensive domestic livestock production.

Scale

The degree of resolution at which ecological processes, structures, and changes across space and time are observed and measured.

Scenery

General appearance of a place, general appearance of a landscape, or features of a landscape.

Scenery Management

The art and science of arranging, planning, and designing landscape attributes relative to the appearance of places and expanses in outdoor settings.

Scenic

Of or relating to landscape scenery; pertaining to natural or natural appearing scenery; constituting or affording pleasant views of natural landscape attributes or positive cultural elements.

Scenic Attractiveness

The scenic importance of a landscape based on human perceptions of the intrinsic beauty of landform, rockform, waterform, and vegetation pattern. Reflects varying visual perception attributes of variety, unity, vividness, intactness, coherence, mystery, uniqueness, harmony, balance, and pattern. It is classified as:

A—Distinctive.

B—Typical or Common.

C—Undistinguished.

Scenic Class

A system of classification describing the importance or value of a particular landscape or portions of that landscape.

Scenic Integrity

State of naturalness or, conversely, the state of disturbance created by human activities or alteration.

Integrity is stated in degrees of deviation from the existing landscape character in a national forest.

Scenic Quality

The essential attributes of landscape that when viewed by people, elicit psychological and physiological benefits to individuals and, therefore, to society in general.

Scenic Resource

Attributes, characteristics, and features of landscapes that provide varying responses from, and varying degrees of benefits to, humans.

Seeing

Stimulation of one's sense of sight by reflected light. Seeing is a physiological process.

Seen Area

The total landscape area observed based upon landform screening. Seen-areas may be divided into zones of immediate foreground, foreground, middle-ground, and background. Some landscapes are seldom seen by the public.

Seldom-Seen

Areas of the landscape that are infrequently viewed by the public.

Shape

Contour, spatial form, or configuration of a figure. Shape is similar to form, but shape is usually considered to be two-dimensional.

Space

A limited extension in one, two, or three dimensions or a volume. Expanse of a landscape, such as the floor, walls, and ceiling of an "outdoor room."

Spatial Scale

The level of resolution in space perceived or considered.

Special Classified Area

Those areas—such as wilderness, historical, biologi-

cal, scenic, or geological sites—that are of such significance that specific management direction is given as part of policy or legislation.

Special Places

Those specific locations and expanses in outdoor settings that have attractions and features that are identified as unique, different, distinctive, and extraordinary to people. Special places may range from a small areas, such as a particular fallen log, to large areas, such as a landscape unit.

Subordinate

Landscape features that are inferior to, or placed below, another in size, importance, brightness, and so on. Features that are secondary in visual impact or importance.

Sustainability

The ability of an ecosystem to maintain ecological processes and functions, biological diversity, and productivity over time.

Texture

Visual interplay of light and shadow created by variations in the surface of an object. Grain or nap of a landscape or a repetitive pattern of tiny forms. Visual texture can range from smooth to coarse.

Theme

The general focus or subject of variations on landscape character settings. Detailed description of desired landscape character. Themes range from a natural landscape to an urban landscape.

Transition

Passing from one state, stage, place, or subject to another, especially without abruptness.

Typical or Common Landscape

Refers to prevalent, usual, or widespread landscapes within a landscape province. It also refers to landscapes with ordinary and routine scenic attractiveness.

Unacceptable Alteration

A scenic integrity level (never an objective) where human activities of vegetative and landform alterations are excessive and totally dominate the natural or natural-appearing landscape character. Unacceptable alterations are “what not to do to any landscape,” regardless of the distance from which the management activity may be observed.

Unique

A landscape that is unequalled, very rare, or uncommon.

Unity

Landscape with a quality or state of being made whole or a condition of harmony.

Urban

Landscape character that has resulted from extensive human activities, no longer appearing natural, such as conversion of native landscapes into an extensively altered landscape, such as a town, city, or metropolitan area.

Variety

An intermixture, diversity, or succession of different things, forms, or qualities in the landscape.

Variety Class

Term from *The Visual Management System*. See scenic attractiveness.

Very High Scenic Integrity Level

A scenic integrity level that generally provides for ecological change only.

Very Low Scenic Integrity Level

A scenic integrity level meaning human activities of vegetative and landform alterations may dominate the original, natural landscape character but should appear as natural occurrences when viewed at background distances.

View

Something that is looked toward or kept in sight, especially a broad landscape or panorama. Act of looking toward this object or scene.

Viewer Platform

Position in the landscape where the viewer is located. (See observer position.)

Viewshed

Total visible area from a single observer position, or the total visible area from multiple observer positions. Viewsheds are accumulated seen-areas from highways, trails, campgrounds, towns, cities, or other viewer locations. Examples are corridor, feature, or basin viewsheds.

Visitor

Temporary occupants of an area. See recreation visitor.

Vista

A confined view, especially one seen through a long passage, as between rows of trees or down a canyon. A vista often focuses upon a specific feature in the landscape. Unlike a view, the vista is sometimes human created and, if it is, thereby subject to design.

Visual

A mental image attained by sight.

Visual Absorption Capability

A classification system used to denote relative ability of a landscape to accept human alterations without loss of character of scenic quality.

Visual Magnitude

A detailed classification system used to denote relative visibility of a landscape, including distance, slope and aspect relative to observer, and number of times seen.

Visual Perception

Human impression of an optical experience; comprehension of an object or a space based on the sense of sight. Perception translates and evaluates what one sees in the context of previous experiences and expected images.

Visual Vulnerability

See visual absorption capability.

Waterform

One of the attributes or features that make up the Earth's surface, such as a pond, lake, stream, river, waterfall, estuary, or ocean.

Watershed

An area of land with a characteristic draining age network that contributes surface or ground water to the flow at that point; a drainage basin or a major subdivision of a drainage basin.

