APPENDIX F

VISUAL RESOURCES ASSESSMENT PROCEDURE

VISUAL ASSESSMENT
FOR THE
LEVISA FORK FLOOD DAMAGE
REDUCTION PROJECT

PIKE COUNTY, KENTUCKY

JANUARY 2004

Prepared By:
Parsons Brinckerhoff, Inc.

Prepared For:
US Army Corps of Engineers
Huntington District

TABLE OF CONTENTS

Introduction.....1
Background.....1
Methodology.....1
Part I Management Classification System (MCS).....2
Part II Visual Impact Assessment (VIA).....3

Coal Run Village and North Pikeville LPPs Visual Resources Assessment.....6
Part I Management Classification System (MCS).....6
I.a. Regional Landscape Identification.....6
I.b. Similarity Zone Identification.....10
I.c. Management Classification.....10
Part II Visual Impact Assessment (VIA).....11
II.a. Viewpoint Simulations and Descriptions.....11

Coal Run Village and North Pikeville LPPs VRAP Summary.....20

Coal Run Village and North Pikeville LPPs VRAP Appraisal.....25

INTRODUCTION

Background

The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (Corps) is completing an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) to discuss and select alternatives for the implementation of flood control measures in Pike County, Kentucky. The proposed project would protect residences and businesses located in the floodplain of the Levisa Fork and its tributaries in eastern Kentucky. The April 1977 flood was used as a model for the development of the proposed project elements that include structural and non-structural alternatives. The study area as defined in the project purpose and need includes several cities and unincorporated communities located along the Levisa and Russell Forks of the Big Sandy River. The areas specifically affected by the structural alternatives of the proposed project include Coal Run Village and North Pikeville. Parsons Brinckerhoff, Inc. was contracted by the Corps to complete a visual assessment to determine the potential effects of implementing structural flood control measures in Coal Run Village and North Pikeville in January 2004. Fieldwork was completed January 15-16, 2004.

Methodology

The Visual Resource Assessment Procedure (VRAP) was developed for use in the Corps Civil Works planning process as input to plan formulation, project design, and operations. The procedure is consistent with Corps planning and environmental policies. The methodology and analysis used are intended to correspond with the planning and environmental policies in the Planning and Guidance manual. As such, the VRAP is quantitative, systematic, and tractable.

As part of the ongoing planning process, the VRAP is integrated with Corps planning activities (see Table 1). The VRAP process, however, is intended as a general process or guide rather than a rigid prescription for planning or visual resource studies. Funding scheduling and other considerations often result in the VRAP being initiated after formulation of alternatives or evaluation; so the Procedure should be viewed with some flexibility.

The VRAP consists of two core task groups, the Management Classification System (MCS) and the Visual Impact Assessment Procedures (VIA). Both groups are described in more detail in the sections that follow.

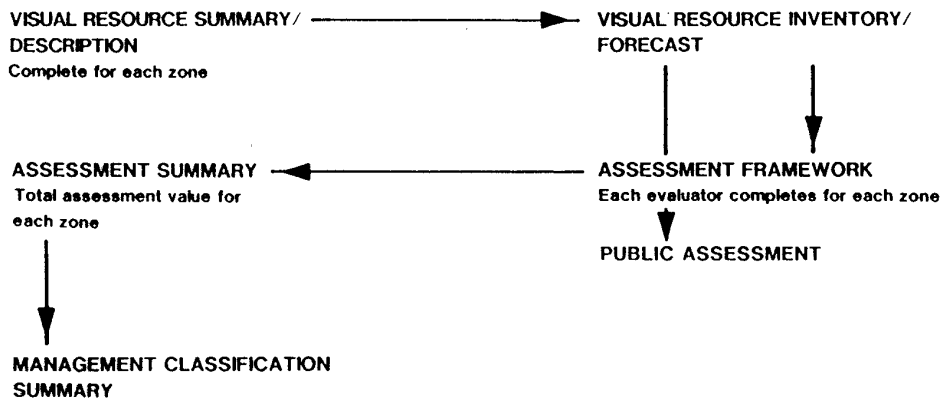
Table 1 Planning Process and the VRAP Procedure

Planning Process	*VRAP Procedures*	*Forms*
Specify problems and opportunities.	Define study area.	VISUAL RESOURCE SUMMARY/ DESCRIPTION
	Identify Regional Landscape.	ASSESSMENT FRAMEWORK
	Determine MCS class.	
	Establish what method to use for the study (General, Basic, or Detailed).	
Inventory and forecast.	Inventory existing visual resources.	VISUAL RESOURCE INVENTORY/FORECAST
	Forecast without-plan conditions to assess any changes from existing visual resource conditions.	VISUAL RESOURCE INVENTORY/FORECAST
	Forecast with-plan conditions.	VISUAL RESOURCE INVENTORY/FORECAST
Formulate alternative plans.	Use simulations to show designs of alternatives.	
Evaluate alternative plans.	Assess visual impacts by calculating the difference between future with- and without-plan conditions for each landscape component, for each viewpoint.	VISUAL IMPACT ASSESSMENT-VIEWPOINT
	Combine viewpoint assessments from each evaluator to calculate VIA Values for the landscape components and landscape modifiers.	VISUAL IMPACT ASSESSMENT-VIEWPOINT SUMMARY
	Combine the evaluators VIA to calculate a VIA Value.	VISUAL IMPACT ASSESSMENT-ASSESSMENT SUMMARY
(If public input is available.)	(Combine public and professional VIA Values to calculate a Total VIA Value.)	(COMPOSITE PROJECT ASSESSMENT)
Compare alternative plans.	Compare VIA Values with MCS criteria.	

Part I Management Classification System (MCS)

The Management Classification System provides an evaluation framework that defines general criteria for judging visual quality. The MCS criteria are designed to guide the VRAP appraisal by providing a basis for determining whether the visual impact caused by a project is desirable. Separate frameworks are developed for different Regional Landscapes to accommodate the unique characteristics of each type. The MCS information enables planners to inventory and evaluate resources and visual impacts in a consistent manner within each region and to make sound decisions in assessing the visual effects of proposed projects. The general steps involved in the MCS process are outlined in Figure 1.

Figure 1 Management Classification System



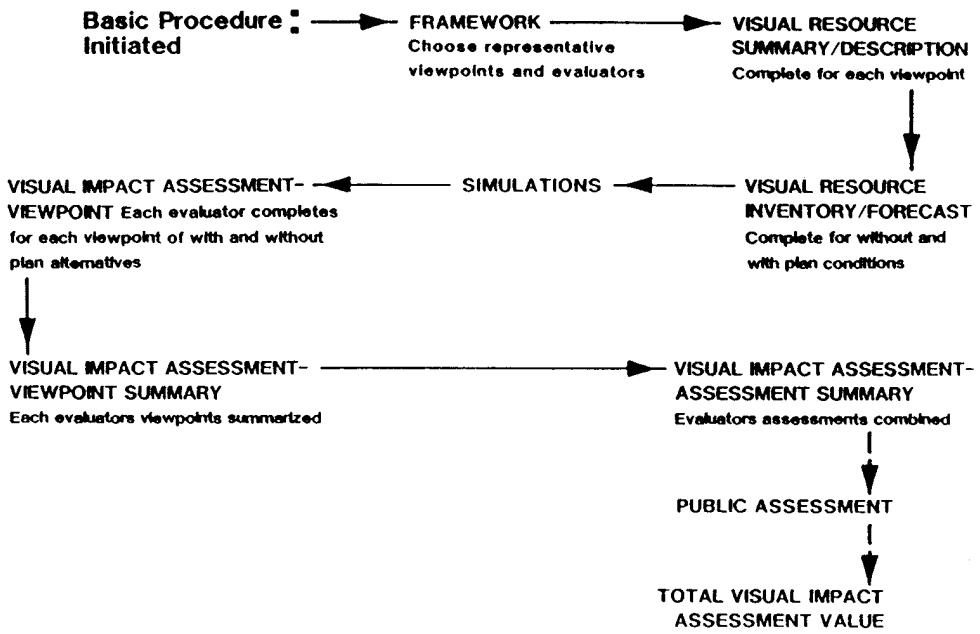
The MCS consists of several steps, first the Regional Landscape is identified, Similarity Zones within that landscape are established, and then the visual resources of each zone are described in a generalized manner. Professional aesthetic judgments and public preference information are used to assess the visual quality of the resources and to categorize those assessments in an overall Assessment Framework for the Regional Landscape. Using this framework, the visual resources of each Similarity Zone are assessed, and a numerical Assessment Value for each zone is established. Based on the Assessment Value, each zone is assigned to a particular MCS class, which describes the degree and nature of visual change acceptable for that zone.

Part II Visual Impact Assessment (VIA)

The Visual Impact Assessment portion of the VRAP process is designed to assess and appraise the visual effects of the proposed project. There are three VIA procedures that can be used for a particular project: 1) General, 2) Basic, and 3) Detailed. The General Procedure is used in early or preliminary studies to assess general study areas and preliminary plans. The outputs of the General Procedure are visual resource planning objectives, constraints, or design criteria. However, the use of the General Procedure in preliminary studies may be precluded due to time and funding issues. The Basic or Detailed Procedures are used in studies where specific sites and plan alternatives are being considered or a more detailed analysis than that provided using the General Procedure is required.

The Basic Procedure provides the level of impact assessment and evaluation information required for most Corps studies. The process for the Basic VIA Procedure is outlined in Figure 2. The Detailed Procedure follows the same general process as the Basic Procedure, but also includes the assessment of design elements (i.e. line, form, color, and texture), which produces a more sensitive and extensive VIA.

Figure 2 Basic VRAP VIA Procedure



The VIA is initiated by selection of evaluators familiar with VIA concepts. It is necessary for at lease two personnel to perform the inventory for the VIA. Viewpoints are selected and used to assess the existing visual quality of the area and the forecasted project impact to those visual resources. The viewpoints used in the VIA are selected because they represent typical viewer location, typical viewer activities, and potential project visibility.

For each viewpoint, evaluators complete two forms (Forms 1 and 2) to describe and identify the existing and future visual quality of the viewpoint without the project. Two more of the same forms are used to describe and identify the changes anticipated as a result of the project.

Simulations of each viewpoint are prepared as needed for the study to show with and without plan conditions at different periods of time. If the without plan conditions do not change from existing conditions, then only the with plan conditions need to be simulated. For the purposes of this, study viewpoint simulations were available for only four of the seven selected viewpoints. As a result, sketches were made on the three remaining pictures to simulate the proposed condition. Additional simulations will be completed at a later date.

Once Forms 1 and 2 are completed for the existing and proposed conditions, Form 6 (Viewpoint Assessment) is completed. This form was designed to quantify impacts to the resources in a way that is easily managed by examining the specific changes in landscape components that are anticipated to occur. These landscape components are: water resources, landform, vegetation, land use, and user activity. By assigning values to each

viewpoint for each of the landscape components, the evaluators will be able to assess impacts for the overall viewpoint. Modifier and landscape composition ratings are used to support and explain the numerical values of each evaluation. These ratings show how the changes in landscape components result in changes in spatial dominance, scale contrast, compatibility, and landscape composition.

Following completion of a Form 6 for each viewpoint, the viewpoint assessments are summarized using Form 7 (Summary Viewpoint Assessment Form). The Viewpoint Values are summed for each resource component and the sum is divided by the total number of viewpoints. This quotient is the particular evaluator's summary Viewpoint Value for the resource.

The completion of Form 8 (Visual Impact Assessment Summary) is the final step in the VIA. A single assessment value for the project is produced by combining the assessments of all the evaluators. The values are summed for each visual resource component and then divided by the number of evaluators to produce a VIA Value for each resource component. These are then summed to produce a Final VIA Summary Value.

COAL RUN VILLAGE AND NORTH PIKEVILLE LPPs VISUAL RESOURCE ASSESSMENT

Part I Management Classification System (MCS)

I.a. Regional Landscape Identification

By establishing an individual Assessment Framework for each Regional Landscape, the value and importance of the region's visual characteristics are judged relative to the landscape context in which they occur, not in comparison with completely dissimilar landscapes.

Pike County has been identified as a single Regional Landscape. Although there is no definitive data on the geographic position of the ecoregions or physiographic provinces, researching existing studies and mapping indicates that (Wharton and Barbour, 1973) Pike County lies within the Eastern Coal Field Physiographic Region, also known as the Cumberland Plateau Physiographic province.

Pike County lies within two ecoregions, the Eastern Broadleaf Forest (Oceanic) Province and the Central Appalachian Broadleaf Forest--Coniferous Forest--Meadow Province (Figure 4). Within each ecoregion is a similar ecological landscape consisting of similar landforms, climate, flora, and fauna.

Eastern Broadleaf Forest (Oceanic) Province
The Eastern Broadleaf Forest (Oceanic) Province consists of Appalachian plateaus, New England lowlands, the mid-Atlantic coastal plain, and the Piedmont Plateau. The entire ecoregion is approximately 104,500 square miles and has an average temperature range of 40 to 60 degrees Fahrenheit. The topography of the province is very diverse and includes plateaus that have hilly and mountainous features west of the Appalachian Mountains with altitudes ranging from about 1,000 feet to more that 3,000 feet. The Piedmont Plateau and coastal plains are located east of the Appalachian Mountains where altitudes range from sea level to 1,000 feet.

Precipitation occurs year-round and averages between 35 to 60 inches per year. The provinces vegetative characteristics include a "winter deciduous forest," which is comprised of tall broadleaf trees. The forest vegetation is divided into three categories: mixed mesophytic, Appalachian oak, and pine-oak. The soils in the province are largely classified as Alfisols, Ultisols, and Inceptisols. A variety of animal species can be found throughout the province, including: whitetail deer, gray fox, eastern chipmunk, turkey, ruffed grouse, cardinal, tufted titmouse, wood thrush, and box turtle.

Central Appalachian Broadleaf Forest--Coniferous Forest--Meadow Province

The Central Appalachian Broadleaf Forest--Coniferous Forest--Meadow Province consists of Appalachian highlands. The ecoregion is approximately 68,100 square miles and has an average temperature range of from below 50 degrees to 64 degrees Fahrenheit. The topography of the province is comprised of low mountains, valleys, and plateaus. Elevations range from 300 to 6,000 feet. The highest peak in the province (6,684 feet) is located at Mount Mitchell, North Carolina.

Annual precipitation in the province ranges from 35 inches in the valleys to 80 inches in the higher elevations in more mountainous areas. The overall climate, which includes heavy snowfall (24 to 30 inches annually), and topography of the province support a vegetative character that includes mixed oak-pine forests in the valleys of the southern Appalachian Mountains, oak forests in the middle Appalachian Mountains, and northeastern hardwood forests that include birch, beech, maple, and bass wood in the northern Appalachian Mountains. Spruce-fir forests and meadows are located on the highest peaks of the Allegheny and Great Smoky Mountains. Soils in the province include Ultisols and Inceptisols. A variety of animal species can be found throughout the province, including red-breasted nuthatches, pileated woodpeckers, downy, hairy, and red-bellied woodpeckers. The passenger pigeon, which once thrived in this region, is now extinct.

Figure 3 Physiographic Diagram of Kentucky

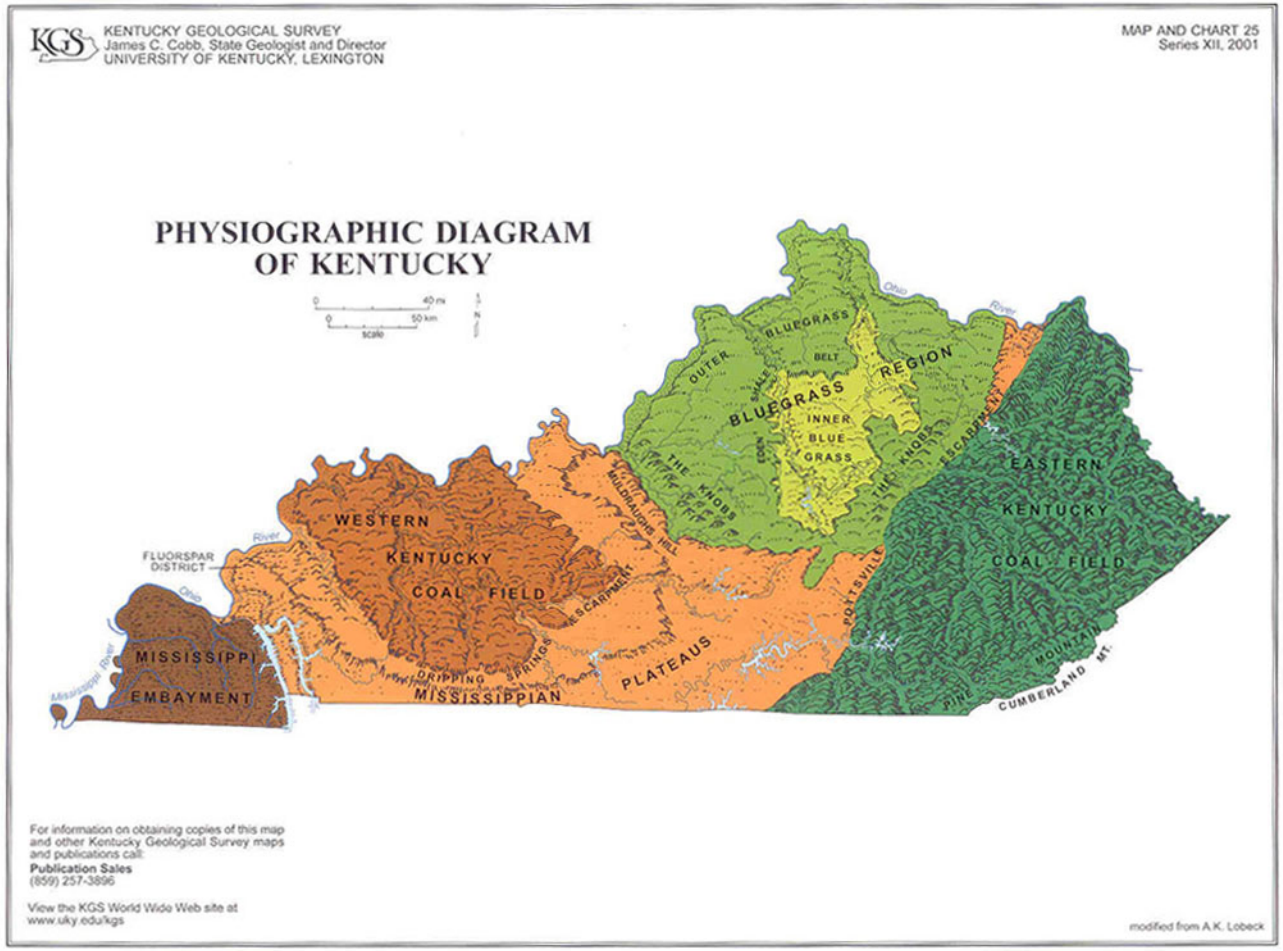
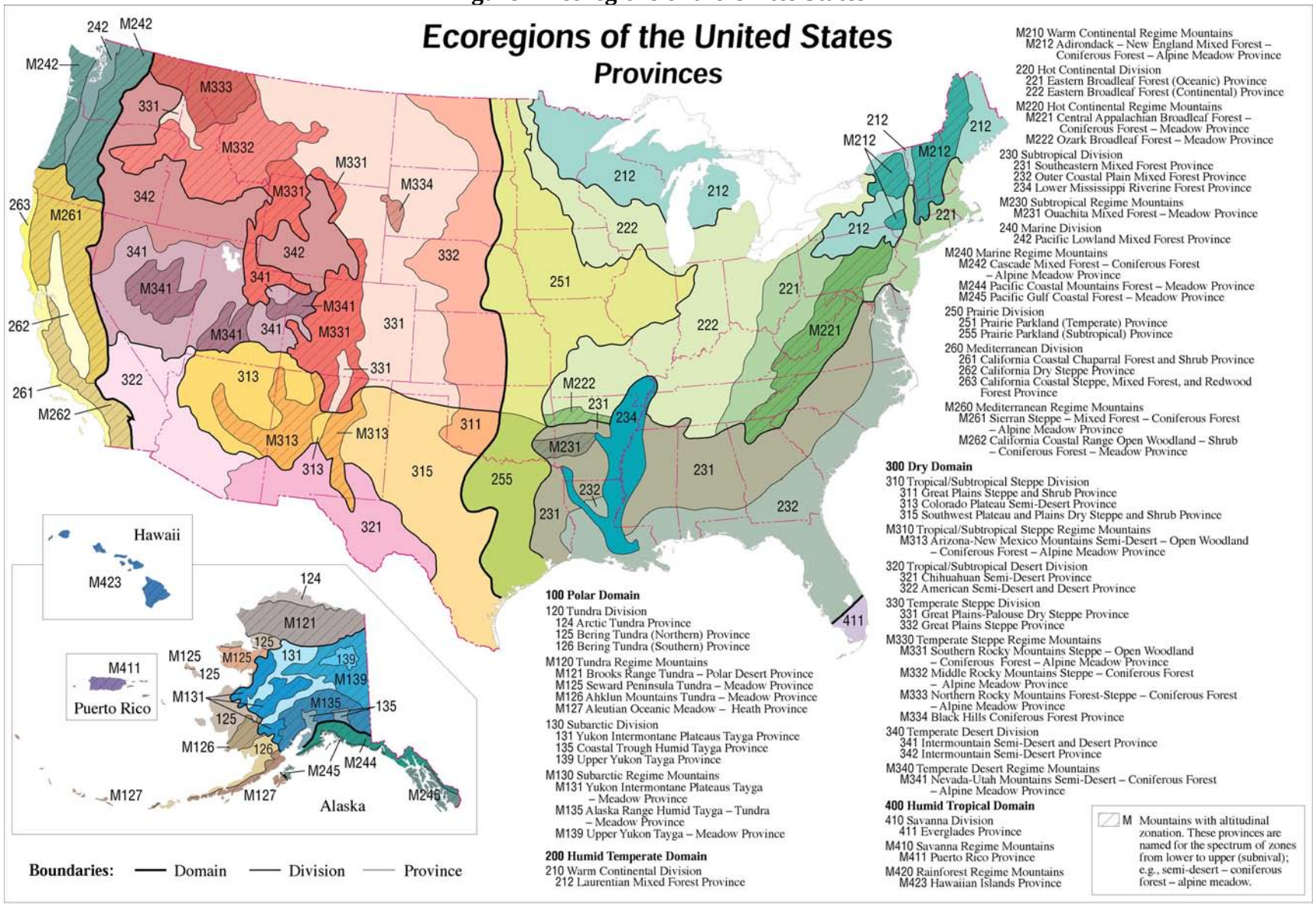


Figure 4 Ecoregions of the Unites States



Source: R.G. Bailey [Ecoregions of the United States, USDA Forest Service (scale 1:7,500,000, revised 1994)]

I.b. Similarity Zone Identification

Within each Regional Landscape, Similarity Zones are established to provide a more specific framework with which to define and evaluate the visual resources of a study area.

Due to the relatively small area of the Pike County, Levisa Fork project and relative land use and visual consistency within the project area, the confines of the Big Sandy River valley have been identified as a single Similarity Zone.

Visual Resource Summary Description (Form 1) MCS Similarity Zone

Land use within the boundaries of project area itself consists of a mix of commercial, industrial, institutional, residential, and forested land. The North Pikeville and Coal Run Village business districts contain commercial establishments such as restaurants, car dealerships, gas stations, grocery stores, banks and other small shops. No historic resources were identified as part of the visual assessment. However, many buildings within the project corridor in the Pikeville area have been nominated for inclusion in the National Register of Historic Places.

The Big Sandy River and the Levisa and Russell Forks and applicable tributaries are predominant in the overall scenery. Immediately outside of the maturely dissected flood plain are steep forested hills, and mountains.

Visibility: Ranges from a few feet in the woods to approximately 750 feet in the valley to several miles from high elevations.

Recreational activities: Hiking, biking, fishing, canoeing, and picnicking.

I.c. Management Classification

Based on the fact that the entire proposed structural flood control measures are within one Similarity Zone, it was possible to assign a management class to the zone based on its Total Assessment Value. The Pike County, Levisa Fork Similarity Zone earned a Total Assessment value of 13, placing the area in the Partial Retention Class (Total Assessment Values of 11-13). Areas in this class are locally valued for above average visual quality but are rarely protected by institutional policies. Project activity may be evident and begin to attract attention. Structures, operations, and use activities should remain subordinate to the existing visual resources. Form, line, color, texture, scale, and composition may differ from, but should be compatible with, the visual characteristics of the existing resource. Projects in these zones should have VIA values no lower than -5.

Part II Visual Impact Assessment (VIA)

II.a. Viewpoint Simulations and Descriptions

Viewpoints for Coal Run Village and North Pikeville communities were selected by evaluators because they are representative of typical views and features in the area. In locations where simulations were unavailable, the evaluators used sketches on photographs to forecast the proposed condition. Neither the Levisa Fork nor any of its tributaries are visible from any of the selected viewpoints in the visual assessment.

Figures 5 and 6 illustrate locations of the seven individual viewpoints that were selected and assessed by evaluators. Individual views (existing and future) along with brief descriptions follow.

Figure 5 Viewpoint Assessment Map for North Pikeville

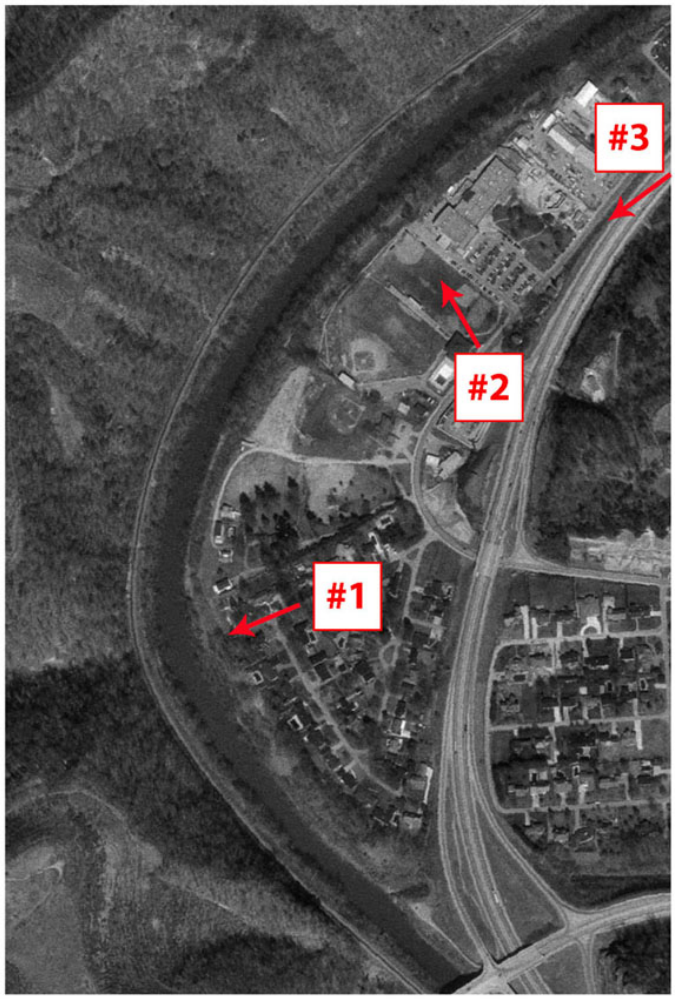
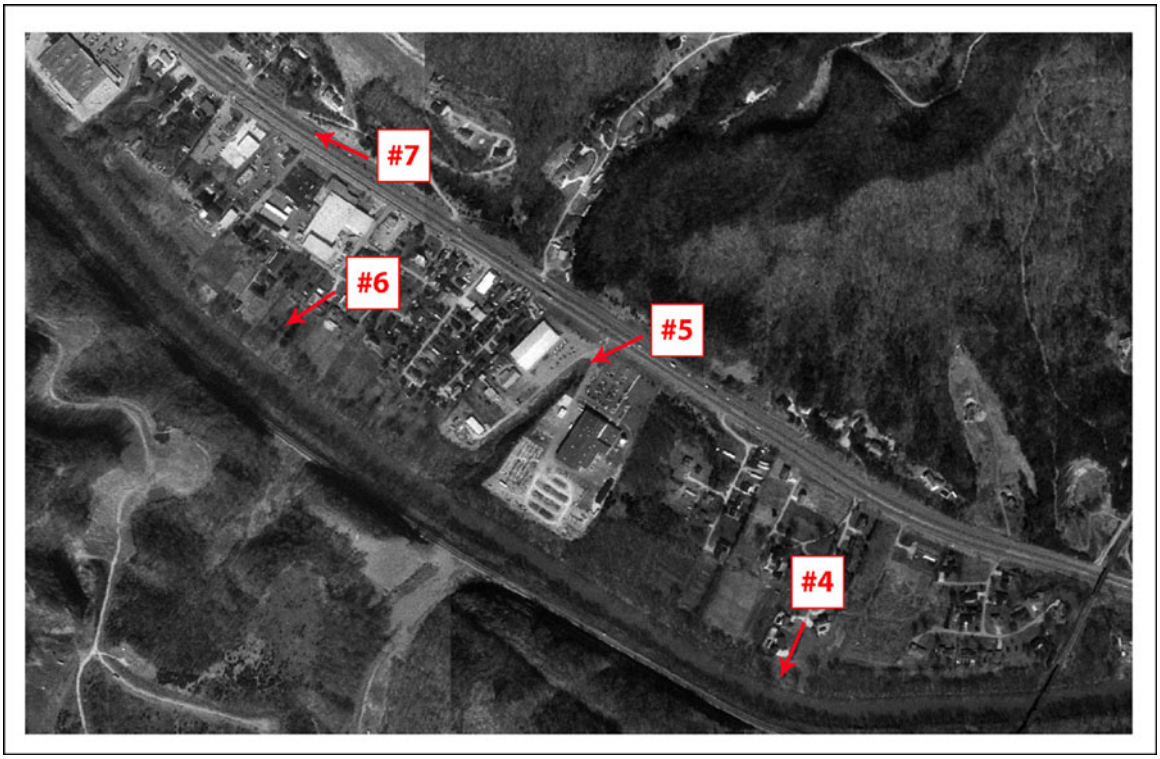


Figure 6 Viewpoint Assessment Map for Coal Run Village



VIEW 1

Without Project

With Project

UNAVAILABLE

View 1. The view, looking southwesterly, was taken in a residential community in North Pikeville just off the Mayo Trail.

VIEW 2

Without project

With project

View 2. The view, looking northwest, was taken in an institutional and commercial area of North Pikeville adjacent to Mayo Trail.

VIEW 3

Without project

With project

View 3. The view, looking southwest from the shoulder of US 23/80/460, was taken in a primarily commercial area in North Pikeville.

VIEW 4

Without project

With project

UNAVAILABLE

View 4. The view, looking south toward the Levisa Fork just south of US 23/80/460, was taken in a residential neighborhood on Winward Road in Coal Run Village.

VIEW 5

Without project

With project

View 5. The view, looking west, was taken from the shoulder on US 23/80/460 at American Electric Power (AEP) in Coal Run Village. The area dominated by commercial and industrial uses.

VIEW 6

Without project

With project

UNAVAILBALE

View 6. The view, looking west toward the Levisa Fork, was taken in a residential neighborhood on Church Street in Coal Run Village.

VIEW 7

Without project

With project

View 7. The view, looking northwest, was taken along the shoulder of US 23/80/460 in Coal Run Village in a highly commercial and industrial area.

COAL RUN VILLAGE AND NORTH PIKEVILLE LPPs VRAP SUMMARY

Tables 3 and 4 present the numerical values for the VIA using Form 6, by evaluator and evaluation category. The following evaluation categories were used: water resources, landform, vegetation, landuse, user activity, and special considerations. All categories were evaluated using the Distinct, Average, and Minimal designations. The definitions for the designations are as follows:

> **Distinct -** A resource or activity that is considered unique and an asset to an area. It is typically known as a visual/aesthetic draw and/or has many distinctive attributes. Diversity and compatibility are characteristics in such a resource.
>
> **Average -** A resource or activity that is common in the area and not known for its uniqueness, but rather as a reflection of the norm in the area.
>
> **Minimal -** A resource or activity that may be looked upon as a liability in the area. It typically lacks any positive attributes and may actually diminish the quality of surrounding areas.

The above designations also have an associated numeric value: Distinct value = 3; Average value = 2; and the Minimal value = 1. Three evaluators determined the numerical finding or viewpoint value through the assessment of Views 1 through 7 utilizing the existing (without plan) and build (with plan) conditions to assign a visual impact assessment value representative of the potential impacts of the project on the Coal Run Village and North Pikeville communities. Individual viewpoint and resource values are calculated by subtracting the "without plan" value from the "with plan" value for each category. For example, if an evaluator determined that the user activity category for View 2 was distinct for the "with plan" condition and minimal for the "without plan" condition, then the viewpoint value would be 2 [distinct (3) - minimal (1) = 2]. Viewpoint values may also be negative if an evaluator determines that the "with plan" conditions would degrade the visual resource. Often evaluators can find that the "with plan" and "without plan" conditions could both be, for example, average (2). When both conditions receive the same rating, the ratings cancel each other and the viewpoint value equals zero.

The special consideration category is evaluated based upon four separate questions regarding cultural and historical landmarks, distinct visual quality and/or wildlife observation, pollution and litter, and other aesthetic elements that add to the resources of the area. The four questions are answered yes (value of 1) or no (value of 0). When the total value is added for these four questions, a sum of 3 or more points indicates the view has distinct special considerations, 1 or 2 points indicates the view has average special considerations, and a sum of 0 points indicates minimal special considerations. Similar to the other categories, the difference between the "with plan" and "without plan" conditions result in a viewpoint value.

Summary quotients are calculated for each resource by adding all viewpoint values and dividing by the total number of viewpoints. For example, if an evaluator gave two of seven viewpoints a -1, then the quotient would be - 0.28571429 (total of viewpoint values / total number of viewpoints).

In addition to the numeric viewpoint values, modifier ratings were assigned for each category and viewpoint using the rating definitions in Table 2. Each viewpoint was evaluated for spatial dominance, scale contrast, and compatibility for the "with plan" condition only. For example, if the evaluator determined that the proposed floodwall would be somewhat compatible, moderately contrasting, and co-dominant from View 3 in terms of vegetation, then the evaluator gave vegetation a modifier rating of "SC/MO/C." A modifier rating was also assigned for landscape composition using the rating definitions in Table 2.

A majority modifier rating is determined by counting the most frequent ratings for spatial dominance, scale contrast, compatibility, and landscape composition for each of the resource categories (Table 3).

Table 4 summarizes the three evaluator's quotients and majority modifier ratings. The quotients for each of the three evaluators are summed and divided by the total number of evaluators. This calculation produces the overall quotient for each of the resource categories. The most frequent modifier ratings determined the overall modifier rating for each category.

Table 2 Modifier Ratings

Modifier Ratings		
Modifier	*Definition*	*Rating*
Spatial Dominance	The prevalent occupation of a space in a landscape by an object(s) or landscape element. Spatial dominance can be described in terms of Dominant, Co-dominant, or Subordinate.	**Dominant** - the modification is the major object or area in a confined setting that occupies a large part of the setting. (D) **Co-dominant** - the modification is one of the major objects or areas in a confined setting, and its features are of equal visual importance. (C) **Subordinate** - the modification is insignificant and occupies a minor part of the setting. (S)
Scale Contrast	The difference in absolute or relative scale in relation to other distinct objects or areas in the landscape. Scale contrast can be described in terms of being Severe, Moderate, or Minimal.	**Severe** - the modification is much larger than the surrounding objects. (S) **Moderate** - the modification is slightly larger than the surrounding objects. (MO) **Minimal** - the modification is much smaller than the surrounding objects. (MI)
Compatibility	The degree to which landscape elements and characteristics are still unified within their setting. Compatibility can be described in terms of being Compatible, Somewhat Compatible, or Not Compatible.	**Compatible** - the modification is harmonious within the setting. (C) **Somewhat Compatible** - the modification is more or less harmonious within the setting. (SC) **Not Compatible** - the modification is not harmonious within the setting. (NC)
Landscape Composition	The organization of the elements of the landscape.	**Prominent** - focal, feature or enclosed landscapes. (P) **Significant** - paroramic or weak focal, feature or enclosed landscapes. (S) **Inconspicuous** - canopied, indistinct or obscured landscapes. (I)

Table 3 Summary Viewpoint Assessment (FORM 7 VIA)

VRAP EVALUATOR #1								
Viewpoints	**1**	**2**	**3**	**4**	**5**	**6**	**7**	**Quotient**
Water Resources	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Landform	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Vegetation	0	0	0	-1	0	-1	0	-0.28571429
Landuse	0	0	0	-1	0	0	0	-0.14285714
User Activity	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Special Considerations	-1	0	0	0	0	0	0	-0.14285714
Modifier Rating: Compatibility, Scale Contrast, Spatial Dominance								**Majority**
Water Resources	NA/NA/NA	NA/NA/NA	NA/NA/NA	NA/NA/NA	NA/NA/NA	NA/NA/NA	NA/NA/NA	NA/NA/NA
Landform	NC/MO/S	SC/MO/C	SC/MO/S	SC/MO/S	C/MI/S	SC/S/C	SC/MO/D	SC/MO/S
Vegetation	SC/S/S	SC/MI/S	NC/MI/S	SC/MO/S	C/MI/S	SC/MI/D	SC/MI/S	SC/MI/S
Landuse	NC/S/C	NC/MO/D	NC/S/D	NC/S/D	C/MI/S	NC/MI/S	SC/MO/S	NC/S/S&D
User Activity	NC/MO/D	NC/MO/D	NC/MO/C	NC/MO/S	C/MI/S	NC/MO/S	NC/S/C	NC/MO/S
Landscape Composition	P	S	P	P	S	P	P	P

VRAP EVALUATOR #2								
Viewpoints	**1**	**2**	**3**	**4**	**5**	**6**	**7**	**Quotient**
Water Resources	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Landform	-2	0	0	-1	0	0	0	-0.42857143
Vegetation	0	0	0	-1	0	0	0	-0.14285714
Landuse	-2	0	0	0	0	0	0	-0.28571429
User Activity	-2	0	0	-1	0	0	0	-0.42857143
Special Considerations	0	0	0	-1	0	-1	0	-0.28571429
Modifier Rating: Compatibility, Scale Contrast, Spatial Dominance								**Majority**
Water Resources	NA/NA/NA	NA/NA/NA	NA/NA/NA	NA/NA/NA	NA/NA/NA	NA/NA/NA	NA/NA/NA	NA/NA/NA
Landform	NC/S/D	C/MI/C	C/MI/C	NC/S/D	SC/MO/S	SC/S/C	C/MI/C	C/MI/C
Vegetation	C/MO/C	SC/MO/C	C/MI/S	C/MO/C	SC/MO/C	SC/MO/C	C/MI/C	C/MO/C
Landuse	NC/S/D	C/MI/C	C/MI/S	SC/S/C	C/MO/C	C/MO/C	C/MI/C	C/MI/C
User Activity	NC/MO/D	C/MO/S	C/MI/S	SC/MO/C	C/MO/S	SC/S/D	C/MI/C	C/MO/S
Landscape Composition	P	I	I	S	P	S	P	P

Table 3 Summary Viewpoint Assessment (CONTINUED)

VRAP EVALUATOR #3								
Viewpoints	**1**	**2**	**3**	**4**	**5**	**6**	**7**	**Quotient**
Water Resources	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Landform	0	0	-1	-1	0	1	0	-0.14285714
Vegetation	0	0	0	-1	0	1	0	0
Landuse	-1	0	0	-1	0	0	-1	-0.42857143
User Activity	-1	0	0	-1	0	0	0	-0.28571429
Special Considerations	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0.14285714
Modifier Rating: Compatibility, Scale Contrast, Spatial Dominance								**Majority**
Water Resources	NA/NA/NA	NA/NA/NA	NA/NA/NA	NA/NA/NA	NA/NA/NA	NA/NA/NA	NA/NA/NA	NA/NA/NA
Landform	NC/S/C	NC/MI/S	NC/MO/S	NC/MO/D	C/MI/S	SC/S/C	NC/MO/D	NC/MO/S
Vegetation	SC/S/D	NC/MI/S	SC/MO/S	NC/MI/C	C/MO/S	C/MI/S	C/MI/C	C/MI/S
Landuse	NC/MO/C	SC/MO/C	SC/MO/C	NC/S/D	C/MI/S	C/MI/S	NC/S/D	NC/MO/C
User Activity	NC/MO/D	NC/S/S	NC/MO/S	NC/S/D	C/MI/S	C/MO/S	NC/S/D	NC/MO/S
Landscape Composition	P	S	P	P	S	S	P	P

Table 4 Project VRAP Assessment

VISUAL IMPACT ASSESSMENT SUMMARY					
	Evaluator #1	**Evaluator #2**	**Evaluator #3**	**Total # of Evaluators**	**Quotient**
Water Resources	0	0	0	3	0.0000
Landform	0	-0.42857	-0.14286	3	-0.1905
Vegetation	-0.28571	-0.14286	0	3	-0.1429
Landuse	-0.14286	-0.28571	-0.42857	3	-0.2857
User Activity	0	-0.42857	-0.28571	3	-0.2381
Special Considerations	-0.14286	-0.28571	0.142857	3	-0.0952
				VISUAL IMPACT ASSESSMENT VALUE	**-0.95**
Modifier Rating: Compatibility, Scale Contrast, Spatial Dominance					**Majority**
Water Resources	NA/NA/NA	NA/NA/NA	NA/NA/NA	3	NA/NA/NA
Landform	SC/MO/S	C/MI/C	NC/MO/S	3	NC&SC/MO/S
Vegetation	SC/MI/S	C/MO/C	C/MI/S	3	C/MI/S
Landuse	NC/S/S&D	C/MI/C	NC/MO/C	3	NC/NA/C
User Activity	NC/MO/S	C/MO/S	NC/MO/S	3	NC/MO/S
Landscape Composition	P	P	P	3	P

COAL RUN VILLAGE AND NORTH PIKEVILLE LPPs VRAP APPRAISAL

The VRAP Appraisal involves evaluating the calculated VIA Value using the MCS criteria as a guide by providing a basis for determining whether the visual impact caused by the project is desirable. The VIA Value is compared with the visual impact guidelines contained in the MCS (see chart below). The calculated VIA Value is **-0.95**, which falls well within the range for the MCS class determined in task I.c.

	Management Class	VIA Value
	Preservation	0
	Retention	10 to –2
Coal Run and North Pikeville LPPs →	**Partial retention**	**10 to -5**
	Modification	10 to -7
	Rehabilitation	10 to -10

The proposed Coal Run Village and North Pikeville LPPs is within the range of the MCS Class designated for the project area, therefore, the overall project visual impact is considered to be acceptable. No significant overall visual impacts are identified for the project. The VRAP results for each viewpoint should be used as a guide to assist the planning and design of landscape planting plans, wall graphics, or other visual mitigation measures.