Visual Quality in *Scenic Areas* with a VQO

Source of Objective: *FRPA* section 181
The objectives set by *government* for visual quality in *scenic areas* are the established Visual Quality Objectives, applied in accordance with *FPPR* Section 1.1, [*Categories of Visually Altered Forest Landscape*].
Applicable *FDU*s: #1-Kamloops, #2-Merritt, #3-Okanagan, #4-TFL 49
Source of Objective: DM *GAR* section 7(2) Order, December 31, 2005
GAR 7(2) The minister responsible for the Forest Act by order may establish for a scenic area, visual quality objectives that are consistent with subsection (1) and are within the categories of altered forest landscape prescribed under section 1.1 of the Forest Planning and Practices Regulation.
Applicable *FDU*s: #5-Arrow, **#6-Boundary**
Source of Objective: *KHLPO* section 2.1.14.1
The primary objective in Visually Sensitive Areas is to ensure that the levels of visual quality expected by society are achieved on Crown land in keeping with the concepts and principles of integrated resource management.
Applicable *FDU*s: #1-Kamloops
Source of Objective: *KHLPO* section 2.6.1
Maintain viewscapes in recreation and tourism areas to a standard that does not detract from the recreational enjoyment of users.
Applicable *FDU*s: #1-Kamloops
Source of Objective: *OSLRMP LUO* Objective 10a
The objective for the area shown on *LUO* Map 10 is to maintain resources and values associated with Community/Crown Interface areas and *scenic areas* when planning and implementing forest health operations.
Applicable *FDU*s: #3-Okanagan, #4-TFL 49

Definition

For the purposes of this strategy:

"***visual assessment***" means the process of assessing and planning a proposed forest landscape visual alteration to be consistent with the established *VQO*, applied in accordance with *FPPR* Section 1.1, by:

a) designing the appearance of the alteration, having regard for the scale, shape and acuity of the alteration;
b) utilizing visual simulation of the alteration; and
c) including the influence of *established cutblocks* and *established roads* on the alteration.

Result or Strategy for Visual Quality in *Scenic Areas* with a VQO

Applicable *FDU*s: #1-Kamloops, #2-Merritt, #3-Okanagan, #4-TFL 49, #5-Arrow**,** #6-Boundary

In relation to the objectives set by *government* for visual quality in *scenic areas,* where the *FSP holder* harvests a cutblock or constructs a *road* within a *scenic area* with an established *visual quality objective,* the *FSP holder* will ensure that:

1) prior to harvesting that cutblock or constructing that road, a *qualified professional* conducts a *visual assessment* of the *altered forest landscape* that will result from that cutblock harvesting or road construction;
2) the completed cutblock harvesting and road construction is consistent with the established *VQO*, applied in accordance with *FPPR* Section 1.1;
3) despite subsections (1 and 2), within the scenic areas in *FDU* 1, 3 and 4 that are identified in **Table 5.19.3.2(a)**, where cutblock harvesting or *road* construction is proposed to recover timber that has been damaged, threatened, significantly reduced in value, lost or destroyed due to the effects of the 2021 White Rock Lake (K61884) and Mabel Complex (K41561) wildfires and the 2023 Bush Creek East (K21633) wildfire, the FSP holder will:
    a) prior to harvesting that cutblock or constructing that road, ensure that a *qualified professional* conducts a *visual assessment* of the *altered forest landscape* that will result from that cutblock harvesting or road construction, which considers the circumstances or conditions brought about by wildfire that threaten, impact or have damaged the timber in that *scenic area*; and
    b) where a *qualified professional* determines that it is not practicable to effectively recover the damaged timber and be fully consistent with the scale and acuity attributes of the established VQOs, ensure that to the extent practicable, within each applicable VLI polygon, the *altered forest landscape* that results from that cutblock harvesting or road construction:
        (i) is natural in appearance and not rectilinear or geometric in shape, and
        (ii) does not exceed the levels for scale or acuity that are specified in **Table 5.19.3.2(a).**
4) despite subsection (1 and 2) within the scenic areas in FDU 1 that are identified in **Table 5.19.3.2(b)**, where cutblock harvesting or road construction is proposed to recover timber that has been damaged, threatened, significantly reduced in value, lost or destroyed due to the effects of Douglas-fir bark beetle, the FSP holder will:
    a) prior to harvesting that cutblock or constructing that road, ensure that a *qualified professional* conducts a *visual assessment* of the *altered forest landscape* that will result from that cutblock harvesting or road construction, which considers the circumstances or conditions brought about by the Douglas-fir bark beetle infestations that have damaged, impacted or threaten the timber in that scenic area; and
    b) where a *qualified professional* determines that it is not practicable to effectively recover the damaged, impacted or threatened timber and be fully consistent with the scale and acuity attributes of the established VQOs, ensure that within each applicable VLI polygon, the *altered forest landscape* that results from that cutblock harvesting or road construction:
        (i) is to the extent practicable, natural in appearance and not rectilinear or geometric in shape, and
        (ii) does not exceed the allowable extents of scale or acuity that are specified in **Table 5.19.3.2(b).**
5) despite subsection (1 and 2) within the scenic areas in FDU 1 that are identified in **Table 5.19.3.2(c)**, where cutblock harvesting or road construction is proposed to mitigate fuel hazard near a community, the FSP holder will:
    c) prior to harvesting that cutblock or constructing that road, ensure that a *qualified professional* conducts a *visual assessment* of the *altered forest landscape* that will result from that cutblock harvesting or road construction, which considers the fuel hazard mitigation strategies; and
    d) where a *qualified professional* determines that it is not practicable to effectively mitigate the fuel hazard and harvest that cutblock or construct that road and be fully consistent with the scale and acuity attributes of the established VQOs, ensure that within each applicable VLI polygon, the *altered forest landscape* that results from that cutblock harvesting or road construction:

(iii) is to the extent practicable, natural in appearance and not rectilinear or geometric in shape, and

(iv) does not exceed the allowable extents of scale or acuity that are specified in **Table 5.19.3.2(c).**

Table 5.19.3.2(a) - Scenic Areas (VLI Polygons) to which 5.19.3.2(3) applies

FDU	Geographic Location	Wildfire Identification	VLI Polygon	Established VQO	Scale (allowable extent)	Acuity (allowable extent)
1	Adams Lake (east)	Bush Creek East	1875	Retention	large in scale	very easy to see
1	Adams Lake (east)	Bush Creek East	1880	Retention	large in scale	very easy to see
1	Dixon Lake	Dixon K21453	552	Partial Retention	large in scale	very easy to see
3	Mabel Lake (east)	Mabel Complex	1406	Partial Retention	large in scale	very easy to see
3	Mabel Lake (east)	Mabel Complex	1409	Partial Retention	large in scale	very easy to see
3	Mabel Lake (east)	Mabel Complex	1421	Partial Retention	large in scale	very easy to see
3	Mabel Lake (east)	Mabel Complex	1447	Partial Retention	large in scale	very easy to see
3	Mabel Lake (east)	Mabel Complex	1471	Partial Retention	large in scale	very easy to see
3	Mabel Lake (east)	Mabel Complex	1475	Partial Retention	large in scale	very easy to see
3	Mabel Lake (east)	Mabel Complex	1501	Partial Retention	large in scale	very easy to see
3	Mabel Lake (east)	Mabel Complex	1506	Partial Retention	large in scale	very easy to see
4	Onion Road area (Hwy 97 Westwold)	White Rock Lake	1675	Partial Retention	large in scale	very easy to see
4	Woods Lake (East)	White Rock Lake	1819	Partial Retention	large in scale	very easy to see
4	Woods Lake (East)	White Rock Lake	1821	Retention	large in scale	very easy to see

Table 5.19.3.2(b) - Scenic Areas (VLI Polygons) to which 5.19.3.2(4) applies

FDU	Geographic Location	Damaging Agent	VLI Polygon	Established VQO	Scale (allowable extent)	Acuity (allowable extent)
1	Dixon – Barriere Lakes Road	Douglas-fir beetle	134788	Partial Retention	large in scale	very easy to see
1	Dixon – Barriere Lakes Road	Douglas-fir beetle	134864	Partial Retention	large in scale	very easy to see
1	Dixon – Barriere Lakes Road	Douglas-fir beetle	134830	Partial Retention	large in scale	very easy to see
1	Little Fort – Hwy 5	Douglas-fir beetle	134286	Partial Retention	large in scale	very easy to see
1	Darlington – Hwy 5	Douglas-fir beetle	134584	Partial Retention	large in scale	very easy to see
1	Badger Lake	Douglas-fir beetle	135247	Partial Retention	large in scale	very easy to see

Table 5.19.3.2(c) - Scenic Areas (VLI Polygons) to which 5.19.3.2(5) applies

FDU	Geographic Location	Objective	VLI Polygon	Established VQO	Scale (allowable extent)	Acuity (allowable extent)
1	Chu Chua	Fuel Hazard Mitigation	277	Partial Retention	large in scale	very easy to see
1	Chu Chua	Fuel Hazard Mitigation	372	Partial Retention	large in scale	very easy to see