



NPS Reassessment Guidance for Wilderness Scenic Features

October 2019

After the initial baseline determination, significant change should be determined on a 5-year frequency using this reassessment guide.

For the first 5-year cycle after initial baseline, there is an option to reassess using professional judgement outlined below. For the second 5-year cycle, a re-inventory is recommended. Example: baseline (2015), reassessment (2020), re-inventory (2025).

If a quick assessment was done for the initial baseline, consider doing a representative inventory. If representative inventory was done initially and was not robust enough consider doing a more comprehensive inventory. For information about the approaches available to use for defining the visual resources condition refer to the following guidance documents:

- *NPS Guidance for Evaluating Visual Resources in Wilderness Character Assessments* available online at: <https://irma.nps.gov/DataStore/Reference/Profile/2266844>.
- *NPS Quick Assessment Guidance for Evaluating Visual Resources in Wilderness Character Assessments* available online at <https://irma.nps.gov/DataStore/Reference/Profile/2266847>.

For questions and draft review, please contact at visual_resources@nps.gov or call Ksienya Taylor at (303) 969-2524.

Reassessment Process

It is recommended that at least one person goes to each of the previous identified representative inventory viewpoints from the baseline inventory. If accessibility is limited, an in-office assessment can be done based on current knowledge of the views. Note that the data quality for in-office reassessment is low. If a reassessment is done in the field, taking a photo is recommended. A photo standard should be set by the park so that they are consistent over time (i.e. single shot vs. panorama, phone camera vs. DSLR, minimum Mpixels etc.). For both in-field and in-office re-assessments, complete the assessment questionnaire at the end of this document for each representative view.

Significant Change Analysis

For cases when a re-inventory was done, any change in the overall scenic quality or view importance from the baseline data value is considered significant (e.g. for scenic quality, a change from A to B; or for view importance, a change from 1 to 2). For cases when a re-assessment was done, use the results from the form on the next page.

Data Adequacy

Different levels of data quality and quantity are assigned based on the amount and type of information used to inform the condition assessment. Data adequacy is the sum of assigned data quantity and data quality scores. Report a data adequacy score using the logic below.

- Data quantity is based on the amount of views inventoried and/or re-assessed.
 - Data quantity is complete (score=3) if visual resources inventory data were collected for at least 80% of the views identified as important views for the wilderness area.
 - Data quantity is partial (score=2) if visual resources inventory data were collected for a smaller subset of representative views.
 - Data quantity is insufficient (score=1) if inventory or reassessment data were not available or used. Conditions derived using the quick condition assessment receive an insufficient data quantity score.
- Data quality is based on the type of data used for condition assessments.
 - Data quality is high (score=3) if indicator ratings are based on inventory data.
 - Data quality is moderate (score=2) if during reassessment past inventory data are assessed for changes using professional judgement in the field.
 - Data quality is low (score=1) if during reassessment past inventory data are assessed for changes using professional judgement in the office.
- Data adequacy is the sum of assigned data quantity and data quality scores.
 - Data adequacy is high if the sum is 6.
 - Data adequacy is medium if the sum is 4 or 5.
 - Data adequacy is low if the sum is less than or equal to 3.

Visual Resources Reassessment Questionnaire

NPS Unit:	Date:	Your Name:
Viewpoint Name:	View Landscape Name:	

1. Identify the extent to which the majority of the viewed landscape previously inventoried is still visible.		
The majority of the viewed landscape is still visible. No change	Most of the viewed landscape is still visible but some parts are obscured. Significant Change	The majority of the viewed landscape is no longer visible. Re-inventory
2. Identify the extent that new inconsistent elements are visible as compared to the previous inventory.		
There are no additional inconsistent elements visible. No change	There are some or only a few such that they are visible but not dominant features in the view. Significant Change	There are many or they are major enough to be dominant features in the view. Re-inventory
3. Assess the change in quality and condition of visible landscape elements including natural and human made features.		
Most elements are still of high quality and in good condition. Most natural appearing elements look healthy, undamaged, clean, and free of debris. Built elements are of high quality with appropriate materials, designs, and finishes; and appear to be well cared for. No change	Some elements are now of fair quality and/or in fair condition. Some natural appearing elements do not look healthy, have some damage visible, or have some pollution, debris, or litter evident. Some built elements may be of lower quality, are of unfinished construction, or not well cared for. Significant Change	Most elements are now of poor quality and/or are in poor condition. Natural appearing elements look very unhealthy, seriously damaged, or in poor condition from pollution, or the presence of debris or litter. Built elements appear to be of poor quality, or are in an advanced state of disrepair. Re-inventory

RE-ASSESSMENT RESULT	No Change	Significant Change	Re-Inventory
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