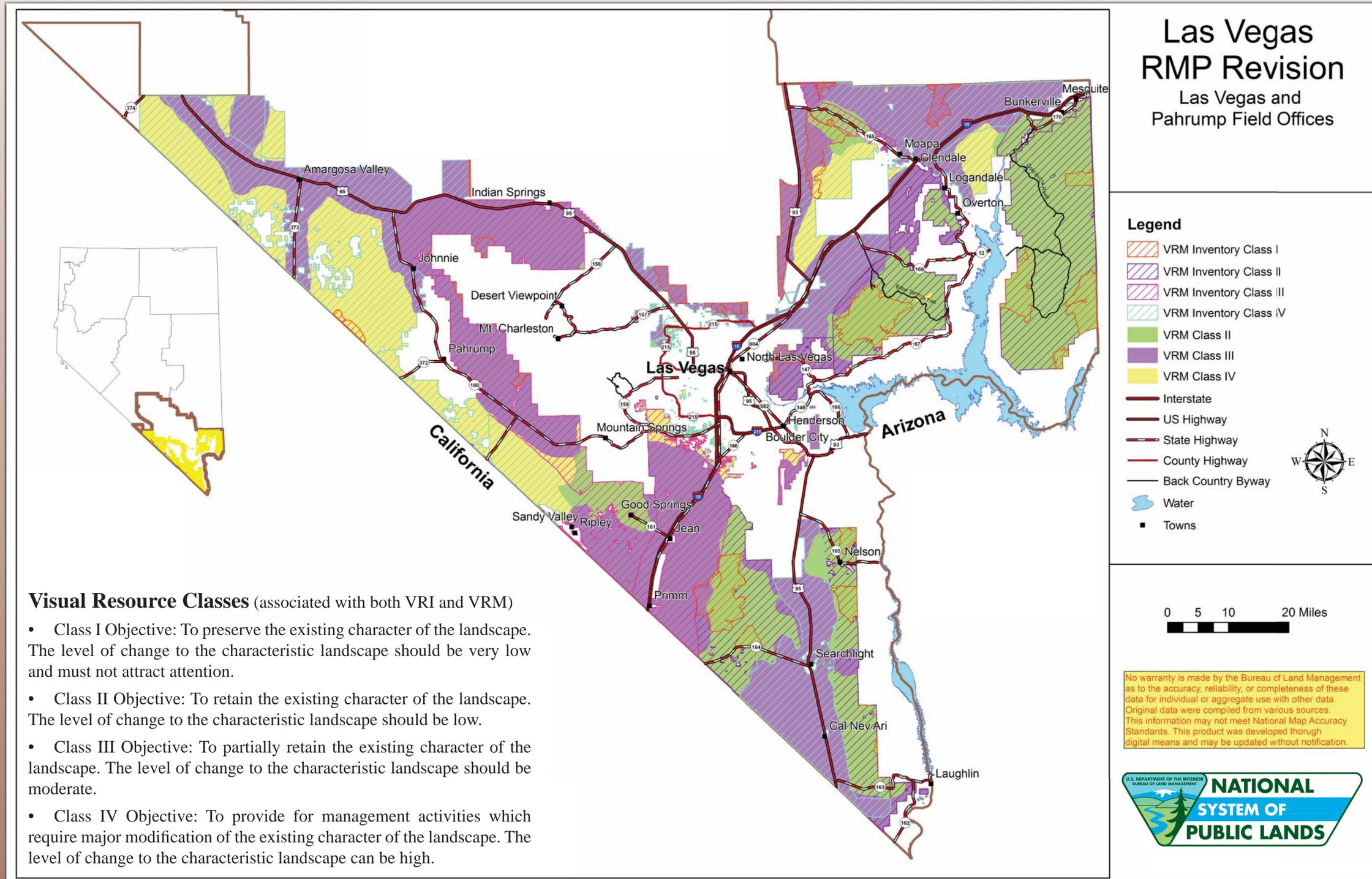


Visual Resource Management



Visual Resource Classes (associated with both VRI and VRM)

- Class I Objective: To preserve the existing character of the landscape. The level of change to the characteristic landscape should be very low and must not attract attention.
- Class II Objective: To retain the existing character of the landscape. The level of change to the characteristic landscape should be low.
- Class III Objective: To partially retain the existing character of the landscape. The level of change to the characteristic landscape should be moderate.
- Class IV Objective: To provide for management activities which require major modification of the existing character of the landscape. The level of change to the characteristic landscape can be high.

The BLM inventories visual resources to determine visual resource values. The inventory consists of identifying the scenic quality (considering factors like landform, vegetation, color, cultural modifications, etc.), scenic sensitivity (considering factors such as type of users, amount of use, public interest, etc.), and delineating distance zones. The inventory results in lands being assigned a Visual Resources Inventory (VRI) Class. The VRI Classes represent the relative value of the visual resources.

An RMP must designate all public lands to a Visual Resources Management (VRM) Class. VRM designations are based on the VRI and management considerations for other land uses. Where VRI Classes reflect existing visual resources, VRM Classes are planning decisions that provide direction for future land uses/authorizations on how visual resources will be considered, managed and/or protected.

The updated VRI will be incorporated into the RMP Revision as the basis for designating VRM Classes. Existing VRM designations will be reviewed in light of the new VRI. Additionally, the RMP Revision will address issues, including:

- How do VRM Classes need to be updated to become consistent with BLM VRM policy?
- How should VRM Classes be designated in relation to consideration of areas for renewable energy projects or ROW corridors?
- What effect will VRM Class designations have on visual resources?

