U.S. Department of the Interior

Bureau of Land Management

Visual Resource Inventory

Central Yukon Resource Management Plan

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Bureau of Land Management

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Acronyms

ATV	All terrain vehicle
BLM	Bureau of Land Management
EIS	Environmental Impact Statement
NWR	National Wildlife Refuge
OHV	Off-highway Vehicle
RMP	Resource Management Plan
SLRU	Sensitivity Level Rating Unit
SQRU	Scenic Quality Rating Unit
TAPS	Trans-Alaska Pipeline
VRI	Visual Resource Inventory
VRM	Visual Resource Management

Chapter 1: Introduction

Visual resource inventory (VRI) class areas for the **Central Yukon Planning Area** were delineated using the process in BLM's Visual Resource Inventory Handbook (H-8410-1). Visual resources are described in the context of the Visual Resource Management (VRM) system, which is used by the BLM to inventory and manage visual resources. This system provides an analytical method to analyze potential visual impacts and to apply visual design techniques to ensure that surface-disturbing activities are harmonious with their surroundings. The VRM system is applied to the entire planning area, including non-federal lands (e.g., state, private).

Implementing VRM involves conducting an inventory, establishing management classes, and providing an impact assessment. During the inventory stage, data are collected to identify the visual resources of an area in order to designate VRI classes (Map 1). The inventory consists of a scenic quality evaluation (Map 3) based on Physiographic Units (Map 2), sensitivity level analysis (Map 4), and a delineation of distance zones (Map 5). These are described in the following sections.

Based on these three factors, BLM lands are placed into one of four VRI classes which represent the relative value of the visual resources. Classes I and II being the most valued, Class III representing a moderate value, and Class IV being of least value. The inventory classes provide the basis for considering visual values in the resource management planning process. Once the visual resource inventory is completed, visual resource management classes (I-IV) will be assigned to BLM lands only within the planning area through the planning process.

Chapter 2: Scenic Quality

Scenic quality is a measure of the visual appeal of a tract of land. All public lands have scenic value, but areas with the most variety and harmonious composition have the greatest value. The scenic quality evaluation describes the characteristic landscape and determines scenic-quality ratings for the visual resources (the land, water, vegetation, and structures that are visible on the land) of the planning area. The evaluation is intended to represent the overall impression a viewer has of the visual resources from several viewpoints or locations, rather than the view from any one location, including an aerial view, or during any one season of the year.

The planning area was used as the frame of reference for rating scenic quality. Physiographic Divisions of Alaska (Wahrhaftig 1965) were used as a foundation for each Scenic Quality Rating Unit (SQRU). The planning area can be divided into six major physiographic provinces: the Arctic Coastal Plain, Arctic Foothills, Arctic Mountains Province, Northern Plateaus Province, the Western Alaska Province, and the Alaska-Aleutian Province. These provinces are further divided into 21 physiographic divisions, forming a basis to describe the elements of landform, water, color and distinctiveness (Map 2). Each of these divisions was considered a SQRU. The transitions between physiographic divisions are generally subtle.

Landform is characterized by vertical relief, spatial composition, and color. Water is characterized by its shape, pattern, and color. Color is defined by its relative scales of hue (classifications of red, yellow, green, blue, or combinations) and value (lightness and darkness), and intensity (degree or strength). Distinctiveness is a measure of uniqueness within a region.

Each SQRU was evaluated to determine its scenic quality and is rated as Class A, B or C. There is Scenic Quality Field Inventory Form for each SQRU in Chapter 5 Scenic Quality Worksheets. The SQRUs are displayed on Map 3 and are summarized below:

- Class A SQRU has a great deal of visual variety, contrast, and harmony.
- Class B SQRU has a moderate amount of visual variety, contrast, and harmony.
- Class C SQRU has little visual variety, contrast, and harmony.

Alaska Range Central SQRU; Class Rating A

This SQRU occurs along the southern boundary of the Fairbanks Subunit, and is a part of the Alaska-Aleutian Province. It is characterized by two or three parallel rugged glaciated ridges rising between 6,000 and 9,000 feet, surmounted by groups of extremely rugged, snow capped mountains more than 9,500 feet high. In much of the unit, rock glaciers are common and permafrost is extensive with solifluction features well developed. It can be described as a complex, irregular, rugged mountain system at 9,000 feet with steep slopes connected to rugged steep sloped foothills and scattered massive plateau systems. The rivers in this unit are swift, braided clear water streams and mostly glaciated braided swift rivers creating contrast between

the adjacent landform and vegetation and the barren soils of gravel bars and boulder areas. Most of the north flowing rivers drain into the Tanana while some flow into the Yukon and Kuskokwim Rivers. This SQRU has a large variation in topographic relief and has a low to moderate variety of plant species within the vegetative types of alpine and moist tundra, and closed spruce forests that create some diversities in color, texture and form between the low growing heaths and shrubs to the tall growing hardwood forests of birch and spruce with tall shrubs of willow and alder. Contrast also occurs between vegetated areas and barren areas of the rugged mountains and lower foothills.

Ambler-Chandalar Ridge and Lowland SQRU; Class Rating A

This SQRU occurs in both the Middle Yukon and the Utility Corridor subunits. It is characterized by east-trending lowlands with elevations of 600 and low passes 3-10 miles wide with elevations of 4000 feet bordered on the north by the abrupt front of the Brooks Range. Rolling to rugged ridges 25 to 75 miles long and 5 to 10 miles wide, rise to 4,500 feet are characteristic of the southern portion of this unit (Alatna, Ninemile, Helpmejack and Jack White Hills). Major rivers are tributaries of the Kobuk, Koyukuk and Chandalar. Large rock-basin lakes occur in the valleys while floodplains of major streams have thaw and oxbow lakes. The entire province is underlain by permafrost. All the rivers in this unit feed into the Arctic Ocean crossing the plain in braided channels and deltas creating contrast between the adjacent landform and vegetation and the barren soils of gravel bars and delta areas. This SQRU has a moderate variation in topographic relief and has a large variety of plant species within the vegetative types of alpine tundra of low mat like herbs, grasses and heaths to closed spruce forests with white spruce and birch forests with high to medium shrubs, and open low-growing spruce forests with black spruce and willow shrub that create some diversities in color, texture and form between the low growing heaths and shrubs to the tall shrubs of willow.

Arctic Coastal Plain SQRU; Class Rating B

This SQRU occurs along the northern boundary of the Utility Corridor Subunit. It is characterized by a smooth poorly drained plain rising imperceptibly from the Arctic Ocean to 600 with scattered groups of low hills in the east and a much flatter section to the west. An abrupt scarp between 50-200 feet high separates the coastal plain from the Arctic Foothills to the south. Locally pingos are sufficiently abundant to give an undulatory skyline. All the rivers in this unit feed into the Arctic Ocean crossing the plain in braided channels and deltas creating contrast between the adjacent landform and vegetation and the barren soils of gravel bars and delta areas. Water is a major element of this landscape. This SQRU has a low variation in topographic relief and has a low variety of plant species within the vegetative types of wet and moist tundra, and low shrub that create some diversities in color, texture and form between the low growing heaths and shrubs to the tall shrubs of willow and alder.

Arctic Foothills SQRU; Class Rating A

This SQRU occurs in the Utility Corridor Subunit. It is characterized by rolling plateaus and low linear mountains. This province has broad east-trending ridges, dominated locally by mesa like

mountains in the north, while the southern area displays irregular buttes, knobs, mesas and east-trending ridges rising 2,500 feet above the surrounding intervening gently undulating tundra plains. Major rivers are swift, braided courses across broad gravel flats. There are a few small thaw lakes in the river valleys with morainal lakes closer to the Brooks Range. Unique sand dunes occur along some rivers. The Arctic Foothills are crossed by north-flowing braided rivers from sources in the Brooks Range creating contrast between the adjacent landform and vegetation and the barren soils of gravel bars. The entire province is underlain by permafrost with ice wedges, stone stripes, polygonal ground and other frost features creating contrast with different vegetation types and barren ground. This SQRU has a moderate variation in topographic relief and has a low variety of plant species within the vegetative types of alpine and moist tundra of low mat like herbs, grasses and heaths to high to medium shrubs thickets creating some diversities in color, texture and form between the low growing heaths and shrubs to the tall shrubs of willow.

Central Eastern Brooks Range SQRU; Class Rating A

This SQRU occurs in the Middle Yukon and the Utility Corridor subunits. It is part of the Rocky Mountain System – Arctic Mountains Province which is characterized by rugged glaciated east-trending ridges rising above 4,000 feet above the valley floor. The abrupt mountain fronts have cliff and bench slopes and provide a divide between the Arctic Ocean to the north and the Bering Sea via the Yukon River drainage system. Major rivers are swift, broad dendritic patterns in a flat-floored glaciated valleys with minor rivers flowing into larger rivers creating a trellised pattern. Large rock-basin lakes occur in the valleys while cirque lakes are common in the higher parts of the range. Snowfields and glaciers may be present year-round. This SQRU has a high variation in topographic relief and has a low to moderate variety of plant species within the vegetative types of alpine and moist tundra of low mat like herbs, grasses and heaths to closed spruce-hardwood forests creating diversities in color, texture and form between the low growing heaths and shrubs to tall deciduous and evergreen trees.

Indian River Upland SQRU; Class Rating B

This SQRU occurs in both the Middle Yukon and the Utility Corridor subunits. It is within the Western Alaska Providence and is characterized by groups of low, gentle ridges with accordant summits interspersed with irregular lowlands and broad flat divides and valleys. Mountains rise up to 4,000 feet above the valley floor (500 feet). Major rivers including the Kanuti, Koyukuk, Melozitna and Dulbi have narrow canyons and irregular courses. Numerous thaw lakes are in the lowlands, valleys and broad passes. The entire area is underlain by permafrost and periglacial processes predominate with altiplanation terraces common at upper elevations. This SQRU has a moderate variation in topographic relief and has a high variety of plant species within the vegetative types of alpine with low mat like herbs, treeless bog areas of grasses and heaths to open and closed spruce-hardwood forests creating diversities in color, texture and form between the low growing heaths and shrubs to tall deciduous and evergreen trees.

Innoko Lowlands SQRU; Class Rating C

This SQRU occurs in the Middle Yukon Subunit. It is located within the Western Alaska Province, is characterized by a series of flat river flood plains with meandering sloughs from the two major rivers (the Yukon and Innoko). Oxbow, thaw and meander-scroll lakes are abundant. Surrounding hills rising 900 and 1,200 feet above the valley floor (200 feet) are cut by the major rivers and tributaries. Much of the area is underlain by permafrost. This SQRU has a low variation in topographic relief and has a moderate variety of plant species within the vegetative types of treeless bog areas of grasses and heaths to open and closed spruce-hardwood forests creating diversities in color, texture and form between the low growing heaths and shrubs to tall deciduous and evergreen trees.

Kanuti Flats SQRU; Class Rating C

This SQRU occurs primarily in the Utility Corridor Subunit, with a small portion extending into the Middle Yukon Subunit. It is part of the Western Alaska Province and is characterized by irregular shaped lake-dotted plain at 400 feet surrounded by low irregular hills at 2,400 feet (Lookout Mountain and the Double Point Mountains). Major drainages include the Koyukuk, Alatna, Kanuti, Kanuti-Kilolitna rivers and Henshaw, Nolitna, Holonada and Kadakina creeks. Large lakes include the Ahagateyeit, Kadakina, Kaldolyeit, Katalahosa,Kodosin-Minnkohwin, Konedsin-Minnkohwin, and Minnkohwin lakes, some of which are over 1 mile across. Numerous thaw lakes are present. Some parts of the flats are more than 50 percent lake surface. Much of the unit is underlain by permafrost. This SQRU has a high variation in topographic relief and has a moderate variety of plant species within the vegetative types of treeless bog areas of grasses and heaths to open and closed spruce-hardwood forests creating diversities in color, texture and form between the low growing heaths and shrubs to tall deciduous and evergreen trees.

Kobuk-Selawik Lowland SQRU; Class Rating C

This SQRU occurs in the Middle Yukon and the Utility Corridor subunits. It is located within the Western Alaska Province, is chiefly broad river flood plains and lake lowlands. Rounded hills rise up to 3,000 feet from the valley floor at 700 feet. Headwaters of the Hogatza River and the Alatna and Kobuk rivers and tributaries are the major water systems. Thaw lakes and sinks dot the lowlands with Norutak Lake being the largest. Most of the unit is underlain by permafrost. This SQRU has a low to moderate variation in topographic relief and has a low variety of plant species within the vegetative type of closed spruce-hardwood forests creating diversities in color, texture and form between the low growing heaths and shrubs to tall deciduous and evergreen trees.

Kokrine-Hodzana Highlands SQRU; Class Rating A

This SQRU occurs in both the Middle Yukon and the Utility Corridor subunits. It is part of the Northern Plateaus Province which is characterized by even-topped rounded ridges with elevations of 2,000-4,000 feet surmounted by isolated rugged mountains rising to 5,700 feet and

valleys at 1,000 feet. Rugged mountains in this unit may have cirques and glaciated valleys and craggy cliff tors that rise abruptly from broad ridgetops (Kokrine Hills and part of the Ray Mountains, Fort Hamlin Hills). Antiplanation terraces, stone polygons and other periglacial features are common. Major rivers are the Koyukuk, Hodzana, Tozitna, Melozitna, Dall, Kanuti and Yukon. A few large lakes occur in the lowlands (Sithylemenkat and Tokusatatquaten, Taclodahten, Birch Hill, Grayling) while small lakes occur along major drainages. The entire province is probably underlain by permafrost. This SQRU has a high variation in topographic relief and has a high variety of plant species within the vegetative types of closed spruce-hardwood forests and alpine and moist tundra creating diversities in color, texture and form between the low growing heaths and shrubs to the tall growing hardwood forests of birch and spruce with tall shrubs of willow and alder, with lower growing black spruce, sedge and grass understory species and open bog areas. Contrast occurs between vegetated areas and barren areas of the water features.

Koyukuk Flats SQRU; Class Rating C

This SQRU is located in the Middle Yukon Subunit. This unit is located within the Western Alaska Province, is characterized as an extensive lowland at the junction of the Yukon and Koyukuk Rivers. Flat plains with meander belts are between 5 and 20 miles wide. Dunes and thaw sinks stand 100-200 feet above the plains and merge imperceptible with the surrounding uplands at 2,000 feet in the Nulato Hills and isolated mountains above the Koyukuk and Yukon rivers and tributaries. Innumerable meander-scroll lakes, oxbow lakes and thaw lakes are present. The majority of the unit is underlain by permafrost. This SQRU has low variation in topographic relief and has high variety of plant species within the vegetative types of closed spruce forests, open, low growing spruce forests, treeless bogs and alpine tundra that create contrast in color, texture and form between the tall growing hardwood forests of birch and spruce with tall shrubs of willow and alder, with lower growing black spruce, sedge and grass understory species and open bog areas as well as mat like grasses and sedges.

Kuskokwim Mountains SQRU; Class Rating B

This SQRU occurs in the Middle Yukon Subunit. It is part of the Western Alaska Province and is characterized by a monotonous succession of northeast-trending ridges with rounded to flat summits with broad gentle slopes rising to 2000 feet in elevation. The area has isolated groups of rugged glaciated mountains up to 4,400 feet in elevation in broad flat valleys (Kuskokwim, Kaiyuh and Sunshine mountains). Major tributaries include the Kuskokwim with a deeply incised gorge, Cosna, Yuki, Sulatna, Nowitna and the Sethkokna rivers and their tributaries. Permafrost underlies most of the unit and periglacial erosional processes predominate. This SQRU has a moderate variation in topographic relief and has a moderate variety of plant species within the vegetative types of closed spruce forests and open, low growing spruce forests that create some diversities in color, texture and form between the tall growing hardwood forests of birch and spruce with tall shrubs of willow and alder, with lower growing black spruce and mat like grasses and heath plants of alpine tundra.

Northern Foothills SQRU; Class Rating A

This SQRU occurs in the Middle Yukon and the Fairbanks subunits. It is located within the Alaska-Aleutian Province and is characterized by flat-topped, east trending ridges (Jumbo Dome, Rex Dome, Walker Dome, Needle Rock, Mystic Mountain, Japan Hills, Molybedenum Ridge) up to 4,500 feet in height, up to 7 miles wide and 5 to 20 miles long. These are separated by rolling lowlands up to 1,500 feet high and 2 to 10 miles wide. Major streams (the Nenana River) of the foothills are superimposed across the topography in rugged impassable v-shaped canyons and across lowlands in broad terraced valleys. There are a few small thaw lakes in lowland passes, and morainal areas have shallow irregular ponds. Permafrost is extensive and polygonal ground and solifluction features are well developed. This SQRU has a moderate variation in topographic relief and has a low to moderate variety of plant species within the vegetative types of alpine tundra, moist tundra, and closed spruce forests that create moderate diversities in color, texture and form between the low growing heaths and shrubs, sedge meadows to the tall growing hardwood forests of birch and spruce with tall shrubs of willow and alder, with lower growing black spruce, sedge and grass understory species and open bog areas. Contrast also occurs between vegetated areas and barren areas of the ridges and rugged river canyons.

Nowitna Lowlands SQRU; Class Rating C

This SQRU occurs in the Middle Yukon Subunit. It is part of the Western Alaska Province and is characterized by low rolling silt-covered tableland up to 900 feet in elevation with broad flat flood plains with incised major rivers and steep walled canyons. Gentle hills rise to 1,500 feet. The Yukon River is along the northern boundary of the unit. Major rivers include the Tanana, Nowitna, Chistinana. Oxbow and thaw lakes are common. Permafrost is common except in flood plains. This SQRU has a low variation in topographic relief and has a low to moderate variety of plant species within the vegetative types of closed spruce forests, open, low growing spruce forests and treeless bogs that create large diversities in color, texture and form between the low growing heaths and shrubs to the tall growing hardwood forests of birch and spruce with tall shrubs of willow and alder, with lower growing black spruce, sedge and grass understory species and open bog areas.

Nulato Hills SQRU; Class Rating B

This SQRU is located along the western boundary of the planning area and occurs in only the Middle Yukon Subunit. It is located within the Western Alaska Province and consists of even-crested ridges with rounded summits and gentle slopes. River valleys are flat floored narrow with entrenched headwater streams and few lakes. Highland areas with steep ridges rise to about 4,000 feet above the valleys (900 feet). Major tributaries Rode, Kaltag, SF Nulato, Gisasa, Nonhosa, Pitka, Kateel and SF Huslia rivers. The entire unit is probably underlain by permafrost. This SQRU has moderate variation in topographic relief and has moderate variety of plant species within the vegetative types of closed spruce forests, treeless bogs and alpine tundra that creates some contrast in color, texture and form between the tall growing hardwood forests of birch and spruce with tall shrubs of willow and alder, with lower growing black spruce, sedge and grass understory species and open bog areas.

Pah River Section SQRU; Class Rating B

This SQRU occurs in only the Middle Yukon Subunit. It is part of the Western Alaska Province and it is an area with diverse topography. Compact groups of hills and low mountains with gently rounded ridges, broad, shallow cirques with flaring walls, rise 4,000 feet above surrounding rolling plateaus and broad flat lowlands. The Purcell Mountains and Zane Hills are located within this unit. Major tributaries include Shiniliaok, Wheeler and Caribou creeks as well as the Daki, Pah and Hogatza rivers. Numerous thaw lakes are present and in the central portion of this unit probably 50% of the surface is water. The entire section is underlain by permafrost and periglacial erosional processes predominate and altiplanation terraces are common. This SQRU has moderate variation in topographic relief and has high variety of plant species within the vegetative types of closed spruce forests, open, low growing spruce forests and alpine tundra that creates some contrast in color, texture and form between the tall growing hardwood forests of birch and spruce with tall shrubs of willow and alder, with lower growing black spruce sedge and grass understory species.

Porcupine Plateau SQRU; Class Rating B

This SQRU occurs only in the Utility Corridor Subunit along the eastern boundary and is a small portion of a larger unit. It is characterized by low ridges having gentle slopes and rounded to flat summits from 1,500 to 2,500 feet with a few domes and mountains rising to 3,500 feet above broad irregular valley floors (1,000 feet). The entire unit is underlain by continuous permafrost. This SQRU has a moderate variation in topographic relief and has a wide variety of plant species within the vegetative types of closed spruce forests, open, low growing spruce forests and treeless bogs that create some diversities in color, texture and form between the tall growing hardwood forests of birch and spruce with tall shrubs of willow and alder, with lower growing black spruce, sedge and grass understory species and open bog areas. All rivers within the SRQU drain into the Yukon River with the clear water of the Chandalar, Black and Little Black being the dominate rivers which meander through broad irregular flats. The variety of water features creates contrast between the adjacent landform and vegetation and the barren soils of gravel bars, moderate cliffs and shore lines.

Rampart Trough SQRU; Class Rating C

This SQRU occurs mainly in the Middle Yukon Subunit with a small portion occurring in the Utility Corridor Subunit. It is part of the Northern Plateaus Province and is a structurally controlled depression having gently rolling topography up to 1,500 feet high and incised down to 2,500 feet below the surrounding highlands on either side. Terraces along rivers can be 500 feet above the stream level. Hard rock hills and surrounding uplands are partly metamorphosed sedimentary and volcanic rock and cut by granitic intrusions resulting in cliff formations. Permafrost underlies all the lowlands except the floodplain. This SQRU has low variation in topographic relief and has a low variety of plant species within the vegetative types of closed spruce forests that create some diversities in color, texture and form between the low growing heaths and shrubs to the tall growing hardwood forests of birch and spruce with tall shrubs of willow and alder, with lower growing black spruce, sedge and grass understory species. Contrast

occurs between vegetated areas and barren areas of the water features. Scattered thaw lakes lie on the floodplain and elsewhere creating a contrast in color and texture with adjacent vegetation.

Tanana-Kuskokwim Lowlands SQRU; Class Rating C

This SQRU occurs in both the Fairbanks and Middle Yukon subunits. It is part of the Western Alaska Province and is characterized as a broad depression with gentle, rolling and rounded hills commonly around 2,000 feet that transition to flat basin at 900 feet. Topographic relief is about 1,000 feet in elevation to low flat basin. The unit is characterized by permafrost. Most of the rivers are glacial and flow in tight meanders, in broad outwash fans in terraced valleys. Thaw lakes abound in areas of fine alluvium. Thaw sinks are also abundant in areas of thick loess cover. This SQRU has a low variation in topographic relief and has a moderate variety of plant species within the vegetative types of closed spruce forests and open, low growing spruce forests that create some diversities in color, texture and form between the tall growing hardwood forests of birch and spruce with tall shrubs of willow and alder, with lower growing black spruce and treeless bog species. Contrasts are created between the water features and adjacent vegetation with areas of barren ground within broad river channels.

Tozitna-Melozitna Lowlands SQRU; Class Rating C

This SQRU occurs in both the Middle Yukon and the Utility Corridor subunits. It is part of the Western Alaska Province and is characterized as a long, narrow rolling plain 5 to 10 miles wide along the head of the Tozitna and Melozitna rivers. While the uplands rise to 2,400, the lowlands are at 700 feet in elevation and the pass between the two rivers is less than 1,000 feet. Other major water bodies include the Norseman and Lost lakes and Dagislakhna, Gishna, Slokhenjikk Wrongtrail creeks. Numerous thaw lakes and oxbow lakes are common. The area is underlain by discontinuous permafrost. This SQRU has a low variation in topographic relief and has a low to moderate variety of plant species within the vegetative types of closed spruce forests and treeless bogs that create diversities in color, texture and form between the low growing heaths and shrubs to the tall growing hardwood forests of birch and spruce with tall shrubs of willow and alder, with lower growing black spruce, sedge and grass understory species and open bog areas.

Yukon Flats SQRU; Class Rating C

This SQRU is located along the eastern boundary of the planning area and occurs in only the Utility Corridor Subunit. This unit is characterized by rolling silt-and gravel-covered marginal terraces having sharp escarpment 150-600 feet high rise above the flats and slope gradually upward to altitudes of about 1,500 feet at the base of surrounding uplands and mountains up to 4,000 feet. The escarpments expose well-consolidated or crystalline rocks. Most of the waterways have meandering courses through the flats. Thaw lakes are abundant throughout the flats and are common with thaw sinks on the marginal terraces. Permafrost is probably abundant under most of this division except for under rivers, recently abandoned meander belts, and large thaw lakes. This SQRU has a moderate variation in topographic relief and has a low variety of plant species within the vegetative types of closed spruce forests, that create some diversities in color, texture and form between the low growing heaths and shrubs to the tall growing hardwood

forests of birch and spruce with tall shrubs of willow and alder, with lower growing black spruce, sedge and grass understory species. Contrast also occurs between vegetated areas and barren areas of the rugged mountains and lower domes. Smaller oxbow and thaw lakes occur throughout the unit and contrast in color and texture with adjacent vegetation. The variety of water features creates contrast between the adjacent landform and vegetation and the barren soils of gravel bars and shore lines.

Yukon-Tanana Upland SQRU; Class Rating A

This SQRU is located in the southeastern part of the planning area and occurs in both the Middle Yukon and the Fairbanks subunits. It is characterized by rounded even-topped ridges with gentle side slopes. The rounded ridges in this subunit trend northeast to east and have ridge-crest altitudes up to 3,000 feet and rise 500 to 1,500 feet above the valley floor. These lower ridges are surrounded by compact rugged mountains rising another 2,000 feet to heights of 5,000 feet in altitude. (Sawtooth Mountain, Wolverine and Elephant Mountains) Valleys are generally flat, with alluvium floors. Major rivers include the Tolovana, Tatalina, and Chatanika in U shaped valleys. There are a few thaw lakes in this discontinuous permafrost region. Periglacial mass-wasting is active at high altitudes, and ice wedges lace the frozen muck of valley bottoms. Pingos are common in valleys and on lower hill slopes. This SQRU has a moderate to high variation in topographic relief and has a low to moderate variety of plant species within the vegetative types of closed spruce forests, treeless bogs and alpine tundra that create diversities in color, texture and form between the low growing heaths and shrubs to the tall growing hardwood forests of birch and spruce with tall shrubs of willow and alder, with lower growing black spruce, sedge and grass understory species. Contrast also occurs between vegetated areas and barren areas of the rugged mountains and lower domes. Smaller oxbow and thaw lakes occur throughout the unit and contrast in color and texture with adjacent vegetation.

Table 2:1 Scenic Quality Rating Units of the Planning Area

Scenic Quality Rating Unit (SQRU)	SQRU Class	Fairbanks Subunit	Middle Yukon Subunit	Utility Corridor Subunit
Alaska Range Central and Eastern	A	Yes	-	-
Ambler-Chandalar Ridge and Lowland	A	-	Yes	Yes
Arctic Coastal Plain	B	-	-	Yes
Arctic Foothills	A	-	-	Yes
Central and Eastern Brooks Range	A		Yes	Yes
Indian River Upland	B		Yes	Yes
Innoko Lowlands	C	-	Yes	-
Kanuti Flats	C	-	Yes	Yes
Kobuk-Selawik Lowland	C	-	Yes	Yes
Kokrine-Hodzana Highlands	A	-	Yes	Yes
Koyukuk Flats	C	-	Yes	-
Kuskokwim Mountains	B	-	Yes	-
Northern Foothills	A	Yes	Yes	-
Nowitna Lowlands	C	-	Yes	-

Scenic Quality Rating Unit (SQRU)	SQRU Class	Fairbanks Subunit	Middle Yukon Subunit	Utility Corridor Subunit
Nulato Hills	B	-	Yes	-
Pah River Section	B	-	Yes	-
Porcupine Plateau	B	-	-	Yes
Rampart Trough	C	-	Yes	Yes
Tanana-Kuskokwim Lowland	C	Yes	Yes	-
Tozitna-Melozitna Lowlands	C	-	Yes	Yes
Yukon Flats Section	C	-	-	Yes
Yukon-Tanana Upland	A	Yes	Yes	-

"-"= Not Applicable

Section 2:1 Vegetative Types

Vegetation is an important component in determining the visual quality of an area. Vegetation is represented by species, variety, extent and color. The more variety of species a landscape has the higher the scenic quality. General vegetation types based on Viereck and Elbert (1972) were used as a basis for this analysis.

Alpine tundra: Alpine tundra vegetative type is predominately barren rocks and rubble interspersed with low mat plants such as white mountain-avens, low heath shrubs such as bearberry, birch, *Cassiope*, diapensia, crowberry, alpine azalea, Labrador-tea, luetkea, mountain heath, rhododendron, blueberry, cranberry, prostrate willows and dwarf herbs.

Closed spruce: Hardwood forests are tall to moderately tall forests (up to 80 feet in height or more) of white and black spruce, paper birch, aspen, and balsam popular forests on moderate to well drained sites with many new and old burns. These stands are rather open under the canopy but contain shrubs of rose, alder and willow. The forest floor is usually carpeted with a thick moss mat. Other common shrubs are bearberry, crowberry, Labrador-tea, red current, buffaloberry, blueberry and cranberry. Quaking aspen stands may develop in well drained upland

areas on south facing slopes or lowland river terraces. Paper birch occurs on east and west facing slopes and flat areas. Balsam Poplar occurs on flood plains of glacial rivers and along sandbars.

Moist tundra: Meadows are dominated by sedges, especially cotton grass in tussocks with scattered willows and dwarf birch. Shrubs include alder, bearberry, birch, *Cassiope*, mountain–avens, Labrador-tea, alpine azalea, mountain heath, rhododendron, rosebay, willows, spirea, blueberry and cranberry.

Open, low growing spruce: Open, low growing spruce forests which occur on north facing slopes and poorly drained lowlands, usually underlain with permafrost. These are low growing (up to 40 to 50 feet in height) open forest primarily of black spruce but often interspersed with tamarack, paper birch and willows, locally interspersed with treeless bogs. A thick moss mat, often of sphagnum mosses, sedges, grasses and heath or ericaceous shrubs makes up the "under story" of this forest. Shrubs include bearberry, crowberry, Labrador-tea, rose, willow, blueberry and cranberry.

Shrub thicket: Dense alder, willow and resin birch thickets occur over a wide range of locations from areas between ocean beaches and forests, between treeline and tundra areas, and along waterways and flood plains. Interspersed with the thickets are blueberry, prickly rose, crowberry, mountain-cranberry, narrow-leaf Labrador-tea and bush cinquefoil. These thickets can vary between 3 and 20 feet in height depending on growing conditions.

Treeless bogs: Scattered areas of treeless bogs are characterized by wet treeless areas of sedges and grasses usually with an abundance of willows, alders and resin birch, locally with widely spaced black spruce and tamarack. They occur where conditions are too wet for tree growth on old river terraces, outwash areas, in filling ponds and sloughs and occasionally on gentle north facing slopes. The vegetation of these bogs consists of varying amounts of grasses, sedges and mosses, especially sphagnum. Shrubs occur on drier peat ridges and include bog-rosemary, birch, leatherleaf, Labrador-tea, sweetgale, cranberry, blueberry and willow.

Wet tundra: Wet tundra vegetative type is usually found in areas with many shallow lakes and little topographic relief with areas of polygonal features. Common vegetation is sedge and cottongrass mat with birch, willow, rosemary, narrow-leaf Labrador-tea, blueberry and cranberries.

Table 2:2 Vegetation Types Present in Planning Area Subunits

Vegetation Types Present in the Subunit	Fairbanks Subunit	Middle Yukon Subunit	Utility Corridor Subunit
Alpine tundra	Yes	Yes	Yes
Closed spruce forests	Yes	Yes	Yes
Moist tundra	Yes	Yes	Yes
Open, low growing spruce	Yes	Yes	Yes
Shrub thicket	No	No	Yes
Treeless bogs	Yes	Yes	Yes
Wet tundra	No	No	Yes

Section 2:2 Cultural Modifications

Cultural Modifications are also taken into account in the scenic quality rating process. Cultural modifications can blend in with or stand out from the surrounding landscape. The planning area is still primarily a natural landscape where humans have not substantially changed the scenic quality. However some areas have been modified by the activities of humans. Buildings are the most likely to be seen and have the most modification from the natural landscape. Buildings primarily exist near communities, including Alatna, Allakaket, Anderson, Bettles, Coldfoot, Galena, Hughes, Huslia, Kaltag, Koyukuk, Manley, Minto, Nenana, Nulato, Rampart, Ruby, Tanana and Wiseman. Homestead areas, mining claims, Native allotments, military installations and isolated cabins can also be found throughout the planning area. Most of the buildings outside a community are in relative harmony with the landscape as they are small, made of local materials, and have primarily natural based colors.

Other modifications include the Dalton, Elliott, Richardson, Parks and Steese highways, and other roads. The Trans-Alaska Pipeline (TAPs) occurs in all subunits and airstrips can also be found in all subunits. The major modifications introduced by TAPs is a shiny cylindrical liner feature and cleared vegetation and buildings associated with pump stations. TAPS also introduces road with gates and signage. While the profile of an airstrip is low, landform changes are introduced by brown colors in predominantly green vegetation and more regular lines than

the surrounding irregular vegetation. A few capped oil and gas exploration wells may be found within the planning area. Given the small footprint and with most either being flush with the landscape or consisting of a “Christmas tree” less than six feet tall, these modifications are very hard to see from a distance of more than 200 feet. OHV trails exist in all subunits to varying degrees. Summer travel in the Middle Yukon Subunit is primarily by watercraft. However, snowmobile trails and winter travel routes can be seen from elevated locations. Summer ATV travel has occurred in the Middle Yukon and Fairbanks subunits with many trails or travel routes being visible for long distances from elevated locations.

While these features introduce modifications to the landform, they also provide places of use and special interest or key observation areas from which to evaluate the sensitivity levels.

Chapter 3: Visual Sensitivity

Visual sensitivity is a key component in identifying VRI classes. Sensitivity levels are a measure of public concern for the scenic quality of an area. There are six factors to consider when evaluating sensitivity levels: Type of Users, Amount of Use, Public Interest, Adjacent Land Use, Special Areas and Other Factors. Areas identified as sensitive include known travel routes, especially State Scenic Byways, areas of human habitation, areas of traditional use, Native allotments, and areas identified through Benefits Based Management and other visitor studies (Stegmann, Fix and Teel 2008; Fix 2009; Fix 2014). Numerous areas are noted to have potentially high visual sensitivity because area residents and visitors view the natural landscape as very important and have a high level of interest and sensitivity to changes to the natural landscape. There are three levels of overall sensitivity: High (H), Moderate (M) and Low (L). The Sensitivity Level Rating Units were delineated using travel routes and population areas or areas of public interest. The results of the sensitivity ratings are summarized in and displayed on Map 4.

Table 3:1 Sensitivity Level Rating Units of the Planning Area

Sensitivity Level Rating Unit (SLRU)	Visual Sensitivity Rating	Fairbanks Subunit	Middle Yukon Subunit	Utility Corridor Subunit
Fairbanks North Star Borough	Low	Yes	-	-
Communities	Variable	Yes	Yes	Yes
Major Rivers	Variable	Yes	Yes	Yes
Dalton Highway	High	-	Yes	Yes
Elliott Highway (MP 72-150)	Moderate	-	Yes	-
Parks Highway	Moderate	Yes	Yes	-
Richardson Highway	Moderate	Yes	-	-
Steese Highway and Elliott Highway (MP 0-72)	Moderate	Yes	Yes	-

"-"= Not Applicable

Chapter 4: Distance Zones

Distance Zones are also used in determining VRI classes. They are important in assessing visual impacts. The distance from an object affects how clearly elements of a landscape are perceived, with visible details of a particular object decreasing with increasing distance. Distance Zones are one basis for determining the visual quality of planning areas. The VRM system recognizes three Distance Zones: Foreground-Middleground, Background, and Seldom-Seen as defined below (Map 5):

Foreground-Middleground Zone: This is the area that can be seen from each travel route or assessment location for a distance of up to five miles where management activities might be viewed in detail.

Background Zone: This is the remaining area that can be seen from each travel route or assessment location to approximately 15 miles. It does not include areas in the background that are so far distant that the only thing discernible is the form or outline.

Seldom-Seen Zone: These are areas that are not visible within the Foreground-Middleground and Background zones, and areas beyond the Background Zone, generally over 15 miles and screened by natural landscape features.

Chapter 5: Scenic Quality Worksheets

The following 21 Scenic Quality Field Inventory forms show the scenic quality rating for each of the SQRUs in the planning area.

Table 5:1 Scenic Quality Field Inventory – Alaska Range (Central and Eastern Part)

Form 8400-1 (September 1985)	Date: 02 June 2009; 26 March 2015
UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT **SCENIC QUALITY FIELD INVENTORY**	Eastern Interior Field Office and Central Yukon Field Office
	Fortymile Subunit; CYFO RMP
	SQRU: Alaska Range (Central and Eastern Part)

1. Evaluators (names): Holli McClain, Outdoor Recreation Planner; Collin Cogley, Outdoor Recreation Planner; Randy Goodwin

2. LANDSCAPE CHARACTER (feature)

	a. LANDFORM/WATER	b. VEGETATION	c. STRUCTURE (General)
Form	Prominent rugged mountain system at 9,000 feet with steep slopes connected to rugged steep sloped foothills and scattered massive plateau systems. Headwater streams in flat bottomed, braided river valleys.	Complex irregular mixed forest with diverse irregular shrub and grass under-stories and open areas of shrub and tundra creating scattered patchy random mosaic forms.	Small, isolated block cabins and associated buildings Campgrounds with related facilities block buildings. Parallel, linear Tok Cutoff Highway and Parks Highway and associated rectangular bridges, flat wayside parking areas. Prominent block regular and irregular strip development and angular diagonal, parallel power lines and railroad
Line	Complex, irregular, bold, jagged and rugged mountains and steep foothills change	Bold irregular complex lines of mixed forest to simple curving	Bold regular straight vertical lines of buildings and signs and diagonal and horizontal line of

	abruptly to broad flat valleys of major rivers.	regular line of shrubs and tundra.	power lines. Horizontal regular line of railroad.
Color	White to brown mountains with irregular black colored scree slopes. Grays of glacial rivers with few small brown and blues of headwater streams. Grays and tans of gravel bars and boulder areas. Various hues of white to gray to brown to black cliff and bluff areas.	Irregular hues of green mixed forest, shrub and tundra vegetation. Vivid fall colors.	Natural browns and grays of logs and wood buildings and multi colored roofing. Blacks, grays and browns of road and bridge structures. Shiny metal of towers, and power lines with brown support structures.
Texture	Mountains exhibit rough, course, discontinuous texture against the rugged steep foothills and random smooth, graduating to medium and course larger river segments.	Irregular texture of various vegetation types from course trees to fine tundra. Medium scattered vegetation along gravel bars.	Smooth log or wood texture with fascia boards and decks, etc., contrasting with adjacent buildings. Smooth metal texture of power lines with fine, ordered support structures. Medium texture of continuous roads and highway.

3. Narrative: The Alaska Range (Central and Eastern Unit) extends from Rainy Pass in the west to the Canada border in the east. This is just a small part of the larger unit. The Tok Cutoff Highway traverses the unit. There are a number of isolated cabins and houses with associated structures including transmission lines, radio towers, bridges, etc. Facilities within this unit include McKinley Village, Glitter Gulch, cabins, work sites, landing strips, Alaska Railroad and the Parks Highway (mp 231-244; State Scenic Byway mp 131-247), and Richardson Highway (mp 238-245) with parking areas and the Alaska Pipeline. KOP #32, 33 and 34.

4. SCORE					
	HIGH	**MED**	**LOW**	**EXPLANATION OR RATIONALE**	**SCENIC QUALITY CLASSIFICATION**
a. Landform	5			Rugged peaks of the Alaska Range, adjacent foothills, and major river valleys.	Class A - 19 or more
b. Vegetation	5			Mixed forest, shrub and tundra communities.	
c. Water		3		Major tributaries and other headwater tributaries.	Class B- 12 -18

d. Color	5			Vivid mixed forest and tundra vegetation in summer and fall, blues and browns of rivers and gravel bars. Black and grey outcrops of the mountain ridges. White of early winter snows.	
e. Adjacent Scenery		4		Very natural in appearance. Fairly remote homestead areas. The Northern Foothills accent the grandeur of the Alaska Range.	Class C - 11 or less
f. Scarcity	5			This area is unique within the planning areas.	
g. Cultural Modification		0		Cultural modifications are minimal but do not blend with the surrounding landscape.	
Totals	**27**				**Class A**

Alaska Range Central and Eastern Part: Located within the Alaska-Aleutian Province, consists of two or three parallel rugged glaciated ridges rising between 6,000 and 9,000 feet, surmounted by groups of extremely rugged snow-capped mountains more than 9,500 feet high. Major vegetative types are Closed spruce-hardwood forests, Moist tundra, and Alpine tundra.

Adjacent Physiographic Divisions descriptions:

Northern Foothills Located within the Alaska-Aleutian Province are flat-topped, east trending ridges up to 4,500 feet in height, up to 7 miles wide and 5 to 20 miles long. (Jumbo Dome, Rex Dome, Walker Dome, Needle Rock, Mystic Mountain, Japan Hills, Molybedenum Ridge) These are separated by rolling lowlands up to 1,500 feet high and 2 to 10 miles wide. Major streams (the Nenana River) of the foothills are superimposed across the topography in rugged impassable v-shaped canyons and across lowlands in broad terraced valleys. There are a few small thaw lakes in lowland passes, and morainal areas have shallow irregular ponds. Permafrost is extensive and polygonal ground and solifluction features are well developed. Major vegetative types are Closed spruce-hardwood forests, Moist tundra, and Alpine tundra.

Table 5:2 Scenic Quality Field Inventory – Ambler-Chandalar Ridge and Lowland

Form 8400-1 (September 1985)	Date: 21 January 2015
UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT **SCENIC QUALITY FIELD INVENTORY**	Central Yukon Field Office
	SQRU: Ambler-Chandalar Ridge and Lowland

1. Evaluators (names): Holli McClain, Outdoor Recreation Planner; Randy Goodwin, Outdoor Recreation Planner

2. LANDSCAPE CHARACTER (feature)

	a. LANDFORM/WATER	b. VEGETATION	c. STRUCTURE (General)
Form	Prominent irregular rolling and rounded to rugged shear faced, steep, long-narrow ridges rising 3000 feet in elevation above wide lowlands. Headwater streams are abundant in the broad flat valleys and contrast with several large rock-basin lakes, and numerous thaw and oxbow lakes along major rivers.	Irregular, asymmetrical, layered conical spruce interspersed with complex rounded birch in open and closed mixed forest. Scattered low-land low growing shrub. Rough linear willow and alder shrub thickets along rivers.	Blocky community facilities of scattered cabins, landing strips, linear pipeline and Dalton Highway with associated rectangular bridges, flat wayside parking areas, vertical road markers and pipeline uprights, and rectangular gates.
Line	Irregular to rounded, jagged and rugged ridges with blocky, scattered knobs and tors. Continuous, parallel, complex ridges. Flowing, smooth rivers in broad flat valleys.	Irregular complex vegetation changes from low-land tall to medium shrub and mixed forest to low growing shrub and tundra on ridges.	Regular straight, vertical, continuous and diagonal lines.
Color	Lighter to darker tan and gray mountain, browns of knobs and tors. Browns and blues of clear-	Irregular hues of green mixed evergreen and deciduous trees, low and medium shrub and tundra vegetation. Vertical	All colors of buildings and structures in a community setting, pump stations and work sites. Natural browns and grays of logs

	water rivers. Grays and tans of gravel bars. Green to blue lakes.	white of deciduous trees contrast with greens of evergreen trees and shrubs. Interesting fall colors.	and wood buildings and multi colored roofing. Blacks, grays and browns of road and bridge structures. Shiny metal of towers, and power lines with brown support structures. Shiny pipeline with brownish to red supports.
Texture	Directional, discontinuous, irregular course ridges with scattered, random, clumped, rounded mountains. Course, rocky outcrops characterize some ridges. Fine gravels on smooth, meander rivers.	Irregular rough texture of open and closed forests, various shrub thickets to fine, smooth tundra. Medium scattered vegetation along gravel bars. Vegetation patterns create a random, patchy, mottled texture.	Smooth log or wood texture with fascia boards and decks, etc. Smooth metal texture of power lines with fine, ordered support structures. Medium texture of continuous roads and highway.

3. Narrative: The Ambler-Chandalar Ridge and Lowland is a narrow band extending east-west across most of the state from just west of the middle fork of the T'eedriinjik River, west to just east of the Hunt River. This is just a small part of the larger unit. Facilities within this unit include the Dalton Highway (mp 154 to 160 and 165 to 173 a State Scenic Byway), and Alaska pipeline, cabins, mine sites, material sites, and wayside facilities. KOP #18.

4. SCORE					
	HIGH	**MED**	**LOW**	**EXPLANATION OR RATIONALE**	**SCENIC QUALITY CLASSIFICATION**
a. Landform		3		Rolling to rugged ridges interspersed with wide lowlands.	Class A - 19 or more
b. Vegetation		4		Major vegetative types include open, low growing spruce forest, closed spruce-hardwood forest and tundra.	
c. Water		3		Headwater streams and major flowing river systems and some small lakes.	Class B- 12 -18
d. Color		3		Mixed forest and tundra vegetation in summer and fall, blues and browns of rivers and gravel bars.	

e. Adjacent Scenery		3		The Brooks range is to the north while flats and highlands surround the province.	Class C - 11 or less
f. Scarcity		3		This area is unique within the Central Yukon Planning area. This is a destination landscape.	
g. Cultural Modification		0		Cultural modifications are minimal along the Dalton Highway but do not blend with the surrounding landscape. Overall landscape is undeveloped.	
Totals	**19**				**Class A**

Ambler-Chandalar Ridge and Lowland is part of the Rocky Mountain System – Arctic Mountains Province which is characterized by east-trending lowlands with elevations of 600 and low passes 3-10 miles wide with elevations of 4000 feet bordered on the north by the abrupt front of the Brooks Range. Rolling to rugged ridges rising to 4,500 feet is characteristic of the southern portion of this unit. (Alatna, Ninemile, Helpmejack and Jack White Hills) Major rivers are tributaries of the Kobuk, Koyukuk and Chandalar. Large rock-basin lakes occur in the valleys while floodplains of major streams have thaw and oxbow lakes. The entire province is underlain by permafrost. Major vegetative types are Closed spruce-hardwood forests, Open, low-growing spruce forests and Alpine tundra.

Adjacent Physiographic Division descriptions:

Central and Eastern Brooks Range is part of the Rocky Mountain System – Arctic Mountains Province which is characterized by rugged glaciated east-trending ridges rising above 4000 feet above the valley floor. The abrupt mountain fronts have cliff and bench slopes and provide a divide between the Arctic Ocean to the north and the Bering Sea via the Yukon River drainage system. Major rivers are swift, broad dendritic patterns in a flat-floored glaciated valleys with minor rivers flowing into larger rivers creating a trellised pattern. Large rock-basin lakes occur in the valleys while cirque lakes are common in the higher parts of the range. Snowfields and glaciers may be present year-round. Major vegetative types are Alpine tundra, Moist tundra, Shrub thickets and Closed spruce-hardwood forests.

Kanuti Flats is part of the Western Alaska Province and is characterized by irregular shaped lake-dotted plain at 400 feet surrounded by low irregular hills at 2400 feet (Lookout Mountain and the Double Point Mountains). Major drainages include the Koyukuk, Alatna, Kanuti, Kanuti-Kilolitna rivers and Henshaw, Nolitna, Holonada and Kadakina creeks. Large lakes include the Ahagateyeit, Kadakina, Kaldolyeit, Katalahosa, Kodosin-Minnkohwin, Konedsin-Minnkohwin,

and Minnkohwin lakes, some of which are over 1 mile across. Numerous thaw lakes are present. Some parts of the flats are more than 50 percent lake surface. Much of the unit is underlain by permafrost. Major vegetative types are: Closed spruce-hardwood forests, Open, low-growing spruce forests, Treeless Bog.

Kobuk-Selawik Lowland Located within the Western Alaska Province is chiefly broad river flood plains and lake lowlands. Rounded hills rise up to 3000 feet from the valley floor at 700 feet. Headwaters of the Hogatza, Alatna and Kobuk rivers and tributaries are the major water systems. Thaw lakes and sinks dot the lowlands with Norutak Lake being the largest. Most of the unit is underlain by permafrost. Major vegetative type is: Closed spruce-hardwood forests.

Kokrine-Hodzana Highlands is part of the Northern Plateaus Province which is characterized by even-topped rounded ridges with elevations of 2000-4000 feet surmounted by isolated rugged mountains rising to 5,700 feet and valleys at 1000 feet. Rugged mountains in this unit may have cirques and glaciated valleys and craggy cliff tors that rise abruptly from broad ridgetops. (Kokrine Hills and part of the Ray Mountains, Fort Hamlin Hills) Antiplanation terraces, stone polygons and other periglacial features are common. Major rivers are the Koyukuk, Hodzana, Tozitna, Melozitna Dall, Kanuti and Yukon. A few large lakes occur in the lowlands (Sithylemenkat and Tokusatatquaten, Taclodahten, Birch Hill, Grayling) while small lakes occur along major drainages. The entire province is probably underlain by permafrost. Major vegetative types are Closed spruce-hardwood forests and Alpine Tundra and Moist Tundra.

Table 5:3 Scenic Quality Field Inventory – Arctic Coastal Plain

Form 8400-1 (September 1985)	Date: 12 January 2015
UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT **SCENIC QUALITY FIELD INVENTORY**	Central Yukon Field Office
	SQRU: Arctic Coastal Plain

1. Evaluators (names): Holli McClain, Outdoor Recreation Planner; Randy Goodwin, Outdoor Recreation Planner

2. LANDSCAPE CHARACTER (feature)

	a. LANDFORM/WATER	b. VEGETATION	c. STRUCTURE (General)
Form	Flat smooth plain rising from 0 to 1500 feet in elevation. Isolated hills, the White Hills and Franklin Bluffs rise from 500 to 1500 creating prominent views. Pingos are sufficiently abundant to give an undulatory skyline. Large braded rivers and lakes are abundant in the flat valleys bottoms.	Irregular, rough linear willow and alder shrub thickets along rivers contrast with dense, matte like, flat moist tundra in polygonal patterns.	Small, isolated block cabins and associated buildings Blocky community facilities of Deadhorse, Pump Station #2 and worksites, linear pipeline and Dalton Highway with associated rectangular bridges, flat wayside parking areas, vertical road markers and pipeline uprights, and triangular gates.
Line	Irregular hills and river uplands in a flat horizontal landscape. Angular, undulating Franklin bluffs and angular pingos.	Irregular banded lines of shrub thickest create transitional edge of river uplands to simple horizontal smooth line of tundra.	Regular straight vertical, horizontal and diagonal lines.
Color	White, red and tan bluffs with irregular conical shapes and bands. Grays and blues of glacial rivers. Grays and tans of gravel bars. Various hues of white to gray to brown to black	Irregular hues of green mixed shrub and tundra vegetation.	All colors of buildings and structures in a community setting, pump stations and work sites. Natural browns and grays of logs and wood buildings and multi colored roofing. Blacks, grays and browns of road and bridge structures. Shiny metal of towers,

	hills. Green to blue to brown lakes and wetlands.		and power lines with brown support structures. Shiny pipeline with brownish to red supports
Texture	Bluffs, hills and pingos random, dotted subtle rises in a flat nondirectional, fine landscape. Fine gravels on braded rivers	Irregular rough texture of various shrubs to fine dense tundra. Medium scattered vegetation along gravel bars.	Smooth log or wood texture with fascia boards and decks, etc. Smooth metal texture of power lines with fine, ordered support structures. Medium texture of continuous roads and highway.

3. Narrative: The Arctic Coastal Plain covers the northern portion of the state from the Canada border to the Arctic Ocean in the west. This is just a small part of the larger unit. Facilities within this unit include Deadhorse, Pump Station #2, numerous oilfields, roads, pipelines, wellheads, cabins, worksites, landing strips and the Dalton highway (State Scenic Byway), with parking areas and Alaska Pipeline (mp 355 to 414). KOP #9.

4. SCORE					
	HIGH	**MED**	**LOW**	**EXPLANATION OR RATIONALE**	**SCENIC QUALITY CLASSIFICATION**
a. Landform			1	Flat horizontal plain with occasional low hills, pingos or bluffs.	Class A - 19 or more
b. Vegetation		3		Mixed shrub and tundra communities.	
c. Water		3		Major braded tributaries, lakes and wetlands.	Class B- 12 -18
d. Color		3		Mixed shrub and tundra vegetation in summer and fall, blues and browns of rivers and gravel bars. Tans, reds and grey of bluffs and hills interspersed with vegetation creating banding.	
e. Adjacent Scenery		3		Stark contrast between the Foothills of the Brooks Range and the flat horizontal landscape of the Arctic Coastal Plain.	Class C - 11 or less

f. Scarcity		4		This area is unique within the Central Yukon Planning area. This is a destination landscape.	
g. Cultural Modification			-4	Cultural modifications are minimal but do not blend with the surrounding landscape.	
Totals	**13**				**Class B**

Arctic Coastal Plain Located within the Interior Plains Province, consists of two sections: the Teshekpuk and the White Hills. The area within the planning unit drains to the north into the Arctic Ocean with large braided glacial rivers. The area is poorly drained with numerous lakes and wetlands. The entire province is underlain by permafrost creating ice-wedge polygons. Major vegetative types are Wet tundra, Moist tundra and Shrub thickets.

Adjacent Physiographic Divisions descriptions:

Arctic Foothills is part of the Rocky Mountain System which consists of rolling plateaus and low linear mountains. This province has broad east-trending ridges, dominated locally by mesa like mountains in the north, while the southern area displays irregular buttes, knobs, mesas and east-trending ridges rising 2,500 feet above the surrounding intervening gently undulating tundra plains. Major rivers are swift, braided courses across broad gravel flats. There are a few small thaw lakes in the river valleys with morainal lakes closer to the Brooks Range. Unique sand dunes occur along some rivers. The entire province is underlain by permafrost creating ice-wedge polygons. Major vegetative types are Alpine tundra, Moist tundra and Shrub thickets.

Table 5:4 Scenic Quality Field Inventory – Arctic Foothills

Form 8400-1 (September 1985)	Date: 15 January 2015
UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT **SCENIC QUALITY FIELD INVENTORY**	Central Yukon Field Office
	SQRU: Arctic Foothills

1. Evaluators (names): Holli McClain, Outdoor Recreation Planner; Randy Goodwin, Outdoor Recreation Planner

2. LANDSCAPE CHARACTER (feature)

	a. LANDFORM/WATER	b. VEGETATION	c. STRUCTURE (General)
Form	Flat smooth plain from 660 transitioning through gentle undulating plains to broad east trending ridges 4000 feet in elevation. Isolated mesa and buttes to irregular, jagged ridges. Angular, and conical, broken mountains appear stacked and complex. Large braded rivers are abundant in the flat valleys bottoms and contrast with some smooth thaw and morainal lakes.	Irregular, rough linear willow and alder shrub thickets along rivers contrast with dense, matte like, flat moist tundra in polygonal patterns and low heath shrubs.	Blocky community facilities of worksites, linear pipeline and Dalton Highway with associated rectangular bridges, flat wayside parking areas, vertical road markers and pipeline uprights, and rectangular gates.
Line	Irregular hills, jagged and rugged ridges, angular knobs with diagonal and horizontal bands. Flowing, smooth rivers in broad flat valleys.	Irregular banded lines of shrub thickest create transitional edge of river uplands to simple horizontal smooth line of tundra.	Regular straight vertical and diagonal line
Color	Lighter to darker tan and gray mountains, some with bands. Grays and blues of glacial rivers. Grays and tans of gravel bars. Various hues of white to	Irregular hues of green mixed forest, shrub and tundra vegetation. Interesting fall colors.	All colors of buildings and structures in a community setting, pump stations and work sites. Natural browns and grays of logs and wood buildings and multi

	gray to brown to black mesas and buttes. Green to blue lakes.		colored roofing. Blacks, grays and browns of road and bridge structures. Shiny metal of towers, and power lines with brown support structures. Shiny pipeline with brownish to red supports.
Texture	Discontinuous buttes, hills, ridges and mountains create patchy contrast patterns on a smooth polygonal plain. Fine gravels on braded rivers. Stone stripes and terraced slopes with rocky outcrops characterize the ridges.	Irregular rough texture of various shrub thickets to fine dense tundra. Medium scattered vegetation along gravel bars.	Smooth log or wood texture with fascia boards and decks, etc. Smooth metal texture of power lines with fine, ordered support structures. Medium texture of continuous roads and highway

3. Narrative: The Arctic Foothills extend across most of the state from just west of the Aichilik River near the Canada border to the Arctic Ocean in the west. This is just a small part of the larger unit. Facilities within this unit include the Dalton highway with parking areas (mp 270 to 355 a State Scenic Byway), and Alaska pipeline, Sag River Overlook, Pump Station #3, Toolik Lake Research Station, Galbraith Lake Campground, material sites, communication facilities, worksites and landing strips. KOP #7, 8, 10, 11, and 12.

4. SCORE					
	HIGH	**MED**	**LOW**	**EXPLANATION OR RATIONALE**	**SCENIC QUALITY CLASSIFICATION**
a. Landform	5			Transitions from flat horizontal plain to prominent mountain ridges, mesa, buttes and knobs in complex, stacked viewsheds.	Class A - 19 or more
b. Vegetation		4		Mixed medium and low shrub and tundra communities.	
c. Water		4		Major braded tributaries, thaw and morainal lakes that are a dominate feature of the landscape.	Class B- 12 -18
d. Color		4		Mixed medium and low shrub and tundra vegetation in summer and interesting fall colors, blues and browns of rivers and gravel bars. Tans and greys of mountains, mesas,	

				and buttes interspersed with vegetation creating banding.	
e. Adjacent Scenery	5			Stark contrast between the majestic Brooks Range with constricted views and the flat horizontal openness of the Arctic Coastal Plain.	Class C - 11 or less
f. Scarcity	5			This area is unique within the Central Yukon Planning area. This is a destination landscape.	
g. Cultural Modification			-2	Cultural modifications are minimal along the Dalton Highway but do not blend with the surrounding landscape. Overall landscape is undeveloped.	
Totals	**25**				**Class A**

Arctic Foothills is part of the Rocky Mountain System which consists of rolling plateaus and low linear mountains. This province has broad east-trending ridges, dominated locally by mesa like mountains in the north, while the southern area displays irregular buttes, knobs, mesas and east-trending ridges rising 2,500 feet above the surrounding intervening gently undulating tundra plains. Major rivers are swift, braided courses across broad gravel flats. There are a few small thaw lakes in the river valleys with morainal lakes closer to the Brooks Range. Unique sand dunes occur along some rivers. The entire province is underlain by permafrost creating ice-wedge polygons. Major vegetative types are Alpine tundra, Moist tundra and Shrub thickets.

Adjacent Physiographic Divisions descriptions:

Arctic Coastal Plain Located within the Interior Plains Province, consists of two sections: the Teshekpuk and the White Hills. The area within the planning unit drains to the north into the Arctic Ocean with large braided glacial rivers. The area is poorly drained with numerous lakes and wetlands. The entire province is underlain by permafrost creating ice-wedge polygons. Major vegetative types are Wet tundra, Moist tundra and Shrub thickets.

Central and Eastern Brooks Range is part of the Rocky Mountain System – Arctic Mountains Province which is characterized by rugged glaciated east-trending ridges rising above 4000 feet above the valley floor. The abrupt mountain fronts have cliff and bench slopes and provide a divide between the Arctic Ocean to the north and the Bering Sea via the Yukon River drainage system. Major rivers are swift, broad dendritic patterns in a flat-floored glaciated valleys with minor rivers flowing into larger rivers creating a trellised pattern. Large rock-basin lakes occur in

the valleys while cirque lakes are common in the higher parts of the range. Snowfields and glaciers may be present year-round. Major vegetative types are Alpine tundra, Moist tundra, Shrub thickets and Closed spruce-hardwood forests.

Table 5:5 Scenic Quality Field Inventory – Central and Eastern Brooks Range

Form 8400-1 (September 1985)	Date: 21 January 2015
UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT **SCENIC QUALITY FIELD INVENTORY**	Central Yukon Field Office
	SQRU: Central and Eastern Brooks Range

1. Evaluators (names): Holli McClain, Outdoor Recreation Planner; Randy Goodwin, Outdoor Recreation Planner

2. LANDSCAPE CHARACTER (feature)

	a. LANDFORM/WATER	b. VEGETATION	c. STRUCTURE (General)
Form	Rugged east trending compatible ridges rising from to 8,000 feet 4,000 feet change, with benched and cliff slopes appear stacked and complex. Large dendritic rivers are abundant in the flat valley bottoms and contrast with large a few rock-basin lakes and cirques, glaciers and icefields.	Irregular, rough linear willow and alder shrub thickets along rivers contrast with dense, matte like, flat moist tundra in polygonal patterns and low heath shrubs.	Blocky community facilities of Wiseman, Coldfoot, Arctic Interagency Visitor Center and Marian Creek Admin Site, worksites, mines, campground facilities, linear pipeline and Dalton Highway with associated rectangular bridges, flat wayside parking areas, vertical road markers and pipeline uprights, and rectangular gates.
Line	Irregular hills, jagged and rugged ridges, angular knobs with diagonal and horizontal bands. Flowing, smooth rivers in broad flat valleys.	Irregular banded lines of shrub thickest create transitional edge of river uplands to simple horizontal smooth line of tundra.	Regular straight, vertical, continuous and diagonal lines.
Color	Lighter to darker tan and gray mountains, some with bands. Grays and blues of glacial rivers. Grays and tans of gravel bars. Various hues of white to	Irregular hues of green mixed shrub and tundra vegetation. Interesting fall colors.	All colors of buildings and structures in a community setting, pump stations and work sites. Natural browns and grays of logs and wood buildings and multi

	gray to brown to black mesas and buttes. Green to blue lakes.		colored roofing. Blacks, grays and browns of road and bridge structures. Shiny metal of towers, and power lines with brown support structures. Shiny pipeline with brownish to red supports.
Texture	Discontinuous buttes, hills, ridges and mountains create patchy contrast patterns on a smooth polygonal plain. Fine gravels on braded rivers. Stone stripes and terraced slopes with rocky outcrops characterize the ridges.	Irregular rough texture of various shrub thickets to fine dense tundra. Medium scattered vegetation along gravel bars	Smooth log or wood texture with fascia boards and decks, etc. Smooth metal texture of power lines with fine, ordered support structures. Medium texture of continuous roads and highway.

3. Narrative: The Central and Eastern Brooks Range extend across most of the state from the Canada border in the east to just west of the Kuna River area in the west. This is just a small part of the larger unit. Facilities within this unit include the Dalton highway with parking areas (mp 172 to 270 a State Scenic Byway), and Alaska pipeline, Sag River Overlook, Pump Station #4, Wiseman, Coldfoot, Marian Creek Administration Site and Campground, Arctic Interagency Visitor Center, cabins, mine sites, material sites, communication facilities, weather station, worksites and landing strips. KOP #6, 13, 14, 15, 16 and 17.

4. SCORE					
	HIGH	**MED**	**LOW**	**EXPLANATION OR RATIONALE**	**SCENIC QUALITY CLASSIFICATION**
a. Landform	5			Massive mountains with high vertical relief, dominate and striking features.	Class A - 19 or more
b. Vegetation		3		Mixed forest, shrub and tundra communities.	
c. Water	5			Major river valleys interspersed in mountain system.	Class B- 12 -18
d. Color	5			Mountains change color due to sun angle and locations viewed; various vegetation mix results in multi-colors, rivers are brown or blue, White of early winter snow.	

e. Adjacent Scenery	5			Arctic Foothills and Arctic Coastal Plain accent the Central and Eastern Brooks Range from the north while the Ambler-Chandalar Ridge and Lowlands accent the unit from the south.	Class C - 11 or less
f. Scarcity	5			This area is unique within the Central Yukon Planning area. This is a destination landscape.	
g. Cultural Modification		0		Cultural modifications are minimal along the Dalton Highway but do not blend with the surrounding landscape. Overall landscape is undeveloped.	
Totals	**28**				**Class A**

Central and Eastern Brooks Range is part of the Rocky Mountain System – Arctic Mountains Province which is characterized by rugged glaciated east-trending ridges rising above 4000 feet above the valley floor. The abrupt mountain fronts have cliff and bench slopes and provide a divide between the Arctic Ocean to the north and the Bering Sea via the Yukon River drainage system. Major rivers are swift, broad dendritic patterns in a flat-floored glaciated valleys with minor rivers flowing into larger rivers creating a trellised pattern. Large rock-basin lakes occur in the valleys while cirque lakes are common in the higher parts of the range. Snowfields and glaciers may be present year-round. Major vegetative types are Alpine tundra, Moist tundra, Shrub thickets and Closed spruce-hardwood forests.

Adjacent Physiographic Division descriptions:

Ambler-Chandalar Ridge and **Lowland** is part of the Rocky Mountain System – Arctic Mountains Province which is characterized by east-trending lowlands with elevations of 600 and low passes 3-10 miles wide with elevations of 4000 feet bordered on the north by the abrupt front of the Brooks Range. Rolling to rugged ridges rising to 4,500 feet is characteristic of the southern portion of this unit. (Alatna, Ninemile, Helpmejack and Jack White Hills) Major rivers are tributaries of the Kobuk, Koyukuk and Chandalar. Large rock-basin lakes occur in the valleys while floodplains of major streams have thaw and oxbow lakes. The entire province is underlain by permafrost. Major vegetative types are Closed spruce-hardwood forests, Open, low-growing spruce forests and Alpine tundra.

Arctic Foothills is part of the Rocky Mountain System which consists of rolling plateaus and low linear mountains. This province has broad east-trending ridges, dominated locally by mesa like

mountains in the north, while the southern area displays irregular buttes, knobs, mesas and east-trending ridges rising 2,500 feet above the surrounding intervening gently undulating tundra plains. Major rivers are swift, braided courses across broad gravel flats. There are a few small thaw lakes in the river valleys with morainal lakes closer to the Brooks Range. Unique sand dunes occur along some rivers. The entire province is underlain by permafrost creating ice-wedge polygons. Major vegetative types are Alpine tundra, Moist tundra and Shrub thickets.

Table 5:6 Scenic Quality Field Inventory – Indian River Upland

Form 8400-1 (September 1985)	Date: 08 October 2015
UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT **SCENIC QUALITY FIELD INVENTORY**	Central Yukon Field Office
	SQRU: Indian River Upland

1. Evaluators (names): Holli McClain, Outdoor Recreation Planner; Randy Goodwin, Outdoor Recreation Planner

2. LANDSCAPE CHARACTER (feature)

	a. LANDFORM/WATER	b. VEGETATION	c. STRUCTURE (General)
Form	Isolated rounded domes to 4200 feet, irregular continuous ridges rising to 3000 feet, low lands at 400 feet with irregular river courses in wide flat valleys.	Complex irregular mixed forest with diverse irregular shrub thickets along rivers and lakes interspersed with lowlands creating scattered patchy random mosaic forms. Open areas of heath shrub and dense matte flat regular tundra highlands creating polygonal patterns.	Blocky community facilities of Hughes, scattered cabins, landing strips, roads and trails. Rectangular and semi-circular structures and blocky buildings at USAF site, linear and curving roads and airstrips. Triangular towers.
Line	Smooth dome and ridges, irregular flat meandering rivers and lakes, steep vertical canyons along lower portions of larger rivers.	Bold irregular complex lines of mixed forest and low shrubs to simple curving regular line of tundra.	Bold regular straight, vertical, semi-circular lines of buildings and diagonal and horizontal line of towers. Vertical lines of snow poles, curving lines of roads and trails. Irregular lines of mining activities.
Color	Tops of domes in brown to black, brown to blue of rivers and lakes, browns and tans of bluffs and gravel bars. Most of ridges covered by vegetation.	Irregular hues of green mixed forest, shrub and tundra vegetation. A variety of fall colors.	Natural browns and grays of logs and wood buildings and multi colored roofing. White USAF buildings and structures.

Texture	Uniformly smooth, fine.	Irregular rough texture of various vegetation types from course trees to fine dense tundra. Medium shrubs along gravel bars and water courses, flat smooth lakes.	Smooth log or wood texture with fascia boards and decks, etc. Ordered dimpled uniform dome structures, regular straight snow markers, regular parallel lines, irregular random lie of mining activities.

3. Narrative: The Indian River Upland extends from just south of the Alatna River in the northeast to the Yukon River just east of Galena in the southwest. The entire unit is within the planning area. Facilities within this unit include Hughes, Indian River US Air Force Site, Melozi Hot Springs, isolated cabins, mining activities, and landing strips, roads and trails. KOP #A-29, A-30, A-31, and A-32.

4. SCORE					
	HIGH	**MED**	**LOW**	**EXPLANATION OR RATIONALE**	**SCENIC QUALITY CLASSIFICATION**
a. Landform		2		Low rolling hills with isolated mountains above low valley floor.	Class A - 19 or more
b. Vegetation	4			4 major vegetative types.	
c. Water		3		4 major rivers with tributaries and lowland thaw lakes, other larger lakes.	Class B- 12 -18
d. Color		3		Hues of greens for mixed forest and shrub, fall contrast of deciduous trunks and low shrub.	
e. Adjacent Scenery			1	This unit is surrounded by lowlands.	Class C - 11 or less
f. Scarcity			1	Common within the planning area.	
g. Cultural Modification		0		Hughes and Indian Mountain Air Force Base are small modifications that do not blend with the surrounding landscape. Overall landscape is undeveloped.	

Totals	**14**		**Class B**

Indian River Upland is within the Western Alaska Providence and is characterized by groups of low, gentle ridges with accordant summits (Slokhenjikh and Sushgitit hills) interspersed with irregular lowlands and broad flat divides and valleys. Mountains rise up to 4,000 feet above the valley floor (500 feet). Major rivers have narrow canyons and irregular courses. They include the Kanuti, Koyukuk, Melozitna and Dulbi. Numerous thaw lakes are in the lowlands, valleys and broad passes. The entire area is underlain by permafrost and periglacial processes predominate with altiplanation terraces common at upper elevations. Major vegetative types are: Closed spruce-hardwood forests, Open, low-growing spruce forests, Treeless bog and Alpine Tundra.

Adjacent Physiographic Divisions descriptions:

Kanuti Flats is part of the Western Alaska Province and is characterized by irregular shaped lake-dotted plain at 400 feet surrounded by low irregular hills at 2400 feet (Lookout Mountain and the Double Point Mountains). Major drainages include the Koyukuk, Alatna, Kanuti, Kanuti-Kilolitna rivers and Henshaw, Nolitna, Holonada and Kadakina creeks. Large lakes include the Ahagateyeit, Kadakina, Kaldolyeit, Katalahosa, Kodosin-Minnkohwin, Konedsin-Minnkohwin, and Minnkohwin lakes, some of which are over 1 mile across. Numerous thaw lakes are present. Some parts of the flats are more than 50 percent lake surface. Much of the unit is underlain by permafrost. Major vegetative types are: Closed spruce-hardwood forests, Open, low-growing spruce forests, Treeless Bog.

Kobuk-Selawik Lowland Located within the Western Alaska Province, is chiefly broad river flood plains and lake lowlands. Rounded hills rise up to 3000 feet from the valley floor at 700 feet. Headwaters of the Hogatza River and the Alatna and Kobuk rivers and tributaries are the major water systems. Thaw lakes and sinks dot the lowlands with Norutak Lake being the largest. Most of the unit is underlain by permafrost. Major vegetative type is: Closed spruce-hardwood forests.

Kokrine-Hodzana Highlands is part of the Northern Plateaus Province which is characterized by even-topped rounded ridges with elevations of 2000-4000 feet surmounted by isolated rugged mountains rising to 5,700 feet and valleys at 1000 feet. Rugged mountains in this unit may have cirques and glaciated valleys and craggy cliff tors that rise abruptly from broad ridgetops. (Kokrine Hills and part of the Ray Mountains, Fort Hamlin Hills) Antiplanation terraces, stone polygons and other periglacial features are common. Major rivers are the Koyukuk, Hodzana, Tozitna, Melozitna Dall, Kanuti and Yukon. A few large lakes occur in the lowlands (Sithylemenkat and Tokusatatquaten, Taclodahten, Birch Hill, Grayling) while small lakes occur along major drainages. The entire province is probably underlain by permafrost. Major vegetative types are Closed spruce-hardwood forests and Alpine Tundra and Moist Tundra.

Koyukuk Flats Located within the Western Alaska Province is an extensive lowland at the junction of the Yukon and Koyukuk Rivers. Flat plains with meander belts are between 5 and 20

miles wide. Dunes and thaw sinks stand 100-200 feet above the plains and merge imperceptible with the surrounding uplands at 2,000 feet in the Nulato Hills and isolated mountains above the Koyukuk and Yukon rivers and tributaries. Innumerable meander-scroll lakes, oxbow lakes and thaw lakes are present. The majority of the unit is underlain by permafrost. Major vegetative types are: Closed spruce-hardwood forests, Open, low-growing spruce forests, Treeless Bog, Alpine Tundra.

Nowitna Lowlands part of the Western Alaska Province is characterized by low rolling silt-covered tableland up to 900 feet in elevation with broad flat flood plains with incised major rivers and steep walled canyons. Gentle hills rise to 1,500 feet. The Yukon River is along the northern boundary of the unit. Major Rivers include the Tanana, Nowitna, Chistinana. Oxbow and thaw lakes are common. Permafrost is common except in flood plains. Major vegetative types are Closed spruce-hardwood forests, Open, low growing spurce forests, and Treeless bogs.

Pah River Section is part of the Western Alaska Province. It is an area with diverse topography. Compact groups of hills and low mountains with gently rounded ridges, broad, shallow cirques with flaring walls, rise 4,000 feet above surrounding rolling plateaus and broad flat lowlands. The Purcell Mountains and Zane Hills are located within this unit. Major tributaries include Shiniliaok, Wheeler and Caribou Creeks as well as the Daki, Pah and Hogatza rivers. Numerous thaw lakes are present and in the central portion of this unit probably 50% of the surface is water. The entire section is underlain by permafrost and periglacial erosional processes predominate and Altiplanation terraces are common. Major vegetation types are: Closed spruce-hardwood forests, Open, low growing spurce forests, and Alpine Tundra.

Tozitna-Melozitna Lowland is part of the Western Alaska Province and is a long, narrow rolling plain 5 to 10 miles wide along the head of the Tozitna and Melozitna rivers. While the uplands rise to 2400 the lowlands are at 700 feet in elevation and the pass between the two rivers is less than 1000 feet. Other major water bodies include the Norseman and Lost lakes and Dagislakhna, Gishna, Slokhenjikk Wrongtrail creeks. Numerous thaw lakes and oxbow lakes are common. The area is underlain by discontinuous permafrost. Major vegetative types are Closed spruce-hardwood forests and Treeless bogs.

Table 5:7 Scenic Quality Field Inventory – Innoko Lowlands

Form 8400-1 (September 1985)	Date: 14 October 2015
UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT **SCENIC QUALITY FIELD INVENTORY**	Central Yukon Field Office
	SQRU: Innoko Lowlands

1. Evaluators (names): Holli McClain, Outdoor Recreation Planner; Randy Goodwin, Outdoor Recreation Planner

2. LANDSCAPE CHARACTER (feature)

	a. LANDFORM/WATER	b. VEGETATION	c. STRUCTURE (General)
Form	Uplands gently rising above flat meandering dendritic flood plains between 6 and 12 miles wide with steep banks at 200 feet with rolling hills up to 1200 feet, numerous oxbow, meander-scrool, thaw lakes and sloughs.	Complex irregular mixed forest with diverse irregular shrub creating scattered patchy random mosaic forms.	Small, isolated block cabins and associated buildings.
Line	Curving meandering rivers in flat floodplains with numerous irregular lakes. Soft weak uplands.	Bold irregular complex lines of mixed forest to simple curving regular line of lowlands.	Bold regular straight, vertical, and horizontal lines of buildings.
Color	Blues and browns of lakes and rivers with brown to tan gravel bars.	Irregular hues of green mixed vegetation.	Natural browns and grays of log buildings and multi colored wood buildings and roofing.
Texture	Stippled dense, smooth lakes medium uplands.	Rough, irregular texture of various vegetation types from course trees to fine lowlands Medium gravel bars along water courses.	Smooth log or wood textures

3. Narrative: The Innoko Lowland includes the Yukon and Innoko River lowlands between the Nulato Hills and the Kuskokwim Mountains. It ties in with the Koyukuk Lowlands to the north and the Yukon-Kuskokwim Lowlands to the south. This is just a small part of the larger unit. Facilities within this unit may include isolated cabins and trails. There are no KOPs for this unit.

4. SCORE					SCENIC QUALITY CLASSIFICATION
	HIGH	**MED**	**LOW**	**EXPLANATION OR RATIONALE**	
a. Landform			1	Lowlands, flat river plain.	Class A - 19 or more
b. Vegetation			1	2 major vegetative types.	
c. Water		4		Over 50% of the unit is water – lakes and 2 major rivers.	Class B- 12 -18
d. Color			2	Various hues of green and blue.	
e. Adjacent Scenery			0	Bounded by mountains and hills which enhance the lowland quality of the unit.	Class C - 11 or less
f. Scarcity			1	Common within planning area.	
g. Cultural Modification		0		Cultural modifications are minimal on BLM lands and blend with the surrounding landscape. Overall the landscape is undeveloped.	
Totals	**9**				**Class C**

Innoko Lowlands Located within the Western Alaska Province, is a series of flat river flood plains with meandering sloughs from the two major rivers (the Yukon and Innoko). Oxbow, thaw and meander-scroll lakes are abundant. Surrounding hills rising 900 and 1,200 feet above the valley floor (200 feet) are cut by the major rivers and tributaries. Much of the area is underlain by permafrost. Major vegetative types are: Closed spruce-hardwood forests and Open, low growing spruce forests and treeless bogs.

Adjacent Physiographic Divisions descriptions:

Koyukuk Flats Located within the Western Alaska Province, is an extensive lowland at the junction of the Yukon and Koyukuk Rivers. Flat plains with meander belts are between 5 and 20 miles wide. Dunes and thaw sinks stand 100-200 feet above the plains and merge imperceptible with the surrounding uplands at 2000 feet in the Nulato Hills and isolated mountains above the Koyukuk and Yukon rivers and tributaries. Innumerable meander-scroll lakes, oxbow lakes and thaw lakes are present. The majority of the unit is underlain by permafrost. Major vegetative types are: Closed spruce-hardwood forests, Open, low-growing spruce forests, Treeless Bog, Alpine Tundra.

Kuskokwim Mountains part of the Western Alaska Province, is characterized by a monotonous succession of northeast-trending ridges with rounded to flat summits with broad gentle slopes rising to 2000 feet in elevation. The area has isolated groups of rugged glaciated mountains up to 4,400 feet in elevation in broad flat valleys. Major tributaries include the Kuskokwim with a deeply incised gorge, Cosna River, Yuki, Sulatna, Nowitna and the Sethkokna rivers and their tributaries. Permafrost underlies most of the unit and periglacial erosional processes predominate. Major vegetative types are Closed spruce-hardwood forests, Open, low growing spruce forests, and Alpine Tundra.

Nulato Hills Located within the Western Alaska Province, consists of even-crested ridges with rounded summits and gentle slopes. River valleys are flat floored narrow with entrenched headwater streams and few lakes. Highland areas with steep ridges rise to about 4,000 feet above the valleys (900 feet). Major tributaries Rode, Kaltag, SF Nulato, Gisasa, Nonhosa, Pitka, Kateel and SF Huslia rivers. The entire unit is probably underlain by permafrost. Major vegetative types are: Closed spruce-hardwood forests, Treeless bogs, Alpine Tundra.

Table 5:8 Scenic Quality Field Inventory – Kanuti Flats

Form 8400-1 (September 1985)	Date: 08 October 2015
UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT **SCENIC QUALITY FIELD INVENTORY**	Central Yukon Field Office
	SQRU: Kanuti Flats

1. Evaluators (names): Holli McClain, Outdoor Recreation Planner; Randy Goodwin, Outdoor Recreation Planner

2. LANDSCAPE CHARACTER (feature)

	a. LANDFORM/WATER	b. VEGETATION	c. STRUCTURE (General)
Form	Scattered irregular low hills up to 2700 feet above a low flat irregular shaped lake-dotted plain between 600 and 1000 feet with irregular river meanders in wide flat valleys.	Broad, simple flat bog transitioning to irregular rugged forests at lower elevations which transition to irregular mixed forests and shrubs along upland lakes and watercourses.	Blocky community facilities of Bettles and Evansville, Allakaket, Atlatna. Small, isolated block cabins and associated buildings. Flat regular parallel lines landing strips, road and trails.
Line	Numerous irregular lakes with larger lakes, gently rising soft uplands.	Simple regular shrubs merging with irregular weak complex mixed forests.	Bold regular straight, vertical, continuous and horizontal lines of buildings, roads and railroad. Regular vertical lines of signs.
Color	Blues and browns of water – streams. Rivers and small lakes. Grays and tans of gravel bars, bluffs and rock outcrops. Most of the landform is covered by vegetation.	Various hues of green with subtle fall colors.	Natural browns and grays of log buildings and multi colored wood buildings and roofing. Blacks, grays and browns of road and landing strips.
Texture	Water areas are soft and smooth. Flat smooth subtle uplands.	Discontinuous medium vegetation, patchy bog and low growing spruce forests,	Smooth log or wood texture with fascia boards and decks, etc. Smooth metal texture of pipeline with fine, ordered support

		irregular, scattered closed spruce forests.	structures. Medium texture of continuous roads.

3. Narrative: The Kanuti Flats extend from just north of Bettles and Evansville in the north to just north of the headwaters of Nethkahati Creek in the south. The western most part is the confluence of the Sinyalak Creek and the Alatna River while the eastern most portion is approximately 5 miles north and 5.5 miles east of the confluence of the Jim and South Fork of the Koyukuk Rivers. Facilities within the unit include the communities of Bettles and Evansville, Allakaket, and Atlatna and may include isolated cabins and trails. There are no KOPs for this unit.

4. SCORE					
	HIGH	**MED**	**LOW**	**EXPLANATION OR RATIONALE**	**SCENIC QUALITY CLASSIFICATION**
a. Landform			1	There is little contrast or relief in the landscape.	Class A - 19 or more
b. Vegetation		3		3 major vegetative types.	
c. Water		3		Numerous lakes and bogs – over 50% of the landscape is water.	Class B- 12 -18
d. Color		2		Hues of greens for mixed forest and shrub, fall contrast of deciduous trunks and low shrub and water.	
e. Adjacent Scenery			0	The unit is surrounded by uplands which detract from the lowland characteristics.	Class C - 11 or less
f. Scarcity			1	Common within the planning area.	
g. Cultural Modification		0		The four communities are relatively small but do not blend with the surrounding landscape. Overall the landscape is undeveloped.	
Totals	**10**				**Class C**

Kanuti Flats is part of the Western Alaska Province and is characterized by irregular shaped lake-dotted plain at 400 feet surrounded by low irregular hills at 2400 feet (Lookout Mountain and the Double Point Mountains). Major drainages include the Koyukuk, Alatna, Kanuti, Kanuti-Kilolitna rivers and Henshaw, Nolitna, Holonada and Kadakina creeks. Large lakes include the Ahagateyeit, Kadakina, Kaldolyeit, Katalahosa, Kodosin-Minnkohwin, Konedsin-Minnkohwin, and Minnkohwin lakes, some of which are over 1 mile across. Numerous thaw lakes are present. Some parts of the flats are more than 50 percent lake surface. Much of the unit is underlain by permafrost. Major vegetative types are: Closed spruce-hardwood forests, Open, low-growing spruce forests, Treeless Bog.

Adjacent Physiographic Division descriptions:

Ambler-Chandalar Ridge and Lowland is part of the Rocky Mountain System – Arctic Mountains Province which is characterized by east-trending lowlands with elevations of 600 and low passes 3-10 miles wide with elevations of 4,000 feet bordered on the north by the abrupt front of the Brooks Range. Rolling to rugged ridges rising to 4,500 feet is characteristic of the southern portion of this unit. (Alatna, Ninemile, Helpmejack and Jack White Hills) Major rivers are tributaries of the Kobuk, Koyukuk and Chandalar. Large rock-basin lakes occur in the valleys while floodplains of major streams have thaw and oxbow lakes. The entire province is underlain by permafrost. Major vegetative types are Closed spruce-hardwood forests, Open, low-growing spruce forests and Alpine Tundra.

Indian River Upland is within the Western Alaska Providence and is characterized by groups of low, gentle ridges with accordant summits (Slokhenjikh and Sushgitit hills) interspersed with irregular lowlands and broad flat divides and valleys. Mountains rise up to 4,000 feet above the valley floor (500 feet). Major rivers have narrow canyons and irregular courses. They include the Kanuti, Koyukuk, Melozitna and Dulbi. Numerous thaw lakes are in the lowlands, valleys and broad passes. The entire area is underlain by permafrost and periglacial processes predominate with altiplanation terraces common at upper elevations. Major vegetative types are: Closed spruce-hardwood forests, Treeless bogs and Alpine Tundra.

Kokrine-Hodzana Highlands is part of the Northern Plateaus Province which is characterized by even-topped rounded ridges with elevations of 2,000-4,000 feet surmounted by isolated rugged mountains rising to 5,700 feet and valleys at 1000 feet. Rugged mountains in this unit may have cirques and glaciated valleys and craggy cliff tors that rise abruptly from broad ridgetops (Kokrine Hills and part of the Ray Mountains, Fort Hamlin Hills). Antiplanation terraces, stone polygons and other periglacial features are common. Major rivers are the Koyukuk, Hodzana, Tozitna, Melozitna Dall, Kanuti and Yukon. A few large lakes occur in the lowlands (Sithylemenkat and Tokusatatquaten, Taclodahten, Birch Hill, Grayling) while small lakes occur along major drainages. The entire province is probably underlain by permafrost. Major vegetative types are Closed spruce-hardwood forests and Alpine Tundra and Moist Tundra.

Table 5:9 Scenic Quality Field Inventory – Kobuk-Selawik Lowland

Form 8400-1 (September 1985)	Date: 14 October 2015
UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT **SCENIC QUALITY FIELD INVENTORY**	Central Yukon Field Office
	SQRU: Kobuk–Selawik Lowland

1. Evaluators (names): Holli McClain, Outdoor Recreation Planner; Randy Goodwin, Outdoor Recreation Planner

2. LANDSCAPE CHARACTER (feature)

	a. LANDFORM/WATER	b. VEGETATION	c. STRUCTURE (General)
Form	Isolated steep mountains rising to 3000 feet above broad valley floors between 5 and 10 miles wide at 800 feet with flat slow meandering rivers and numerous flat thaw lakes and some oxbow lakes.	Complex irregular mixed forest with diverse irregular shrub creating scattered patchy random mosaic forms.	Small, isolated block cabins and associated buildings.
Line	Curving rivers, irregular thaw and oxbow lakes, flat valley bottoms, jagged mountain ridges, irregular uplands.	Bold irregular complex lines of mixed forest to simple curving regular line of lowlands.	Bold regular straight, vertical, and horizontal lines of buildings and horizontal parallel lines of trails.
Color	Browns and tans of gravel bars and ridge lines, browns and blues of water.	Irregular hues of green mixed vegetation.	Natural browns and grays of log buildings and multi colored wood buildings and roofing.
Texture	Patchy lakes, smooth rivers, subtle rising plain with isolated random mountains.	Rough, irregular texture of various vegetation types from course trees to fine lowlands Medium gravel bars along water courses.	Smooth log or wood textures.

3. Narrative: The Kobuk-Selawik Lowland extends from approximately 3 miles west of Lookout Mountain in the east to just west of Norutak Lake in the west. This is just a small part of the larger unit. Facilities within this unit include isolated cabins and trails. KOP #A-20.

4. SCORE					**SCENIC QUALITY CLASSIFICATION**
	HIGH	**MED**	**LOW**	**EXPLANATION OR RATIONALE**	
a. Landform			2	Broad flat lowlands.	Class A - 19 or more
b. Vegetation			2	1 major vegetative type.	
c. Water			2	1 major river drainage.	Class B- 12 -18
d. Color			2	Water and vegetation contrast.	
e. Adjacent Scenery			1	This is a lowland unit surrounded by upland units which distract from this unit.	Class C - 11 or less
f. Scarcity			1	Common within the planning area.	
g. Cultural Modification		0		No communities located within this unit.	
Totals	**10**				**Class C**

Kobuk-Selawik Lowland Located within the Western Alaska Province, is chiefly broad river flood plains and lake lowlands. Rounded hills rise up to 3,000 feet from the valley floor at 700 feet. Headwaters of the Hogatza River and the Alatna and Kobuk rivers and tributaries are the major water systems. Thaw lakes and sinks dot the lowlands with Norutak Lake being the largest. Most of the unit is underlain by permafrost. Major vegetative type is: Closed spruce-hardwood forests.

Adjacent Physiographic Division descriptions:

Ambler-Chandalar Ridge and Lowland is part of the Rocky Mountain System – Arctic Mountains Province which is characterized by east-trending lowlands with elevations of 600 and

low passes 3-10 miles wide with elevations of 4000 feet bordered on the north by the abrupt front of the Brooks Range. Rolling to rugged ridges rising to 4,500 feet is characteristic of the southern portion of this unit. (Alatna, Ninemile, Helpmejack and Jack White hills) Major rivers are tributaries of the Kobuk, Koyukuk and Chandalar. Large rock-basin lakes occur in the valleys while floodplains of major streams have thaw and oxbow lakes. The entire province is underlain by permafrost. Major vegetative types are Closed spruce-hardwood forests, Open, low-growing spruce forests and Tundra.

Indian River Upland is within the Western Alaska Providence and is characterized by groups of low, gentle ridges with accordant summits (Slokhenjikh and Sushgitit hills) interspersed with irregular lowlands and broad flat divides and valleys. Mountains rise up to 4,000 feet above the valley floor (500 feet). Major rivers have narrow canyons and irregular courses. They include the Kanuti, Koyukuk, Melozitna and Dulbi. Numerous thaw lakes are in the lowlands, valleys and broad passes. The entire area is underlain by permafrost and periglacial processes predominate with altiplanation terraces common at upper elevations. Major vegetative types are: Closed spruce-hardwood forests, Open, low-growing spruce forests, Treeless bog and Alpine Tundra.

Kanuti Flats is part of the Western Alaska Province and is characterized by irregular shaped lake-dotted plain at 400 feet surrounded by low irregular hills at 2,400 feet (Lookout Mountain and the Double Point Mountains). Major drainages include the Koyukuk, Alatna, Kanuti, Kanuti-Kilolitna rivers and Henshaw, Nolitna, Holonada and Kadakina creeks. Large lakes include the Ahagateyeit, Kadakina, Kaldolyeit, Katalahosa, Kodosin-Minnkohwin, Konedsin-Minnkohwin, and Minnkohwin lakes, some of which are over 1 mile across. Numerous thaw lakes are present. Some parts of the flats are more than 50 percent lake surface. Much of the unit is underlain by permafrost. Major vegetative types are: Closed spruce-hardwood forests, Open, low-growing spruce forests, Treeless Bog.

Pah River Section is part of the Western Alaska Province. It is an area with diverse topography. Compact groups of hills and low mountains with gently rounded ridges, broad, shallow cirques with flaring walls, rise 4,000 feet above surrounding rolling plateaus and broad flat lowlands. The Purcell Mountains and Zane Hills are located within this unit. Major tributaries include Shiniliaok, Wheeler and Caribou Creeks as well as the Daki, Pah and Hogatza rivers. Numerous thaw lakes are present and in the central portion of this unit probably 50 percent of the surface is water. The entire section is underlain by permafrost and periglacial erosional processes predominate and altiplanation terraces are common. Major vegetation types are: Closed spruce-hardwood forests, Open, low growing spruce forests, and Alpine Tundra.

Table 5:10 Scenic Quality Field Inventory – Kokrine-Hodzana Highlands

Form 8400-1 (September 1985)	Date: 01 April 2015
UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT **SCENIC QUALITY FIELD INVENTORY**	Central Yukon Field Office
	SQRU: Kokrine-Hodzana Highlands

1. Evaluators (names): Holli McClain, Outdoor Recreation Planner; Randy Goodwin, Outdoor Recreation Planner

2. LANDSCAPE CHARACTER (feature)

	a. LANDFORM/WATER	b. VEGETATION	c. STRUCTURE (General)
Form	Even topped rounded ridges with isolated rugged shear faced ridges and craggy cliffed tors rising 5000 feet in elevation above wide lowlands at 400 feet. Large meandering rivers are abundant in the broad flat valleys and contrast with several large rock-basin lakes, and a few thaw and oxbow lakes.	Complex irregular mixed forest with diverse irregular shrub thickets along rivers and lakes interspersed with lowlands creating scattered patchy random mosaic forms. Open area of heath shrub and dense matte flat tundra highlands creating polygonal patterns.	Blocky community facilities of scattered cabins, landing strips, linear pipeline and Dalton Highway with associated rectangular bridges, flat wayside parking areas, vertical road markers and pipeline uprights, and rectangular gates. Flat wayside and campground developments with regular horizontal and vertical symmetrical forms.
Line	Regular smooth flowing rounded ridges to irregular jagged rugged ridges and tors of isolated mountains. Soft curving rivers in flat broad valleys with flat lakes.	Bold irregular complex lines of mixed forest, and low shrubs to simple curving regular line of tundra.	Bold regular straight vertical lines of buildings and signs and diagonal and horizontal line of power lines.
Color	Most lower ridges and mountains are covered in vegetation, tors are grey to black hues; brow to grey of cliffs and rock faces; rivers and lakes are blue to brown with the Yukon being white.	Irregular hues of green mixed forest, shrub and tundra vegetation. Vivid fall colors.	All colors of buildings and structures in a community setting, pump stations and work sites. Natural browns and grays of logs and wood buildings and multi colored roofing. Blacks, grays and browns of road and bridge structures. Shiny metal of towers,

			and power lines with brown support structures. Shiny pipeline with brownish to red supports.
Texture	Smooth to fine rounded ridges; course disconnected scattered tors and rugged peaks; smooth fine lowlands, river and lakes.	Irregular rough texture of various vegetation types from course trees to fine dense tundra. Medium shrubs along gravel bars.	Smooth log or wood texture with fascia boards and decks, etc. Rough roofs. Smooth metal texture of power lines with fine, ordered support structures. Medium texture of continuous roads and highway.

3. Narrative: The Kokrine-Hodzana Highlands is a transition from the Ambler-Chandalar Ridge and Lowland to the north and the surrounding lowlands to the east, south, and west. It extends from the East Fork of the T'eedriinjik River in the northeast to just northeast of Ruby in the southwest. Most of this unit is within the plan area. Facilities within this unit include the Dalton Highway (mp 154 to 35; State Scenic Byway), and Trans Alaska Pipeline, Tanana, cabins, campgrounds and waysides, roads and trails, mine sites, material sites, communication facilities, worksites and landing strips. KOP #1, 4, 5, 19, 21, 22, 23, 24, A-2 and A-3.

4. SCORE					
	HIGH	**MED**	**LOW**	**EXPLANATION OR RATIONALE**	**SCENIC QUALITY CLASSIFICATION**
a. Landform		4		Diverse flowing rounded mountains to jagged rugged peaks and tors, Spooky Valley, Ray Mountains, Kokrines Hills.	Class A - 19 or more
b. Vegetation		3		Two major vegetation types.	
c. Water		4		Large rivers flowing through mountain ranges create bluffs and other major features.	Class B- 12 -18
d. Color		4		Vivid mixed forest and grass wetland vegetation in summer and fall, blues and browns of streams, bluffs and gravel bars. Vivid fall colors.	
e. Adjacent Scenery		3		This province is surrounded by lowlands resulting in contrast with	Class C - 11 or less

				the uplands and mountains of this unit.	
f. Scarcity		4		This area is unique within the Central Yukon Planning area. This is a destination landscape.	
g. Cultural Modification		0		Cultural modifications are minimal along the Dalton Highway but do not blend with the surrounding landscape. Overall landscape is undeveloped.	
Totals	**22**				**Class A**

Kokrine-Hodzana Highlands is part of the Northern Plateaus Province which is characterized by even-topped rounded ridges with elevations of 2,000-4,000 feet surmounted by isolated rugged mountains rising to 5,700 feet and valleys at 1,000 feet. Rugged mountains in this unit may have cirques and glaciated valleys and craggy cliff tors that rise abruptly from broad ridgetops (Kokrine Hills and part of the Ray Mountains, Fort Hamlin Hills). Antiplanation terraces, stone polygons and other periglacial features are common. Major rivers are the Koyukuk, Hodzana, Tozitna, Melozitna Dall, Kanuti and Yukon. A few large lakes occur in the lowlands (Sithylemenkat and Tokusatatquaten, Taclodahten, Birch Hill, Grayling) while small lakes occur along major drainages. The entire province is probably underlain by permafrost. Major vegetative types are Closed spruce-hardwood forests and Alpine Tundra and Moist Tundra.

Adjacent Physiographic Division descriptions:

Ambler-Chandalar Ridge and Lowland is part of the Rocky Mountain System – Arctic Mountains Province which is characterized by east-trending lowlands with elevations of 600 and low passes 3-10 miles wide with elevations of 4,000 feet bordered on the north by the abrupt front of the Brooks Range. Rolling to rugged ridges rising to 4,500 feet is characteristic of the southern portion of this unit (Alatna, Ninemile, Helpmejack and Jack White Hills). Major rivers are tributaries of the Kobuk, Koyukuk and Chandalar. Large rock-basin lakes occur in the valleys while floodplains of major streams have thaw and oxbow lakes. The entire province is underlain by permafrost. Major vegetative types are Closed spruce-hardwood forests, Open, low-growing spruce forests and Alpine tundra.

Kanuti Flats is part of the Western Alaska Province and is characterized by irregular shaped lake-dotted plain at 400 feet surrounded by low irregular hills at 2,400 feet (Lookout Mountain and the Double Point Mountains). Major drainages include the Koyukuk, Alatna, Kanuti, Kanuti-Kilolitna rivers and Henshaw, Nolitna, Holonada and Kadakina creeks. Large lakes include the Ahagateyeit, Kadakina, Kaldolyeit, Katalahosa, Kodosin-Minnkohwin, Konedsin-Minnkohwin,

and Minnkohwin lakes, some of which are over 1 mile across. Numerous thaw lakes are present. Some parts of the flats are more than 50 percent lake surface. Much of the unit is underlain by permafrost. Major vegetative types are Closed spruce-hardwood forests, Open, low-growing spruce forests, Treeless Bog.

Koyukuk Flats Located within the Western Alaska Province is an extensive lowland at the junction of the Yukon and Koyukuk Rivers. Flat plains with meander belts are between 5 and 20 miles wide. Dunes and thaw sinks stand 100-200 feet above the plains and merge imperceptible with the surrounding uplands at 2,000 feet in the Nulato Hills and isolated mountains above the Koyukuk and Yukon rivers and tributaries. Innumerable meander-scroll lakes, oxbow lakes and thaw lakes are present. The majority of the unit is underlain by permafrost. Major vegetative types are Closed spruce-hardwood forests, Open, low-growing spruce forests, Treeless Bog, Alpine Tundra.

Nowitna Lowlands part of the Western Alaska Province is characterized by low rolling silt-covered tableland up to 900 feet in elevation with broad flat flood plains with incised major rivers and steep walled canyons. Gentle hills rise to 1,500 feet. The Yukon River is along the northern boundary of the unit. Major Rivers include the Tanana, Nowitna and Chistinana. Oxbow and thaw lakes are common. Permafrost is common except in flood plains. Major vegetative types are Closed spruce-hardwood forests, Open, low growing spruce forests, and Treeless bogs.

Porcupine Plateau is part of the Northern Plateaus Province which consists of low ridges having gentle slopes and rounded to flat summits from 1,500 to 2,500 feet with a few domes and mountains rising to 3,500 feet above broad irregular valley floors (1,000 feet). All the area within the planning area drains into the Yukon river with the Chandalar, Black and Little Black being the dominate rivers which meander through broad irregular flats in the southeastern part of the division. Scattered pingos and thaw lakes occur in lowlands. The entire area is underlain by continuous permafrost. Major vegetative types are Closed spruce-hardwood forests, Open, low growing spruce forests and Moist tundra.

Rampart Trough part of the Northern Plateaus Province is a structurally controlled depression having gently rolling topography up to 1,500 feet high and incised down to 2,500 feet below the surrounding highlands on either side. Terraces long rivers can be up to 500 feet above stream level. Scattered thaw lakes lie on the flood plain and elsewhere. Permafrost underlies all the lowlands except the flood plain. Hard rock hills and surrounding uplands are partly metamorphosed sedimentary and volcanic rock and cut by granitic intrusions resulting in cliff formations. Major vegetative types are Close spruce-hardwood forest.

Tositna-Melozitna Lowland is part of the Western Alaska Province and is a long, narrow rolling plain 5 to 10 miles wide along the head of the Tositna and Melozitna rivers. While the uplands rise to 2,400 the lowlands are at 700 feet in elevation and the pass between the two rivers is less than 1,000 feet. Other major water bodies include the Norseman and Lost lakes and Dagislakhna, Gishna, Slokhenjikk and Wrongtrail creeks. Numerous thaw lakes and oxbow lakes are common. The area is underlain by discontinuous permafrost. Major vegetative types are Closed spruce-hardwood forests and Treeless bogs.

Yukon Flats Section The southeastern part of this division is a broad gentle outwash fan while most of the rest within the planning area is nearly flat flood plain. Rolling silt-and gravel-covered marginal terraces having sharp escarpment 150-600 feet high rise above the flats and slope gradually upward to altitudes of about 1,500 feet at the base of surrounding uplands and mountains. The escarpments expose well-consolidated or crystalline rocks. Most of the waterways have meandering courses through the flats. Thaw lakes are abundant throughout the flats and are common with thaw sinks on the marginal terraces. Permafrost is probably abundant under most of this division except for under rivers, recently abandoned meander belts, and large thaw lakes. Major vegetative types are Closed spruce-hardwood forests.

Table 5:11 Scenic Quality Field Inventory – Koyukuk Flats

Form 8400-1 (September 1985)	Date: 08 October 2015
UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT **SCENIC QUALITY FIELD INVENTORY**	Central Yukon Field Office
	SQRU: Koyukuk Flats

1. Evaluators (names): Holli McClain, Outdoor Recreation Planner; Randy Goodwin, Outdoor Recreation Planner

2. LANDSCAPE CHARACTER (feature)

	a. LANDFORM/WATER	b. VEGETATION	c. STRUCTURE (General)
Form	Broad (up to 20 miles wide) flat lowlands (100 feet) gently rising to a central rolling plain with low dunes imperceptibly rising to uplands with isolated low hills up to 2800 feet.	Broad, simple flat bog transitioning to irregular rugged forests at lower elevations which transition to irregular mixed forests and shrubs along upland lakes and watercourses.	Blocky community facilities of Galena, Huslia, Kaltag, Koyukuk and Nulato. Blocky facilities of Campion Air Force Station. Scattered blocky cabins, flat landing strips.
Line	Flat meander belts along major rivers in broad flat valley bottoms. Weak curving flowing simple uplands. Isolated low rounded hills.	Simple regular shrubs merging with irregular weak complex mixed forests.	Bold regular straight vertical lines of buildings horizontal line roads and landing strips.
Color	Blues and browns of water – streams. Rivers and small lakes. Grays and tans of gravel bars, bluffs and rock outcrops. Most of the landform is covered by vegetation.	Various hues of green with subtle fall colors.	All colors of buildings and structures in a community setting. Natural browns and grays of logs and wood buildings and multi colored roofing. Tans and browns of roads and airstrips
Texture	Course to medium dunes rising out of broad fine valley floors. Few scattered random hills	Discontinuous medium vegetation, patchy bog and low growing spruce forests,	Smooth log or wood texture with fascia boards and decks, etc.

	rising out of stepped plains with clumped dense lakes.	irregular, scattered closed spruce forests.	Rough roofs. Medium texture of continuous roads.

3. Narrative: The Koyukuk Flats lies entirely within the planning area. The northern most section is approximately 8 miles up Wheeler Creek from the confluence of Wheeler Creek and the Dakli Rivers, while the southern and western most section is in the vicinity of the confluence of the Khotol and Yukon Rivers. The eastern most section is approximately 6 miles east of Rock Island Point on the Koyukuk River. Facilities within this unit include Galena, Huslia, Kaltag, Koyukuk, and Nulato, Campion Air Force Station with associated facilities, isolated cabins, radio towers, landing strips and trails. KOP #A-21.

4. SCORE					
	HIGH	**MED**	**LOW**	**EXPLANATION OR RATIONALE**	**SCENIC QUALITY CLASSIFICATION**
a. Landform			2	Major rivers add interest to lowlands.	Class A - 19 or more
b. Vegetation		3		3 major vegetative types with some variety.	
c. Water	4			Numerous lakes and bogs – over 50% of the landscape is water with 16 major river drainages.	Class B- 12 -18
d. Color		2		Hues of greens for mixed forest and shrub, fall contrast of deciduous trunks and low shrub and water.	
e. Adjacent Scenery			0	The unit is surrounded by uplands which detract from the lowland characteristics.	Class C - 11 or less
f. Scarcity			1	Common within the planning area.	
g. Cultural Modification			-2	The six communities are relatively small but do not blend with the surrounding landscape. Overall landscape id undeveloped.	
Totals	**10**				**Class C**

Koyukuk Flats Located within the Western Alaska Province, is an extensive lowland at the junction of the Yukon and Koyukuk Rivers. Flat plains with meander belts are between 5 and 20 miles wide. Dunes and thaw sinks stand 100-200 feet above the plains and merge imperceptible with the surrounding uplands at 2,000 feet in the Nulato Hills and isolated mountains above the Koyukuk and Yukon rivers and tributaries. Innumerable meander-scroll lakes, oxbow lakes and thaw lakes are present. The majority of the unit is underlain by permafrost. Major vegetative types are Closed spruce-hardwood forests, Open, low-growing spruce forests, Treeless Bog, Alpine Tundra.

Adjacent Physiographic Division descriptions:

Indian River Upland is within the Western Alaska Providence and is characterized by groups of low, gentle ridges with accordant summits (Slokhenjikh and Sushgitit hills) interspersed with irregular lowlands and broad flat divides and valleys. Mountains rise up to 4,000 feet above the valley floor (500 feet). Major rivers have narrow canyons and irregular courses. They include the Kanuti, Koyukuk, Melozitna and Dulbi. Numerous thaw lakes are in the lowlands, valleys and broad passes. The entire area is underlain by permafrost and periglacial processes predominate with altiplanation terraces common at upper elevations. Major vegetative types are Closed spruce-hardwood forests, Open, low-growing spruce forests, Treeless bog and Alpine tundra.

Innoko Lowlands Located within the Western Alaska Province is a series of flat river flood plains with meandering sloughs from the two major rivers (the Yukon and Innoko). Oxbow, thaw and meander-scroll lakes are abundant. Surrounding hills rising 900 and 9,000 feet above the valley floor (200 feet) are cut by the major rivers and tributaries. Much of the area is underlain by permafrost. Major vegetative types are Closed spruce-hardwood forests, Open, low growing spruce forests and Treeless bogs.

Kuskokwim Mountains part of the Western Alaska Province is characterized by a monotonous succession of northeast-trending ridges with rounded to flat summits with broad gentle slopes rising to 2000 feet in elevation. The area has isolated groups of rugged glaciated mountains up to 4,400 feet in elevation in broad flat valleys. Major tributaries include the Kuskokwim with a deeply incised gorge, Cosna River, Yuki, Sulatna, Nowitna and Sethkokna rivers and their tributaries. Permafrost underlies most of the unit and periglacial erosional processes predominate. Major vegetative types are Closed spruce-hardwood forests, Open, low growing spruce forests, and Alpine Tundra.

Nowitna Lowlands part of the Western Alaska Province is characterized by low rolling silt-covered tableland up to 900 feet in elevation with broad flat flood plains with incised major rivers and steep walled canyons. Gentle hills rise to 1,500 feet. The Yukon River is along the northern boundary of the unit. Major Rivers include the Tanana, Nowitna and Chistinana. Oxbow and thaw lakes are common. Permafrost is common except in flood plains. Major vegetative types are Closed spruce-hardwood forests, Open, low growing spruce forests, and Treeless bogs.

Nulato Hills Located within the Western Alaska Province consists of even-crested ridges with rounded summits and gentle slopes. River valleys are flat floored narrow with entrenched headwater streams and few lakes. Highland areas with steep ridges rise to about 4,000 feet above the valleys (900 feet). Major tributaries Rode, Kaltag, SF Nulato, Gisasa, Nonhosa, Pitka, Kateel and SF Huslia rivers. The entire unit is probably underlain by permafrost. Major vegetative types are: Closed spruce-hardwood forests, Treeless bogs, Alpine tundra.

Pah River Section is part of the Western Alaska Province. It is an area with diverse topography. Compact groups of hills and low mountains with gently rounded ridges, broad, shallow cirques with flaring walls, rise 4,000 feet above surrounding rolling plateaus and broad flat lowlands. The Purcell Mountains and Zane Hills are located within this unit. Major tributaries include Shiniliaok, Wheeler and Caribou Creeks as well as the Daki, Pah and Hogatza rivers. Numerous thaw lakes are present and in the central portion of this unit probably 50 percent of the surface is water. The entire section is underlain by permafrost and periglacial erosional processes predominate and altiplanation terraces are common. Major vegetation types are Closed spruce-hardwood forests, Open, low growing spruce forests, and Alpine tundra.

Table 5:12 Scenic Quality Field Inventory – Kuskokwim Mountains

Form 8400-1 (September 1985)	Date: 26 April 2015
UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT **SCENIC QUALITY FIELD INVENTORY**	Central Yukon Field Office
	SQRU: Kuskokwim Mountains

1. Evaluators (names): Holli McClain, Outdoor Recreation Planner; Randy Goodwin, Outdoor Recreation Planner

2. LANDSCAPE CHARACTER (feature)

	a. LANDFORM/WATER	b. VEGETATION	c. STRUCTURE (General)
Form	Successional parallel mountain ridges trending northeast; flat to rounded summits with gentle broad slopes; isolated clustered, rugged steep, bold, prominent, angular, jagged mountains. Elevational changes from broad flat valley floors at 300 feet up to mountains at 4500 feet. Valleys up to 30 miles wide with small thaw lakes and meandering rivers.	Diverse, complex, irregular vegetation types, Divers trees along meandering rivers with shrub communities around lakes interspersed with flat, mat like communities. Divers vegetation producing banded, asymmetrical patterns.	Small, isolated block cabins and associated buildings, flat, cleared areas for landing aircraft, flat, primitive road cleared right of ways with gravel surface and mine sites.
Line	Soft rolling hills with clusters of rigged, broken, jagged ridges located in flat broad valleys with soft-flowing rivers and still flat lakes.	Complex, indented-undulating interlocking vegetative types characterized by course jagged spruce-hardwood to smooth fine flatlands.	Regular, simple straight continuous lines of buildings and ground facilities. Irregular patchy mine sites.
Color	Rivers of blue to brown with tan and browns of gravel bars and incised banks, tans to blacks of ridges, Most landforms covered in vegetation.	Various hues of green spruce-hardwoods to shrub and tundra mat, Interesting fall color patterns.	Natural browns and grays of logs and wood buildings and multi colored roofing. Blacks, grays and browns of road and mine sites.

Texture	Rugged mountains contrast with smooth rounded hills and flat smooth lowlands. Flat and smooth rivers and lakes.	Course, rough tree and shrubs to fine wetlands, irregular and uneven, dense along rivers to smooth wetlands.	Smooth log or wood texture with fascia boards and decks, etc. Medium texture of continuous roads and mine sites.

3. Narrative: The Kuskokwim Mountains extends from the Middle Fork of the Eek River in the southwest to just west of the Zitziana River in the northeast. This is just a small part of the larger unit. Facilities within this unit include the Ruby-Poorman Road, landing strips, mining claims, winter trails, and isolated cabins. Major rivers include the East Fork of the Yuki, Sulatna, North Fork of the Kuskokwim, Cosna and the Sethkokna. KOP #A– 6, A–7, A–8, A–9, A–10, A–11, A–12, A–13, A–14, and A–15 (4000-4500 agl).

4. SCORE					
	HIGH	**MED**	**LOW**	**EXPLANATION OR RATIONALE**	**SCENIC QUALITY CLASSIFICATION**
a. Landform		3		Isolated rugged peaks in broad flat valleys with major river tributaries.	Class A - 19 or more
b. Vegetation	5			Mixed forest, shrub and tundra communities.	
c. Water		3		Major tributaries and other headwater tributaries.	Class B- 12 -18
d. Color		4		Mixed tree, shrub and tundra vegetation in summer and fall, blues and browns of rivers and gravel bars. Tans, reds and grey of bluffs and hills interspersed with vegetation creating banding. Interesting fall color.	
e. Adjacent Scenery			1	Adjacent scenery is predominately lowlands with some uplands or mountains interspersed. This unit is slightly enhanced by surrounding scenery.	Class C - 11 or less
f. Scarcity			1	Fairly common within the planning area.	

g. Cultural Modification		0		Cultural modifications are minimal but do not blend with the surrounding landscape.	
Totals	**17**				**Class B**

Kuskokwim Mountains part of the Western Alaska Province is characterized by a monotonous succession of northeast-trending ridges with rounded to flat summits with broad gentle slopes rising to 2,000 feet in elevation. The area has isolated groups of rugged glaciated mountains up to 4,400 feet in elevation in broad flat valleys. Major tributaries include the Kuskokwim with a deeply incised gorge, Cosna River, Yuki, Sulatna, Nowitna and Sethkokna rivers and their tributaries. Permafrost underlies most of the unit and periglacial erosional processes predominate. Major vegetative types are Closed spruce-hardwood forests, Open, low growing spruce forests, and Alpine tundra.

Adjacent Physiographic Division descriptions:

Innoko Lowlands Located within the Western Alaska Province is a series of flat river flood plains with meandering sloughs from the two major rivers (the Yukon and Innoko). Oxbow, thaw and meander-scroll lakes are abundant. Surrounding hills rising 900 and 1,200 feet above the valley floor (200 feet) are cut by the major rivers and tributaries. Much of the area is underlain by permafrost. Major vegetative types are: Closed spruce-hardwood forests and Open, low growing spruce forests and Treeless bogs.

Koyukuk Flats Located within the Western Alaska Province is an extensive lowland at the junction of the Yukon and Koyukuk Rivers. Flat plains with meander belts are between 5 and 20 miles wide. Dunes and thaw sinks stand 100-200 feet above the plains and merge imperceptible with the surrounding uplands at 2,000 feet in the Nulato Hills and isolated mountains above the Koyukuk and Yukon rivers and tributaries. Innumerable meander-scroll lakes, oxbow lakes and thaw lakes are present. The majority of the unit is underlain by permafrost. Major vegetative types are Closed spruce-hardwood forests, Open, low-growing spruce forests, Treeless bog, Alpine tundra.

Nowitna Lowlands part of the Western Alaska Province is characterized by low rolling silt-covered tableland up to 900 feet in elevation with broad flat flood plains with incised major rivers and steep walled canyons. Gentle hills rise to 1,500 feet. The Yukon River is along the northern boundary of the unit. Major Rivers include the Tanana, Nowitna and Chistinana. Oxbow and thaw lakes are common. Permafrost is common except in flood plains. Major vegetative types are Closed spruce-hardwood forests, Open, low growing spruce forests, and Treeless bogs.

Tanana-Kuskokwim Lowland is part of the Western Alaska Province and is a broad depression. Most of the rivers are glacial and flow in tight meanders, in broad outwash fans in terraced

valleys. Thaw lakes abound in areas of fine alluvium. Thaw sinks are also abundant in areas of thick loess cover. The entire section is an area of permafrost. Major vegetative types are Closed spruce-hardwood forests, Open, low growing spruce forests, and Treeless bogs.

Table 5:13 Scenic Quality Field Inventory – Northern Foothills

Form 8400-1 (September 1985)	Date: 21 September 2009; 21 January 2015
UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT **SCENIC QUALITY FIELD INVENTORY**	Eastern Interior Field Office; Central Yukon Field Office
	Fortymile Subunit; CYFO RMP
	SQRU: Northern Foothills

1. Evaluators (names): Holli McClain, Outdoor Recreation Planner; Collin Cogley, Outdoor Recreation Planner; Randy Goodwin, Outdoor Recreation Planner

2. LANDSCAPE CHARACTER (feature)

	a. LANDFORM/WATER	b. VEGETATION	c. STRUCTURE (General)
Form	Prominent bold, rugged, complex, steep sided mountains at 6,000 feet with steep diagonal dip to 1,500 feet. Most relief is about 4,500 feet in elevation. Major rivers in broad U-shaped valleys with smaller creeks in V-shaped valleys.	Complex irregular mixed forest with diverse irregular shrub and tundra under-stories and open areas of shrub creating scattered patchy random mosaic forms.	Small, isolated block cabins and associated buildings. Parallel, linear railroad and Parks Highway and associated rectangular bridges, flat wayside parking areas. Prominent block regular and irregular strip development and angular diagonal, parallel power lines and railroad.
Line	Complex, hard, bold, rugged, steep diagonal mountains change abruptly to broad U-shaped valleys of bold curving major rivers and V-shaped valleys of smaller water courses.	Bold irregular complex lines of mixed forest to simple curving regular line of shrubs and open areas.	Bold regular straight vertical lines of buildings and signs and diagonal and horizontal line of power lines. Horizontal regular line of railroad.
Color	Brown mountains with irregular black colored scree slopes. Grays of glacial rivers with few small brown and blues of	Various hues of green mixed forest, shrub and tundra vegetation. Vivid fall colors.	Natural browns and grays of logs and wood buildings and multi colored roofing. Blacks, grays and browns of road and bridge

	headwater streams. Grays and tans of gravel bars and boulder areas. Various hues of white to gray to brown to black cliff and bluff areas. White of snow on mountains may be visible for 10 months of the year.		structures. Shiny metal of towers, and power lines with brown support structures.
Texture	Mountains exhibit rough, course, discontinuous texture against the flatter river valleys and random smooth, graduating to medium and course along larger rivers.	Irregular texture of various vegetation types from course trees to fine tundra. Medium scattered vegetation along gravel bars.	Smooth log or wood texture with fascia boards and decks, etc., contrasting with adjacent buildings. Rough roofs. Smooth metal texture of power lines with fine, ordered support structures. Medium texture of continuous roads railroad and highways.

3. Narrative: The Northern Foothills of the Alaska Range extend from Cathedral Rapids on the Tanana River in the east across to just west of the McKinley River. This is just a small part of the larger unit. Facilities within this unit include the Parks Highway (mp 244 to 272), and the community of Healy. There are isolated cabins and houses with associated structures as well as radio towers, unimproved dirt roads, trails. Usibelli Coal Mine, material sites, mine sites, landing strips, high-power transmission lines, wind turbines, Alaska Rail-road, bridges, parking areas and waysides in the unit. This unit is visible as a backdrop from the Alaska Highway, the Richardson Highway, Delta Junction, Big Delta, Fort Greeley, Dot Lake and Tok. Within the Central Yukon Field Office, this unit is visible from the Dalton, Elliott, Richardson and Parks highways, and the communities of Minto, Manley, Fox, Fairbanks, Ester, Nenana, Clear AFB, and Anderson. Major tributaries in this unit are the Johnson River, Robertson River and Gerstle Rivers which are glacier feed tributaries. Within the Central Yukon Field Office the major tributary is the Nanana River. KOP# 35.

4. SCORE					
	HIGH	**MED**	**LOW**	**EXPLANATION OR RATIONALE**	**SCENIC QUALITY CLASSIFICATION**
a. Landform		4		In the Central Yukon area, rugged, connecting mountains are intersected by U shaped river valleys. Rugged peaks of the Macomb Plateau, Granite Mountain and Independent Ridge, and major river valleys.	Class A - 19 or more
b. Vegetation		3		Mixed forest, shrub and tundra communities.	

c. Water		4		Major tributaries and other headwater streams.	Class B- 12 -18
d. Color		3		Vivid mixed forest and tundra vegetation in summer and fall, blues and browns of rivers and gravel bars. Black and grey outcrops of the mountain ridges. White of early winter snows.	
e. Adjacent Scenery		3		The landscape to the north of this unit is lowlands while the Alaska Range is adjacent to the south. Adjacent units are very natural in appearance with little development.	Class C - 11 or less
f. Scarcity		3		In the Central Yukon planning area this area is similar to the Central and Eastern Brooks Range and the Arctic Foothills. It is unique within the plan area and is a destination landscape. Similar to other major mountain areas in the Planning area such as the Ogilvie-Keele Mountains, White Mountains and Crazy Mountains.	
g. Cultural Modification		0		Cultural modifications are minimal but do not blend with the surrounding landscape.	
Totals	**20**				**Class A**

Northern Foothills Located within the Alaska-Aleutian Province are flat-topped, east trending ridges up to 4,500 feet in height, up to 7 miles wide and 5 to 20 miles long. (Jumbo Dome, Rex Dome, Walker Dome, Needle Rock, Mystic Mountain, Japan Hills, Molybedenum Ridge) These are separated by rolling lowlands up to 1,500 feet high and 2 to 10 miles wide. Major streams (Nenana River) of the foothills are superimposed across the topography in rugged impassable v-shaped canyons and across lowlands in broad terraced valleys. There are a few small thaw lakes in lowland passes, and morainal areas have shallow irregular ponds. Permafrost is extensive and polygonal ground and solifluction features are well developed. Major vegetative types are Closed spruce-hardwood forests, Moist tundra, and Alpine tundra.

Adjacent Physiographic Divisions descriptions:

Alaska Range Central and Eastern Part Located within the Alaska-Aleutian Province, consists of two or three parallel rugged glaciated ridges rising between 6,000 and 9,000 feet, surmounted by groups of extremely rugged snow-capped mountains more than 9,500 feet high. Major vegetative types are Closed spruce-hardwood forests, Moist tundra, and Alpine tundra.

Tanana-Kuskokwim Lowland is part of the Western Alaska Province and is a broad depression. Most of the rivers are glacial and flow in tight meanders, in broad outwash fans in terraced valleys. Thaw lakes abound in areas of fine alluvium. Thaw sinks are also abundant in areas of thick loess cover. The entire section is an area of permafrost. Major vegetative types are Closed spruce-hardwood forests, Open, low growing spruce forests, and Treeless bogs.

Table 5:14 Scenic Quality Field Inventory – Nowitna Lowland

Form 8400-1 (September 1985)	Date: 08 October 2015
UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT **SCENIC QUALITY FIELD INVENTORY**	Central Yukon Field Office
	SQRU: Nowitna Lowland

1. Evaluators (names): Holli McClain, Outdoor Recreation Planner; Randy Goodwin, Outdoor Recreation Planner

2. LANDSCAPE CHARACTER (feature)

	a. LANDFORM/WATER	b. VEGETATION	c. STRUCTURE (General)
Form	Flat flood plains of major rivers up to 10 miles wide pocked with thaw lakes, one isolated mountain system/ complex of gentle hills rising 1200 feet above the valley of 300 feet elevation; some rivers incised with steeped walled canyons.	Smooth to irregular mixed forest, shrub, and wetlands. Vertical mixed forests to more horizontal shrubs and wetlands and open areas creating a scattered patchy mosaic	Small, isolated block cabins and associated buildings.
Line	Isolated mountain complex rises weakly from flat valley table lands, simple landscape, smooth flat lakes and river drainages in wide meander belts.	Irregular complex lines of mixed forest to simple curving regular line of shrubs and wetlands.	Bold regular straight, vertical, continuous and horizontal lines of buildings. Horizontal parallel line of roads and trails.
Color	Landforms covered by vegetation. Some browns and tans of gravel bars along rivers.	Various hues of green mixed forest, shrub and wetland vegetation. Mixed vegetation produces multiple fall colors.	Natural browns and grays of log buildings and multi colored wood buildings and roofing. Browns of mining activities.
Texture	Simple, subtle generally uniform with exception of	Course rough texture of mixed forest to smooth grassland and wetland vegetation. Medium	Smooth log or wood texture with fascia boards and decks, etc.

	contrasting striated mountain complex.	shrub vegetation types create a patchy mosaic.	Medium texture of mining activities.

3. Narrative: The Nowitna Lowland extends from just east of Ruby in the west to Fish Lake in the east and from the Yukon River to an area along the Mud River in the south. The entire unit is within the planning area. Structures associated with mining activities occur on BLM managed lands in this unit as well as scattered isolated cabins. KOP #A-16, A-17 and A-18.

4. SCORE					
	HIGH	**MED**	**LOW**	**EXPLANATION OR RATIONALE**	**SCENIC QUALITY CLASSIFICATION**
a. Landform			0	Rolling silt-covered tableland with little relief; Three major rivers and small parallel tributaries.	Class A - 19 or more
b. Vegetation		3		Three major vegetative types with two forest types and flat treeless bog.	
c. Water		2		Water features of tributaries and major rivers and small lakes scattered throughout the area add to the landscape.	Class B- 12 -18
d. Color		2		Vivid mixed forest vegetation in fall, blues and browns of rivers and gravel bars.	
e. Adjacent Scenery			0	This unit is adjacent to uplands to the north, east and west, and other lowlands to the south which accentuate the lowland characteristics of this unit.	Class C - 11 or less
f. Scarcity			0	The flat rolling tablelands/lowlands are not unique.	
g. Cultural Modification			0	Modifications are minimal within the unit.	

Totals	**7**		**Class C**

Nowitna Lowlands part of the Western Alaska Province, is characterized by low rolling silt-covered tableland up to 900 feet in elevation with broad flat flood plains with incised major rivers and steep walled canyons. Gentle hills rise to 1,500 feet. The Yukon River is along the northern boundary of the unit. Major Rivers include the Tanana, Nowitna and Chistinana. Oxbow and thaw lakes are common. Permafrost is common except in flood plains. Major vegetative types are Closed spruce-hardwood forests, Open, low growing spruce forests, and Treeless bogs.

Adjacent Physiographic Division descriptions:

Indian River Upland is within the Western Alaska Providence and is characterized by groups of low, gentle ridges with accordant summits (Slokhenjikh and Sushgitit hills) interspersed with irregular lowlands and broad flat divides and valleys. Mountains rise up to 4,000 feet above the valley floor (500 feet). Major rivers have narrow canyons and irregular courses. They include the Kanuti, Koyukuk, Melozitna and Dulbi. Numerous thaw lakes are in the lowlands, valleys and broad passes. The entire area is underlain by permafrost and periglacial processes predominate with altiplanation terraces common at upper elevations. Major vegetative types are Closed spruce-hardwood forests, Open, low-growing spruce forests, Treeless bog and Alpine tundra.

Kokrine-Hodzana Highlands is part of the Northern Plateaus Province which is characterized by even-topped rounded ridges with elevations of 2,000-4,000 feet surmounted by isolated rugged mountains rising to 5,700 feet and valleys at 1,000 feet. Rugged mountains in this unit may have cirques and glaciated valleys and craggy cliff tors that rise abruptly from broad ridgetops (Kokrine Hills and part of the Ray Mountains, Fort Hamlin Hills). Antiplanation terraces, stone polygons and other periglacial features are common. Major rivers are the Koyukuk, Hodzana, Tozitna, Melozitna Dall, Kanuti and Yukon. A few large lakes occur in the lowlands (Sithylemenkat and Tokusatatquaten, Taclodahten, Birch Hill, Grayling) while small lakes occur along major drainages. The entire province is probably underlain by permafrost. Major vegetative types are Closed spruce-hardwood forests and Alpine tundra and Moist tundra.

Koyukuk Flats Located within the Western Alaska Province is an extensive lowland at the junction of the Yukon and Koyukuk Rivers. Flat plains with meander belts are between 5 and 20 miles wide. Dunes and thaw sinks stand 100-200 feet above the plains and merge imperceptible with the surrounding uplands at 2,000 feet in the Nulato Hills and isolated mountains above the Koyukuk and Yukon rivers and tributaries. Innumerable meander-scroll lakes, oxbow lakes and thaw lakes are present. The majority of the unit is underlain by permafrost. Major vegetative types are Closed spruce-hardwood forests, Open, low-growing spruce forests, Treeless bog, Alpine tundra.

Kuskokwim Mountains part of the Western Alaska Province is characterized by a monotonous succession of northeast-trending ridges with rounded to flat summits with broad gentle slopes

rising to 2,000 feet in elevation. The area has isolated groups of rugged glaciated mountains up to 4,400 feet in elevation in broad flat valleys. Major tributaries include the Kuskokwim with a deeply incised gorge, Cosna River, Yuki, Sulatna, Nowitna and Sethkokna rivers and their tributaries. Permafrost underlies most of the unit and periglacial erosional processes predominate. Major vegetative types are Closed spruce-hardwood forests, Open, low growing spruce forests, and Alpine tundra.

Rampart Trough part of the Northern Plateaus Province is a structurally controlled depression having gently rolling topography up to 1,500 feet high and incised down to 2,500 feet below the surrounding highlands on either side. Terraces long rivers can be up to 500 feet above stream level. Scattered thaw lakes lie on the flood plain and elsewhere. Permafrost underlies all the lowlands except the flood plain. Hard rock hills and surrounding uplands are partly metamorphosed sedimentary and volcanic rock and cut by granitic intrusions resulting in cliff formations. Major vegetative types are Close spruce-hardwood forest.

Tanana-Kuskokwim Lowland is part of the Western Alaska Province and is a broad depression. Most of the rivers are glacial and flow in tight meanders, in broad outwash fans in terraced valleys. Thaw lakes abound in areas of fine alluvium. Thaw sinks are also abundant in areas of thick loess cover. The entire section is an area of permafrost. Major vegetative types are Closed spruce-hardwood forests, Open, low growing spruce forests, and Treeless bogs.

Yukon-Tanana Upland is part of the Northern Plateaus Province that displays rounded even-topped ridges with gentle side slopes. The rounded ridges in this subunit trend northeast to east and have ridge-crest altitudes up to 3,000 feet and rise 500 to 1,500 feet above the valley floor. These lower ridges are surrounded by compact rugged mountains rising another 2,000 feet to heights of 5,000 feet in altitude (Sawtooth Mountain, Wolverine and Elephant Mountains). Valleys are generally flat, with alluvium floors. Major rivers include the Tolovana, Tatalina, and Chatanika in U shaped valleys. There are a few thaw lakes in this discontinuous permafrost region. Periglacial mass-wasting is active at high altitudes, and ice wedges lace the frozen muck of valley bottoms. Pingos are common in valleys and on lower hill slopes. Major vegetative types are Closed spruce-hardwood forests, Treeless bogs, and Alpine tundra.

Table 5:15 Scenic Quality Field Inventory – Nulato Hills

Form 8400-1 (September 1985)	Date: 14 April 2015
UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT **SCENIC QUALITY FIELD INVENTORY**	Central Yukon Field Office
	SQRU: Nulato Hills

1. Evaluators (names): Holli McClain, Outdoor Recreation Planner; Randy Goodwin, Outdoor Recreation Planner

2. LANDSCAPE CHARACTER (feature)

	a. LANDFORM/WATER	b. VEGETATION	c. STRUCTURE (General)
Form	Numerous indistinct rounded, even crested ridges with gentle slopes at 2700 feet above broad flat valleys at 300 feet, isolated rounded domes, headwaters U shaped transitioning to flat valley floors, rivers are regular and directional.	Low irregular heath shrub and flats in valleys transitioning through irregular smooth dense to rough mixed hardwood spruce to flat matt tundra on ridges.	Blocky community facilities and scattered cabins, flat landing strips, angular towers.
Line	Undulating continuous line of low ridges and rounded domes with gentle slopes transitioning to flat meandering rivers with low steep bluffs in soft river valleys.	Complex low irregular broken vertical trees contrast with medium low irregular heath shrub and soft flats in valleys.	Bold regular straight vertical lines of buildings and signs and diagonal and horizontal line of power lines and towers.
Color	Vegetative covered hills of various hues of green. Blue-browns of lakes and streams with brown and tans of gravel bars, small bluffs, cut banks and ridges.	Various green hues of trees, shrubs and low tundra.	All colors of buildings and structures in a community setting. Natural browns and grays of logs and wood buildings and multi colored roofing. Blacks, grays and browns of road and structures. Shiny metal of towers, and power

			lines with brown support structures.
Texture	Fine textured flats with stippled thaw lakes, directional smooth flat ordered rivers, gradational subtle ridges and domes.	Uniform flats, tundra and low striated shrub contrast with clumped course rough trees.	Smooth log or wood texture with fascia boards and decks, etc. Rough roofs. Smooth metal texture of power lines with fine, ordered support structures. Medium texture of continuous roads.

3. Narrative: The Nulato Hills extends from just south of Russian Mission and Saint Marys in the south to just east of Purcell Mountain in the north. This is just a small portion of a larger unit. The continental divide runs through this unit and all the rivers within the plan area drain into the Yukon River. Facilities within this unit include the communities of Kaltag, Nulato with related facilities, roads and trails, and isolated cabins. KOP #AN-3, AN-4, AN-5 and outside the planning area AN-1, AN-2, AN-6, AN-7, AN-8, AN-9, AN-10 and AN-11.

4. SCORE					
	HIGH	**MED**	**LOW**	**EXPLANATION OR RATIONALE**	**SCENIC QUALITY CLASSIFICATION**
a. Landform			2	Even rounded hills, directional rivers in U shaped to flat valleys.	Class A - 19 or more
b. Vegetation		3		Three major vegetation types, however one type is low growing grasses.	
c. Water		3		Flat flowing rivers in low landscapes.	Class B- 12 -18
d. Color			2	Various hues of green trees, grasses and low shrub.	
e. Adjacent Scenery			2	This province is surrounded by lowlands resulting in contrast with the uplands and mountains of this unit	Class C - 11 or less
f. Scarcity			1	Fairly common within the planning area.	

g. Cultural Modification		0		Cultural modifications are minimal but do not blend with the surrounding landscape. Overall landscape is undeveloped.	
Totals	**13**				**Class B**

Nulato Hills Located within the Western Alaska Province consists of even-crested ridges with rounded summits and gentle slopes. River valleys are flat floored narrow with entrenched headwater streams and few lakes. Highland areas with steep ridges rise to about 4,000 feet above the valleys (900 feet). Major tributaries Rode, Kaltag, SF Nulato, Gisasa, Nonhosa, Pitka, Kateel and SF Huslia rivers. The entire unit is probably underlain by permafrost. Major vegetative types are: Closed spruce-hardwood forests, Treeless bogs, Alpine tundra.

Adjacent Physiographic Divisions descriptions:

Innoko Lowlands Located within the Western Alaska Province is a series of flat river flood plains with meandering sloughs from the two major rivers (the Yukon and Innoko). Oxbow, thaw and meander-scroll lakes are abundant. Surrounding hills rising 900 and 9,000 feet above the valley floor (200 feet) are cut by the major rivers and tributaries. Much of the area is underlain by permafrost. Major vegetative types are Closed spruce-hardwood forests and Open, low growing spruce forests and Treeless bogs.

Koyukuk Flats Located within the Western Alaska Province is an extensive lowland at the junction of the Yukon and Koyukuk Rivers. Flat plains with meander belts are between 5 and 20 miles wide. Dunes and thaw sinks stand 100-200 feet above the plains and merge imperceptible with the surrounding uplands at 2,000 feet in the Nulato Hills and isolated mountains above the Koyukuk and Yukon rivers and tributaries. Innumerable meander-scroll lakes, oxbow lakes and thaw lakes are present. The majority of the unit is underlain by permafrost. Major vegetative types are Closed spruce-hardwood forests, Open, low-growing spruce forests, Treeless Bog, Alpine tundra.

Pah River Section is part of the Western Alaska Province. It is an area with diverse topography. Compact groups of hills and low mountains with gently rounded ridges, broad, shallow cirques with flaring walls, rise 4,000 feet above surrounding rolling plateaus and broad flat lowlands. The Purcell Mountains and Zane Hills are located within this unit. Major tributaries include Shiniliaok, Wheeler and Caribou Creeks as well as the Daki, Pah and Hogatza rivers. Numerous thaw lakes are present and in the central portion of this unit probably 50 percent of the surface is water. The entire section is underlain by permafrost and periglacial erosional processes predominate and altiplanation terraces are common. Major vegetation types are Closed spruce-hardwood forests, Open low growing spruce forests, and Alpine tundra.

Table 5:16 Scenic Quality Field Inventory – Pah River

Form 8400-1 (September 1985)	Date: 15 October 2015
UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT **SCENIC QUALITY FIELD INVENTORY**	Central Yukon Field Office
	SQRU: Pah River

1. Evaluators (names): Holli McClain, Outdoor Recreation Planner; Randy Goodwin, Outdoor Recreation Planner

2. LANDSCAPE CHARACTER (feature)

	a. LANDFORM/WATER	b. VEGETATION	c. STRUCTURE (General)
Form	Compact gently rounded hills and rugged mountains up to 4000 feet surrounded by rolling plateaus and broad valleys bottoms 5 to 10 miles wide at 400 feet; slow meandering rivers, numerous flat thaw lakes, rounded and flared cirque lakes. Prominent transition between flats and mountain ranges.	Irregular, asymmetrical, layered conical spruce interspersed with complex rounded birch in open and closed mixed forest. Scattered low-land low growing shrub. Rough linear willow and alder shrub thickets along rivers.	Blocky community facilities of scattered cabins, landing strips, linear roads and trails.
Line	Jagged irregular diagonal mountains with razor ridge lines rising above a gradual rounded smooth upland rising above a smooth flowing broad flat valley with meandering rivers.	Irregular complex vegetation changes from low-land tall to medium shrub and mixed forest to low growing shrub and tundra on ridges.	Regular straight, horizontal, vertical and diagonal lines.
Color	Blues and browns of water – streams. Rivers and small lakes. Grays and tans of gravel bars, bluffs and rock ridges. Mottled greys of upland plateaus.	Irregular hues of green mixed evergreen and deciduous trees, low and medium shrub and tundra vegetation. Vertical white of deciduous trees contrast with greens of	Natural browns and grays of logs and wood buildings and multi colored roofing. Blacks, grays and browns of road, trails and mining activities.

		evergreen trees and shrubs. Interesting fall colors.	
Texture	Rugged, rough ridgelines, smooth rolling hills and plateaus in broad smooth lowlands.	Irregular rough texture of open and closed forests, various shrub thickets to fine, smooth tundra. Medium scattered vegetation along gravel bars. Vegetation patterns create a random, patchy, mottled texture.	Smooth log or wood texture Medium texture of continuous roads and trails. Course to fine texture of mining activities.

3. Narrative: The Pah River Section extends from the Hogatza River in the east to an area around to Ingruksukruk Creek in the west. About half of the unit is in the planning area. Facilities within this unit include Hogatza, mining activities, road and trails, landing strips, isolated cabins and camps. KOP #A-26, A-27 and A-28.

4. SCORE					
	HIGH	**MED**	**LOW**	**EXPLANATION OR RATIONALE**	**SCENIC QUALITY CLASSIFICATION**
a. Landform		3		3 major mountain ranges and 3 major river drainages.	Class A - 19 or more
b. Vegetation		3		3 major vegetative types.	
c. Water		3		3 major rivers with tributaries in a diversified topography.	Class B- 12 -18
d. Color		3		Hues of greens for mixed forest and shrub, fall contrast of deciduous trunks and low shrub.	
e. Adjacent Scenery			2	This unit is an upland surrounded by flats and lowlands.	Class C - 11 or less
f. Scarcity		3		Unique in its diversity but somewhat similar to other units within the planning area.	

g. Cultural Modification		0		Hogatza mining activities introduce modifications to a small area that do not blend with the surrounding landscape. Overall landscape is undeveloped.	
Totals	**17**				**Class B**

Pah River Section is part of the Western Alaska Province. It is an area with diverse topography. Compact groups of hills and low mountains with gently rounded ridges, broad, shallow cirques with flaring walls, rise 4,000 feet above surrounding rolling plateaus and broad flat lowlands. The Purcell Mountains and Zane Hills are located within this unit. Major tributaries include Shiniliaok, Wheeler and Caribou Creeks as well as the Daki, Pah and Hogatza rivers. Numerous thaw lakes are present and in the central portion of this unit probably 50 percent of the surface is water. The entire section is underlain by permafrost and periglacial erosional processes predominate and altiplanation terraces are common. Major vegetation types are Closed spruce-hardwood forests, Open, low growing spruce forests, and Alpine tundra.

Adjacent Physiographic Division descriptions:

Indian River Upland is within the Western Alaska Providence and is characterized by groups of low, gentle ridges with accordant summits (Slokhenjikh and Sushgitit hills) interspersed with irregular lowlands and broad flat divides and valleys. Mountains rise up to 4,000 feet above the valley floor (500 feet). Major rivers have narrow canyons and irregular courses. They include the Kanuti, Koyukuk, Melozitna and Dulbi. Numerous thaw lakes are in the lowlands, valleys and broad passes. The entire area is underlain by permafrost and periglacial processes predominate with altiplanation terraces common at upper elevations. Major vegetative types are Closed spruce-hardwood forests, Open, low-growing spruce forests, Treeless bog and Alpine tundra.

Kobuk-Selawik Lowland Located within the Western Alaska Province is chiefly broad river flood plains and lake lowlands. Rounded hills rise up to 3,000 feet from the valley floor at 700 feet. Headwaters of the Hogatza, Alatna and Kobuk rivers and tributaries are the major water systems. Thaw lakes and sinks dot the lowlands with Norutak Lake being the largest. Most of the unit is underlain by permafrost. Major vegetative type is Closed spruce-hardwood forests.

Koyukuk Flats Located within the Western Alaska Province is an extensive lowland at the junction of the Yukon and Koyukuk Rivers. Flat plains with meander belts are between 5 and 20 miles wide. Dunes and thaw sinks stand 100-200 feet above the plains and merge imperceptible with the surrounding uplands at 2,000 feet in the Nulato Hills and isolated mountains above the Koyukuk and Yukon rivers and tributaries. Innumerable meander-scroll lakes, oxbow lakes and thaw lakes are present. The majority of the unit is underlain by permafrost. Major vegetative types are Closed spruce-hardwood forests, Open, low-growing spruce forests, Treeless bog, Alpine tundra.

Nulato Hills Located within the Western Alaska Province consists of even-crested ridges with rounded summits and gentle slopes. River valleys are flat floored narrow with entrenched headwater streams and few lakes. Highland areas with steep ridges rise to about 4,000 feet above the valleys (900 feet). Major tributaries Rode, Kaltag, SF Nulato, Gisasa, Nonhosa, Pitka, Kateel and SF Huslia rivers. The entire unit is probably underlain by permafrost. Major vegetative types are Closed spruce-hardwood forests, Treeless bogs, Alpine tundra.

Table 5:17 Scenic Quality Field Inventory – Porcupine Plateau

Form 8400-1 (September 1985)	Date: 15 April 2009
UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT **SCENIC QUALITY FIELD INVENTORY**	Eastern Interior Field Office
	SQRU: Porcupine Plateau

1. Evaluators (names): Holli McClain, Outdoor Recreation Planner; Collin Cogley, Outdoor Recreation Planner

2. LANDSCAPE CHARACTER (feature)

	a. LANDFORM/WATER	b. VEGETATION	c. STRUCTURE (General)
Form	Gentle rolling and rounded hills and mountains commonly around 2,000 feet but occasionally up to 2,800 feet transitioning to flat basin at 900-1,000 feet. Most relief between 1,000-2,000 feet in elevation. Tributaries are sinuous headwaters to meandering rivers and round lakes.	Smooth to irregular mixed forest, shrub, and wetlands. Vertical mixed forests to more horizontal shrubs and wetlands and open areas creating a scattered patchy mosaic.	Small, isolated block cabins and associated buildings
Line	Flowing random smooth trending horizontal hills and low mountains blending to flat lowlands. Parallel flowing or still water.	Irregular complex lines of mixed forest to simple curving regular line of shrubs and wetlands.	Regular straight vertical and diagonal line
Color	Various rocky peaks with irregular colored tops with some scree slopes. Blue-browns of water and streams with brown and tans of gravel bars.	Various hues of green mixed forest, shrub and wetland vegetation. Vivid fall colors.	Natural browns and grays of logs and various colored roofing – some shiny.
Texture	Mountains exhibit course, random uneven patchy texture against the smooth, subtle	Course rough texture of mixed forest to smooth grassland and wetland vegetation. Medium	Smooth log texture.

	texture of the foot hills producing a high contrast. Water areas are soft and smooth with medium gravel bars along water courses and lakes.	shrub vegetation types create a patchy mosaic.	

3. Narrative: Within the CYFO planning area, the unit has elevation changes of 3,600 feet, from valley floors of 1,000 feet up to uplands of 4,600 feet. Outside the planning area massive forms of the Ogilvie and Keele Ranges stand out against the lowlands of the Porcupine Plateau. Water is more dominate in this landscape than the Oglivie/Keele Ranges with the Chandalar, Black, Lower Black, Kandik, Salmon Fork and other tributaries. No large lakes occur but small lakes are abundant.

There is an aircraft radar site on Snowy Peak which consists of a few buildings and some large storage tanks. These facilities blend with the surrounding landscape and are not generally noticeable and do not attract the attention of the casual observer from ground level. Isolated cabins and homesteads occur within this area but are generally small and somewhat screened from travel routes (i.e., river courses).

The Porcupine Plateau extends from the Canada border in the east to approximately 5 miles east of Monarch Creek in the west. Only a small portion of this unit is in the planning area. Facilities within this unit include a few isolated cabins. There are no KOPs for this unit.

4. SCORE					
	HIGH	**MED**	**LOW**	**EXPLANATION OR RATIONALE**	**SCENIC QUALITY CLASSIFICATION**
a. Landform			1	Rolling hills and low mountains are common throughout the area	Class A - 19 or more
b. Vegetation	5			Mixed forest, shrub and tundra communities	
c. Water		4		Water features of tributaries and major rivers with small lakes scattered throughout the area enhance the landscape.	Class B- 12 -18
d. Color		4		Vivid mixed forest and tundra vegetation in summer and fall, blues and browns of rivers and gravel bars.	
e. Adjacent Scenery			1	Ogilives and Keele Ranges enhance the rolling hills.	Class C - 11 or less
f. Scarcity			1	Rolling uplands and low valley bottoms are not unique compared to adjacent Porcupine Plateau, Yukon Flats and Tintina Valley.	

g. Cultural Modification		0		Cultural modifications blend with the surrounding landscape.	
Totals	**16**				**Class B**

Porcupine Plateau is part of the Northern Plateaus Province which consists of low ridges having gentle slopes and rounded to flat summits from 1,500 to 2,500 feet with a few domes and mountains rising to 3,500 feet above broad irregular valley floors (1000 feet). All the area within the planning area drains into the Yukon River with the Chandalar, Black and Little Black being the dominate rivers which meander through broad irregular flats in the southeastern part of the division. Scattered pingos and thaw lakes occur in lowlands. The entire area is underlain by continuous permafrost. Major vegetative types are Closed spruce-hardwood forests, Open, low growing spruce forests and Moist tundra.

Adjacent Physiographic Division descriptions:

Kokrine-Hodzana Highlands is part of the Northern Plateaus Province which is characterized by even-topped rounded ridges with elevations of 2,000-4,000 feet surmounted by isolated rugged mountains rising to 5,700 feet and valleys at 1000 feet. Rugged mountains in this unit may have cirques and glaciated valleys and craggy cliff tors that rise abruptly from broad ridgetops (Kokrine Hills and part of the Ray Mountains, Fort Hamlin Hills). Antiplanation terraces, stone polygons and other periglacial features are common. Major rivers are the Koyukuk, Hodzana, Tozitna, Melozitna Dall, Kanuti and Yukon. A few large lakes occur in the lowlands (Sithylemenkat and Tokusatatquaten, Taclodahten, Birch Hill, Grayling) while small lakes occur along major drainages. The entire province is probably underlain by permafrost. Major vegetative types are Closed spruce-hardwood forests and Alpine tundra and Moist tundra.

Table 5:18 Scenic Quality Field Inventory – Rampart Trough

Form 8400-1 (September 1985)	Date: 21 September 2009; 1 April 2015
UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT **SCENIC QUALITY FIELD INVENTORY**	Eastern Interior Field Office; Central Yukon Field Office
	White Mountains Subunit
	SQRU: Rampart Trough

1. Evaluators (names): Holli McClain, Outdoor Recreation Planner; Collin Cogley, Outdoor Recreation Planner; Randy Goodwin, Outdoor Recreation Planner

2. LANDSCAPE CHARACTER (feature)

	a. LANDFORM/WATER	b. VEGETATION	c. STRUCTURE (General)
Form	Irregular, gently rolling uplands rising to 1,500 feet with valley floors at 800 feet – elevational change 700 feet. Flowing to broad U-shaped meandering valleys. Occasional minor bluffs along water courses.	Complex irregular mixed forest with diverse irregular shrub and grass under-stories and open areas of shrub and grass wetlands creating scattered patchy random mosaic forms.	Small, isolated block cabins and associated buildings. Bold cylindrical pipeline on regular vertical supports for parallel linear structure. Small bridge structures with parallel, smooth flat horizontal form.
Line	Complex, soft curving flowing uplands, blending to wide U-shaped valleys. Flowing line of U-shaped valley floors exhibit continuous flowing regular line. Some small streams with V-shaped valleys present continuous, hard, irregular line.	Bold irregular complex lines of mixed forest to simple curving regular line of shrubs and grass wetlands.	Bold regular straight, vertical, continuous and horizontal lines.
Color	Natural browns and grays of small bluffs and gravel bars along water courses. Blues and browns of rivers.	Irregular hues of green mixed forest, shrub and grass wetlands vegetation. Vivid fall colors. Diverse colors of vegetation.	Natural browns and grays of logs and wood buildings and multi colored roofing. Blacks, grays and browns of road and bridge

			structures. Shiny metal of pipeline with reds of support structures.
Texture	Uplands exhibit fine subtle, random texture against the smooth, texture of valleys. Water areas are soft and smooth.	Irregular texture of various vegetation types from course trees to fine grass. Medium gravel bars along water courses.	Smooth log or wood texture with fascia boards and decks, etc. Smooth metal texture of pipeline with fine, ordered support structures. Medium texture of continuous roads and highway.

3. Narrative: The Rampart Trough extends from around Waldron Creek in the east to the Yukon River in the west. It is a narrow province between the Yukon-Tanana Upland and the Kokrine-Hodzana Highlands. This is just a small part of the larger unit. Facilities within this unit include the Dalton Highway mp 36 to 24 (State Scenic Byway), Trans Alaska Pipeline, miscellaneous structures, and Rampart. The may be other structures within this area such as communications towers, primitive roads and trails. KOP #25.

4. SCORE					
	HIGH	**MED**	**LOW**	**EXPLANATION OR RATIONALE**	**SCENIC QUALITY CLASSIFICATION**
a. Landform			1	Gently rolling hills with little elevation change, terraced rivers.	Class A - 19 or more
b. Vegetation		3		Mixed forest, shrub and grass wetlands communities.	
c. Water			2	Water does not a dominate feature of this area.	Class B- 12 -18
d. Color		3		Vivid mixed forest and grass wetland vegetation in summer and fall, blues and browns of streams, bluffs and gravel bars.	
e. Adjacent Scenery			0	This unit is located between the Kokrine-Hodzana Highlands and the Yukon-Tanana Upland with more diverse landscape features.	Class C - 11 or less

f. Scarcity			2	The trough is somewhat unique within the planning area but similar to the other lowland units.	
g. Cultural Modification		0		Cultural modifications do not blend with the surrounding landscape. Overall landscape is undeveloped.	
Totals	**11**				**Class C**

Rampart Trough part of the Northern Plateaus Province is a structurally controlled depression having gently rolling topography up to 1,500 feet high and incised down to 2,500 feet below the surrounding highlands. Terraces along rivers can be 500 feet above stream level. Scattered thaw lakes lie on the floodplain and elsewhere. Permafrost underlies all the lowlands except the floodplain. Hard rock hills and surrounding uplands are partly metamorphosed sedimentary and volcanic rock and cut by granitic intrusions resulting in cliff formations. Major vegetative types are Close spruce-hardwood forest.

Adjacent Physiographic Division descriptions:

Kokrine-Hodzana Highlands is part of the Northern Plateaus Province which is characterized by even-topped rounded ridges with elevations of 2,000-4,000 feet surmounted by isolated rugged mountains rising to 5,700 feet and valleys at 1,000 feet. Rugged mountains in this unit may have cirques and glaciated valleys and craggy cliff tors that rise abruptly from broad ridgetops (Kokrine Hills and part of the Ray Mountains, Fort Hamlin Hills). Antiplanation terraces, stone polygons and other periglacial features are common. Major rivers are the Koyukuk, Hodzana, Tozitna, Melozitna Dall, Kanuti and Yukon. A few large lakes occur in the lowlands (Sithylemenkat and Tokusatatquaten, Taclodahten, Birch Hill, Grayling) while small lakes occur along major drainages. The entire province is probably underlain by permafrost. Major vegetative types are Closed spruce-hardwood forests and Alpine tundra and Moist tundra.

Nowitna Lowlands part of the Western Alaska Province is characterized by low rolling silt-covered tableland up to 900 feet in elevation with broad flat flood plains with incised major rivers and steep walled canyons. Gentle hills rise to 1,500 feet. The Yukon River is along the northern boundary of the unit. Major Rivers include the Tanana, Nowitna and Chistinana. Oxbow and thaw lakes are common. Permafrost is common except in flood plains. Major vegetative types are Closed spruce-hardwood forests, Open, low growing spruce forests, and Treeless bogs.

Yukon-Tanana Upland is part of the Northern Plateaus Province that displays rounded even-topped ridges with gentle side slopes. The rounded ridges in this subunit trend northeast to east and have ridge-crest altitudes up to 3,000 feet and rise 500 to 1,500 feet above the valley floor. These lower ridges are surrounded by compact rugged mountains rising another 2,000 feet to

heights of 5,000 feet in altitude (Sawtooth Mountain, Wolverine and Elephant Mountains). Valleys are generally flat, with alluvium floors. Major rivers include the Tolovana, Tatalina, and Chatanika in U shaped valleys. There are a few thaw lakes in this discontinuous permafrost region. Periglacial mass-wasting is active at high altitudes, and ice wedges lace the frozen muck of valley bottoms. Pingos are common in valleys and on lower hill slopes. Major vegetative types are Closed spruce-hardwood forests, Treeless bogs, and Alpine tundra.

Table 5:19 Scenic Quality Field Inventory – Tanana-Kuskokwim Lowland

Form 8400-1 (September 1985)	Date: 03 June 2009; 31 March 2015
UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT **SCENIC QUALITY FIELD INVENTORY**	Eastern Interior Field Office; Central Yukon Field Office
	Fortymile Subunit
	SQRU: Tanana-Kuskokwim Lowland

1. Evaluators (names): Holli McClain, Outdoor Recreation Planner; Colin Cogley, Outdoor Recreation Planner; Randy Goodwin, Outdoor Recreation Planner

2. LANDSCAPE CHARACTER (feature)

	a. LANDFORM/WATER	b. VEGETATION	c. STRUCTURE (General)
Form	Gentle rolling and rounded hills commonly around 2,000 feet transitioning to flat basin at 900 feet. Most relief is about 1,000 feet in elevation to low flat basin. Tributaries are meandering rivers in broad flat valleys and small round lakes.	Smooth to irregular mixed forest, shrub, and wetlands. Vertical mixed forests to more horizontal shrubs and wetlands and open areas creating a scattered patchy mosaic.	Large to small communities of 1000 people or less with houses, businesses, and support structures. Strip development and, isolated block homes and associated buildings along the highways. Triangular radio towers, parallel power lines, the Parks, Richardson and Alaska Highways and associated rectangular bridges, flat wayside parking areas. Alaska Railroad. Bold cylindrical pipeline on regular vertical supports for parallel linear structure. Flat regular parallel lines of railroad.
Line	Flowing, random smooth trending low, horizontal hills blending to flat broad lowlands. Parallel or braided flowing, soft or still water.	Irregular complex lines of mixed forest to simple curving regular line of shrubs and wetlands.	Bold regular straight vertical lines of buildings and signs and diagonal and horizontal line of power lines. Horizontal regular line of railroad.

Color	Vegetative covered hills. Blue-browns of water and streams with brown and tans of gravel bars and small bluffs.	Various hues of green mixed forest, shrub and wetland vegetation. Mixed vegetation produces multiple fall colors.	Natural browns and grays of log buildings and multi colored wood buildings and roofing. Blacks, grays and browns of road and bridge structures. Shiny metal of towers, and power lines with brown support structures and pipeline red support structures. Browns of mining activities.
Texture	Smooth, subtle foot hills. Water areas are soft and smooth with medium gravel bars along water courses and lakes.	Course rough texture of mixed forest to smooth grassland and wetland vegetation. Medium shrub vegetation types create a patchy mosaic.	Smooth log or wood texture with fascia boards and decks, etc., contrasting with adjacent buildings. Rough roofs. Smooth metal texture of power lines with fine, ordered support structures. Medium texture of continuous roads, railroad and highways.

3. Narrative: The Tanana-Kuskokwim Lowland extends from just west of George Lake in the east to the Cosna River in the northwest and to an area around the Big River in the southwest. This is just a small part of the larger province. Communities within this unit include Fairbanks, North Pole, Anderson, Salcha, Delta Junction, Big Delta, Nenana and Clear Air Force Base. The Alaska Railroad, Parks Highway (mp 272-312), Richardson Highway (mp 362-246), Alaska Highway (mp 1385-1422), and Alaska Pipeline traverse this unit. There are a number of isolated cabins and houses with associated structures as well as transmission lines, radio towers, bridges etc. The Tanana River and Nenana River are major water sources as well as other medium sized lakes and wetlands. A number of major drainages flow into the Tanana River. KOP# 28, 36, 37, 39, A-4, A-5, A-19.

4. SCORE					
	HIGH	**MED**	**LOW**	**EXPLANATION OR RATIONALE**	**SCENIC QUALITY CLASSIFICATION**
a. Landform			1	Rolling hills are common throughout the area	Class A - 19 or more
b. Vegetation		2		Few mixed forest communities, mostly shrub and tundra communities	
c. Water		3		Water features of tributaries and major rivers with small lakes scattered throughout the area enhance the landscape.	Class B- 12 -18

d. Color		2		Vivid mixed forest and tundra vegetation in summer and fall, blues and browns of rivers and gravel bars.	
e. Adjacent Scenery		2		The Northern Foothills to the south, the Yukon-Tanana Upland to the north, and the Kuskokwim Mountains unit to the west, draw attention away from this unit.	Class C - 11 or less
f. Scarcity			1	Rolling uplands and low valley bottoms are not unique compared to adjacent Porcupine Plateau.	
g. Cultural Modification			-4	Cultural modifications do not blend with the surrounding landscape.	
Totals	**7**				**Class C**

Tanana-Kuskokwim Lowland is part of the Western Alaska Province and is a broad depression. Most of the rivers are glacial and flow in tight meanders, in broad outwash fans in terraced valleys. Thaw lakes abound in areas of fine alluvium. Thaw sinks are also abundant in areas of thick loess cover. The entire section is an area of permafrost. Major vegetative types are Closed spruce-hardwood forests, Open, low growing spruce forests, and Treeless bogs.

Adjacent Physiographic division descriptions:

Kuskokwim Mountains part of the Western Alaska Province is characterized by a monotonous succession of northeast-trending ridges with rounded to flat summits with broad gentle slopes rising to 2000 feet in elevation. The area has isolated groups of rugged glaciated mountains up to 4,400 feet in elevation in broad flat valleys. Major tributaries include the Kuskokwim with a deeply incised gorge, Cosna River, Yuki, Sulatna, Nowitna and the Sethkokna rivers and their tributaries. Permafrost underlies most of the unit and periglacial erosional processes predominate. Major vegetative types are Closed spruce-hardwood forests, Open, low growing spruce forests, and Alpine tundra.

Northern Foothills Northern Plateaus Province is located within the Alaska-Aleutian Province are flat-topped, east trending ridges up to 4,500 feet in height, up to 7 miles wide and 5 to 20 miles long. These are separated by rolling lowlands up to 1,500 feet high and 2 to 10 miles wide. Major streams of the foothills are superimposed across the topography in rugged impassable v-shaped canyons and across lowlands in broad terraced valleys. There are a few small thaw lakes in lowland passes, and morainal areas have shallow irregular ponds. Permafrost is extensive and

polygonal ground and solifluction features are well developed. Major vegetative types are Closed spruce-hardwood forests, Moist tundra, and Alpine tundra.

Nowitna Lowlands part of the Western Alaska Province is characterized by low rolling silt-covered tableland up to 900 feet in elevation with broad flat flood plains with incised major rivers and steep walled canyons. Gentle hills rise to 1,500 feet. The Yukon River is along the northern boundary of the unit. Major Rivers include the Tanana, Nowitna and Chistinana. Oxbow and thaw lakes are common. Permafrost is common except in flood plains. Major vegetative types are Closed spruce-hardwood forests, Open, low growing spruce forests, and Treeless bogs.

Yukon-Tanana Upland is part of the Northern Plateaus Province that displays rounded even-topped ridges with gentle side slopes. The rounded ridges in this subunit trend northeast to east and have ridge-crest altitudes up to 3,000 feet and rise 500 to 1,500 feet above the valley floor. These lower ridges are surrounded by compact rugged mountains rising another 2,000 feet to heights of 5,000 feet in altitude (Sawtooth Mountain, Wolverine and Elephant Mountains). Valleys are generally flat, with alluvium floors. Major rivers include the Tolovana, Tatalina, and Chatanika in U shaped valleys. There are a few thaw lakes in this discontinuous permafrost region. Periglacial mass-wasting is active at high altitudes, and ice wedges lace the frozen muck of valley bottoms. Pingos are common in valleys and on lower hill slopes. Major vegetative types are Closed spruce-hardwood forests, Treeless bogs, and Alpine tundra.

Table 5:20 Scenic Quality Field Inventory – Tozitna–Melozitna Lowland

Form 8400-1 (September 1985)	Date: 07 April 2015
UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT **SCENIC QUALITY FIELD INVENTORY**	Central Yukon Field Office
	SQRU: Tozitna–Melozitna Lowland

1. Evaluators (names): Holli McClain, Outdoor Recreation Planner; Randy Goodwin, Outdoor Recreation Planner

2. LANDSCAPE CHARACTER (feature)

	a. LANDFORM/WATER	b. VEGETATION	c. STRUCTURE (General)
Form	Simple low rolling hills rising 2500 feet above 5-10 mile wide flat river valleys at 600 feet. Two major rivers meander gently through the wide valleys.	Complex irregular mixed forest with diverse irregular shrub and grass bogs creating scattered patchy random mosaic forms.	Small, isolated block cabins and associated buildings, flat trails.
Line	Flat to rolling hills transitioning to flat soft simple flowing meandering rivers and flat curving broken oxbow and thaw lakes.	Bold irregular complex lines of mixed forest to simple curving regular line of shrubs and bogs.	Bold regular straight, vertical, and horizontal lines of buildings and trails.
Color	Blues and browns of water – streams, rivers and lakes. Browns and tans of gravel bars and cut banks. Most of the landform is covered by vegetation.	Irregular hues of green mixed forest, bog vegetation.	Natural browns and grays of log buildings and multi colored wood buildings and roofing.
Texture	Uniform smooth rolling hills and continuous smooth valleys Water areas are soft and smooth.	Rough, irregular texture of various vegetation types from course trees to fine bogs.	Smooth log or wood textures.

		Medium gravel bars along water courses.	

3. Narrative: The Tozitna-Melozitna unit is entirely within the planning area. It extends from Sam Creek in the east to approximately 10 miles east of the Dulbi River in the west and is primarily the Tozitna and Melozitna rivers. Facilities within this unit include isolated cabins and camps with associated structures as well as trails. KOP #A-22, A-23, A-24 and A-25.

4. SCORE					
	HIGH	**MED**	**LOW**	**EXPLANATION OR RATIONALE**	**SCENIC QUALITY CLASSIFICATION**
a. Landform			1	Rolling hills are common throughout the area.	Class A - 19 or more
b. Vegetation			2	Mixed forest community with shrub and treeless bog communities.	
c. Water		3		Water features of tributaries and two major rivers with small lakes scattered throughout the area enhance the landscape.	Class B- 12 -18
d. Color			2	Various green hues of mixed forest and bog; blues and browns of rivers and gravel bars.	
e. Adjacent Scenery			1	The Kokrine-Hodzana Highland to the south and east, the Indian River Uplands to the north draw attention away from this unit and accentuate the lowland characteristics.	Class C - 11 or less
f. Scarcity			1	Rolling uplands and low valley bottoms are not unique.	
g. Cultural Modification		0		Cultural modifications are minimal in the unit and blend with the surrounding landscape. Overall landscape is undeveloped.	

Totals	**10**		**Class C**

Tozitna-Melozitna Lowland is part of the Western Alaska Province and is a long, narrow rolling plain 5 to 10 miles wide along the head of the Tozitna and Melozitna rivers. While the uplands rise to 2,400 the lowlands are at 700 feet in elevation and the pass between the two rivers is less than 1,000 feet. Other major water bodies include the Norseman and Lost lakes and Dagislakhna, Gishna, Slokhenjikk and Wrongtrail creeks. Numerous thaw lakes and oxbow lakes are common. The area is underlain by discontinuous permafrost. Major vegetative types are Closed spruce-hardwood forests and Treeless bogs.

Adjacent Physiographic Division descriptions:

Koyukuk Flats located within the Western Alaska Province is an extensive lowland at the junction of the Yukon and Koyukuk Rivers. Flat plains with meander belts are between 5 and 20 miles wide. Dunes and thaw sinks stand 100-200 feet above the plains and merge imperceptible with the surrounding uplands at 2,000 feet in the Nulato Hills and isolated mountains above the Koyukuk and Yukon rivers and tributaries. Innumerable meander-scroll lakes, oxbow lakes and thaw lakes are present. The majority of the unit is underlain by permafrost. Major vegetative types are: Closed spruce-hardwood forests, Open, low-growing spruce forests, Treeless bog, Alpine tundra.

Nowitna Lowlands part of the Western Alaska Province is characterized by low rolling silt-covered tableland up to 900 feet in elevation with broad flat flood plains with incised major rivers and steep walled canyons. Gentle hills rise to 1,500 feet. The Yukon River is along the northern boundary of the unit. Major Rivers include the Tanana, Nowitna and Chistinana. Oxbow and thaw lakes are common. Permafrost is common except in flood plains. Major vegetative types are Closed spruce-hardwood forests, Open, low growing spruce forests, and Treeless bogs.

Tanana-Kuskokwim Lowland is part of the Western Alaska Province and is a broad depression. Most of the rivers are glacial and flow in tight meanders, in broad outwash fans in terraced valleys. Thaw lakes abound in areas of fine alluvium. Thaw sinks are also abundant in areas of thick loess cover. The entire section is an area of permafrost. Major vegetative types are Closed spruce-hardwood forests, Open, low growing spruce forests, and Treeless bogs.

Table 5:21 Scenic Quality Field Inventory – Yukon Flats Section

Form 8400-1 (September 1985)	Date: 15 April 2009; 8 April 2015
UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT **SCENIC QUALITY FIELD INVENTORY**	Eastern Interior Field Office; Central Yukon Field Office
	Steese Subunit, Black River Subunit; CYFO RMP
	SQRU: Yukon Flats Section

1. Evaluators (names): Holli McClain, Outdoor Recreation Planner; Colin Cogley, Outdoor Recreation Planner; Randy Goodwin, Outdoor Recreation Planner

2. LANDSCAPE CHARACTER (feature)

	a. LANDFORM/WATER	b. VEGETATION	c. STRUCTURE (General)
Form	Gentle rolling and rounded hills commonly about 2,000 feet but occasionally up to 2,300 feet transitioning to flat basin at 600 feet. Most relief is about 1,000 feet in elevation. Tributaries are meandering rivers in broad valleys and round lakes.	Smooth to irregular mixed forest, shrub, and wetlands. Vertical mixed forests to more horizontal shrubs and wetlands and open areas creating a scattered patchy mosaic.	Small, isolated block cabins and associated buildings.
Line	Flowing random smooth trending horizontal hills blending to flat lowlands. Parallel flowing or still water.	Irregular complex lines of mixed forest to simple curving regular line of shrubs and wetlands.	Bold regular straight, vertical, continuous and horizontal lines of buildings.
Color	Vegetative covered hills. Blue-browns of water and streams with brown and tans of gravel bars and small bluffs.	Various hues of green mixed forest, shrub and wetland vegetation. Mixed vegetation produces multiple fall colors.	Natural browns and grays of log buildings and multi colored wood buildings and roofing.

Texture	Smooth, subtle foot hills. Water areas are soft and smooth with medium gravel bars along water courses and lakes.	Course rough texture of mixed forest to smooth grassland and wetland vegetation. Medium shrub vegetation types create a patchy mosaic.	Smooth log or wood texture with fascia boards and decks, etc.

3. Narrative: The Yukon Flats extends from the Charley River in the southeast along the Yukon River to just west of the Dall River in the west. This is just a small portion of a much larger unit located in the eastern portion of the state. No large lakes and only headwater tributaries of the Yukon River occur within the plan area. Isolated cabins and trails may occur on BLM managed lands in this unit. There are no KOPs for this unit.

4. SCORE					
	HIGH	**MED**	**LOW**	**EXPLANATION OR RATIONALE**	**SCENIC QUALITY CLASSIFICATION**
a. Landform			1	Rolling hills are common throughout the area	Class A - 19 or more
b. Vegetation		3		Few mixed forest communities, mostly shrub and tundra communities	
c. Water		3		Water features of tributaries and major rivers with small lakes scattered throughout the area enhance the landscape.	Class B- 12 -18
d. Color		3		Vivid mixed forest and tundra vegetation in summer and fall, blues and browns of rivers and gravel bars.	
e. Adjacent Scenery			0	The unit is adjacent to the Kokrine-Hodzana Highlands which accentuate the lowland characteristics of this unit.	Class C - 11 or less
f. Scarcity			1	Rolling uplands and low valley bottoms are not unique.	
g. Cultural Modification		0		Cultural modifications blend with the surrounding landscape.	

Totals	**11**		**Class C**

Yukon Flats Section The southeastern part of this division is a broad gentle outwash fan while most of the rest within the planning area is nearly flat flood plain. Rolling silt-and gravel-covered marginal terraces having sharp escarpment 150-600 feet high rise above the flats and slope gradually upward to altitudes of about 1,500 feet at the base of surrounding uplands and mountains up to 4,000 feet. The escarpments expose well-consolidated or crystalline rocks. Most of the waterways have meandering courses through the flats. Thaw lakes are abundant throughout the flats and are common with thaw sinks on the marginal terraces. Permafrost is probably abundant under most of this division except for under rivers, recently abandoned meander belts, and large thaw lakes. Major vegetative types are Closed spruce-hardwood forests.

Adjacent Physiographic Division descriptions:

Kokrine-Hodzana Highlands is part of the Northern Plateaus Province which is characterized by even-topped rounded ridges with elevations of 2,000 to 4,000 feet surmounted by isolated rugged mountains rising to 5,700 feet and valleys at 1,000 feet. Rugged mountains in this unit may have cirques and glaciated valleys and craggy cliff tors that rise abruptly from broad ridgetops (Kokrine Hills and part of the Ray Mountains, Fort Hamlin Hills). Antiplanation terraces, stone polygons and other periglacial features are common. Major rivers are the Koyukuk, Hodzana, Tozitna, Melozitna Dall, Kanuti and Yukon. A few large lakes occur in the lowlands (Sithylemenkat and Tokusatatquaten, Taclodahten, Birch Hill, Grayling) while small lakes occur along major drainages. The entire province is probably underlain by permafrost. Major vegetative types are Closed spruce-hardwood forests and Alpine tundra and Moist tundra.

Table 5:22 Scenic Quality Field Inventory – Yukon-Tanana Upland

Form 8400-1 (September 1985)	Date: 21 January 2015
UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT **SCENIC QUALITY FIELD INVENTORY**	Central Yukon Field Office
	SQRU: Yukon-Tanana Upland

1. Evaluators (names): Holli McClain, Outdoor Recreation Planner; Randy Goodwin, Outdoor Recreation Planner

2. LANDSCAPE CHARACTER (feature)

	a. LANDFORM/WATER	b. VEGETATION	c. STRUCTURE (General)
Form	Even topped, rounded ridges with gentle slopes trending parallel rising to 3000 feet above valley. Flowing to broad U shaped meandering valleys. Occasional minor bluffs along water courses.	Complex irregular mixed forest with diverse irregular shrub and grass under-stories and open areas of shrub and grass wetlands creating scattered patchy random mosaic forms.	Small, isolated block cabins and associated buildings. Blocky community facilities of Manley, Minto, Fox, Ester and Fairbanks. Bold cylindrical pipeline on regular vertical supports for parallel linear structure. Small bridge structures with parallel smooth flat horizontal form, power lines and transmission lines. Flat regular parallel lines of railroad.
Line	Undulating divides, flat to rolling ridges with isolated rugged mountains. Soft curving flowing uplands, blending to wide U shaped valleys. Flowing line of U shaped valley floors exhibit continuous flowing regular line. Some small streams with V shaped valleys.	Bold irregular complex lines of mixed forest to simple curving regular line of shrubs and tundra.	Bold regular straight, vertical, continuous and horizontal lines of buildings, roads and railroad. Regular vertical lines of signs.

Color	Gray to brown of rugged peaks with irregular black colored scree slopes. Blues and browns of water – streams. Rivers and small lakes. Grays and tans of gravel bars, bluffs and rock outcrops. Most of the landform is covered by vegetation.	Irregular hues of green mixed forest, shrub and tundra vegetation. Vivid fall colors.	Natural browns and grays of log buildings and multi colored wood buildings and roofing. Blacks, grays and browns of road and bridge structures. Shiny metal of towers, and power lines with brown support structures and pipeline red support structures. Browns of mining activities.
Texture	Mountains exhibit course, random texture against the smooth, subtle texture of the high domes producing a high contrast. Water areas are soft and smooth.	Rough, irregular texture of various vegetation types from course trees to fine tundra. Medium gravel bars along water courses.	Smooth log or wood texture with fascia boards and decks, etc. Smooth metal texture of pipeline with fine, ordered support structures. Medium texture of continuous roads, railroads and highway.

3. Narrative: The Yukon-Tanana Upland extend from the Canada border in the east to an area west of Manley Hot Springs. This is just a small part of the larger unit with most of the unit located in the eastern portion of the state. Facilities within this unit include the Dalton Highway (State Scenic Byway) mp 24 to 0 with parking areas, Trans Alaska Pipeline, Elliott Highway mp 0-150, Pump Station #7, Parks Highway mp 312 to 358, Tofty Road, Manley Hot Springs, Minto, Fox, Ester, Fairbanks, Alaska Railroad, material sites, mining claims, landing strips, miscellaneous structures, parking areas and waysides. The may be other structures within this area such as communications towers, primitive roads and trails. KOP #26, 27, 29, 30, 31, 38, 39 and A-1.

4. SCORE					
	HIGH	**MED**	**LOW**	**EXPLANATION OR RATIONALE**	**SCENIC QUALITY CLASSIFICATION**
a. Landform		3		Diversity of flat ridge, isolated mountains and U shaped valleys.	Class A - 19 or more
b. Vegetation	5			Mixed forest, shrub, tundra and treeless bog communities.	
c. Water		3		Major flowing rivers do not a dominate feature of this area.	Class B- 12 -18
d. Color	5			Vivid mixed forest and grass wetland vegetation in summer and fall, blues and browns of streams,	

				bluffs and gravel bars. Vivid fall colors.	
e. Adjacent Scenery		3		This province is surrounded by lowlands resulting in contrast with the uplands and mountains of this unit.	Class C - 11 or less
f. Scarcity		3		This area is unique within the planning area	
g. Cultural Modification			-2	Cultural modifications do not blend with the surrounding landscape. Much of the unit has developed areas.	
Totals	**20**				**Class A**

Yukon-Tanana Upland is part of the Northern Plateaus Province that displays rounded even-topped ridges with gentle side slopes. The rounded ridges in this subunit trend northeast to east and have ridge-crest altitudes up to 3,000 feet and rise 500 to 1,500 feet above the valley floor. These lower ridges are surrounded by compact rugged mountains rising another 2,000 feet to heights of 5,000 feet in altitude (Sawtooth Mountain, Wolverine and Elephant mountains). Valleys are generally flat, with alluvium floors. Major rivers include the Tolovana, Tatalina, and Chatanika in U shaped valleys. There are a few thaw lakes in this discontinuous permafrost region. Periglacial mass-wasting is active at high altitudes, and ice wedges lace the frozen muck of valley bottoms. Pingos are common in valleys and on lower hill slopes. Major vegetative types are Closed spruce-hardwood forests, Treeless bogs, and Alpine tundra.

Adjacent Physiographic Divisions descriptions:

Nowitna Lowlands part of the Western Alaska Province is characterized by low rolling silt-covered tableland up to 900 feet in elevation with broad flat flood plains with incised major rivers and steep walled canyons. Gentle hills rise to 1,500 feet. The Yukon River is along the northern boundary of the unit. Major Rivers include the Tanana, Nowitna and Chistinana. Oxbow and thaw lakes are common. Permafrost is common except in flood plains. Major vegetative types are Closed spruce-hardwood forests, Open, low growing spruce forests, and Treeless bogs.

Rampart Trough part of the Northern Plateaus Province is a structurally controlled depression having gently rolling topography up to 1,500 feet high and incised down to 2,500 feet below the surrounding highlands on either side. Terraces long rivers can be up to 500 feet above stream

level. Scattered thaw lakes lie on the flood plain and elsewhere. Permafrost underlies all the lowlands except the flood plain. Hard rock hills and surrounding uplands are partly metamorphosed sedimentary and volcanic rock and cut by granitic intrusions resulting in cliff formations. Major vegetative types are Close spruce-hardwood forest.

Tanana-Kuskokwim Lowland is part of the Western Alaska Province and is a broad depression. Most of the rivers are glacial and flow in tight meanders, in broad outwash fans in terraced valleys. Thaw lakes abound in areas of fine alluvium. Thaw sinks are also abundant in areas of thick loess cover. The entire section is an area of permafrost. Major vegetative types are Closed spruce-hardwood forests, Open, low growing spruce forests, and Treeless bogs.

Chapter 6: Visual Sensitivity Worksheets

The following Sensitivity Level Rating Sheets show the sensitivity rating for each of the SLRUs in the planning area.

Table 6:1 Sensitivity Level Rating Sheet – Fairbanks North Star Borough

Form 8400-6 (September 1985)	
UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT Eastern Interior Field Office **SENSITIVITY LEVEL RATING SHEET**	Date: 27 August 2015 Central Yukon Field Office Subunit: Fairbanks Subunit Location: Fairbanks North Star Borough
1. Evaluators (names) Holli McClain, Outdoor Recreation Planner; Randy Goodwin, Outdoor Recreation Planner; Kelly Egger, Outdoor Recreation Planner	

Sensitivity Level Rating Unit	Type of User	Amount of Use	Public Interest	Adjacent Land Uses	Special Areas	Other Factors	Overall Rating	Explanation
	L	L	M	L	L	n/a	Low	Residents of the area know that development will occur on most of the "vacant" parcels within the FNSB. Some choose to live in more remote areas – away from development. The BLM parcels receive very little use from residents.
	M	L	M	L	L	n/a	Low	Visitors to Fairbanks know that it is a developed area within a generally natural area. They do not know where the boundaries are for the FNSB. Natural settings, outside the obvious boundaries of the city, are important. The BLM parcels receive very little, if any use from visitors.

Sensitivity Level Rating = Low
H= High M= Medium L= Low

Notes: BLM managed parcels within the Fairbanks North Star Borough are generally isolated, small parcels scattered among other lands with various levels of development. Most of the lands within the FNSB are within sight of either rural development or more urban development. Most of the parcels are developed to some extent, i.e., communication sites, power line rights-or-ways, NOAA Withdrawal, military lands, material sites, aviation sites, etc., and range in size from less than 2 acres to 1,700 acres (NOAA). The Upper Stone Boy Creek site at 640 acres and the parcel adjacent to the White Mountains are remote and excluded from this assessment.

There are several largely undeveloped recreation areas within the FNSB: Chena River State Recreation Area, Salcha State Recreation Area, and Tanana Lakes Recreation Area, Chena Lakes Recreation Area, Birch Hill Recreation Area, Two Rivers Recreation Area, Isberg Recreation Area, and Fairbanks Lions Recreation Area. Other largely undeveloped areas include portions of Minto Flats, portions of the Tanana Flats area, the Salcha River drainage, portions of the Chena River drainage and portions of the Chatanika River drainage. Of the BLM managed lands in the FNSB, one parcel is adjacent to the Salcha State Recreation Area, two parcels are located in remote areas of the Chena River drainage and one parcel is adjacent to the Tanana River and military lands. Most if not all the remaining parcels are within or adjacent to developed lands.

Population of FNSB is approximately 99,000, however less than 5,000 visits occur on most of the BLM managed parcels within the FNBS. The NOAA site receives local resident visits at a moderate level.

Table 6:2 Sensitivity Level Rating Sheet – Communities

Form 8400-6 (September 1985)

UNITED STATES
DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT
Eastern Interior Field Office

SENSITIVITY LEVEL RATING SHEET

Date: 29 October 2015

Central Yukon Field Office

Location: Communities

1. Evaluators (names)
Holli McClain, Outdoor Recreation Planner; Randy Goodwin, Outdoor Recreation Planner; Kelly Egger, Outdoor Recreation Planner

Sensitivity Level Rating Unit	Type of User	Amount of Use	Public Interest	Adjacent Land Uses	Special Areas	Other Factors	Overall Rating	Explanation
Alatna	H	M	H	M	L	n/a	Mod	Population 37 Annual use approximately 13,000 Kanuti National Wildlife Refuge
Allakaket	H	M	H	M	L	n/a	Mod	Population 105 Annual use approximately 38,000 Kanuti National Wildlife Refuge
Bettles	M	H	M	M	L	n/a	Mod	Population 12 Annual use approximately 4,000 Kanuti National Wildlife Refuge Gates of the Arctic National Park and Preserve
Delta Junction	L	H	L	L	L	n/a	L	Population of 958 Annual use approximately 2,091,450
Evansville	H	M	H	M	L	n/a	Mod	Population 15 Annual use approximately 4,000 Kanuti National Wildlife Refuge

Sensitivity Level Rating Unit	Type of User	Amount of Use	Public Interest	Adjacent Land Uses	Special Areas	Other Factors	Overall Rating	Explanation
								Gates of the Arctic National Park and Preserve
Fort Greely	L	H	L	L	L	n/a	Low	Population of 539 Annual use approximately 2,091,450
Galena	M	H	H	M	H	n/a	High	Population 470 Annual use approximately 171,000 Hub community Iditarod National Historic Trail Koyukuk National Wildlife Refuge Innoko National Wildlife Refuge
Hughes	H	M	H	M	L	n/a	Mod	Population 77 Annual use approximately 28,000 Koyukuk National Wildlife Refuge Indian Mountain Airforce Site
Kaltag	H	H	H	M	H	n/a	High	Population 190 Annual use approximately 69,000 Iditarod National Historic Trail Innoko National Wildlife Refuge
Koyukuk	H	M	H	M	H	n/a	High	Population 96 Annual use approximately 35,000 Iditarod National Historic Trail Innoko National Wildlife Refuge
Nulato	H	H	H	N	H	n/a	High	Population 264 Annual use approximately 96,000 Iditarod National Historic Trail Innoko National Wildlife Refuge
Rampart	H	M	H	L	L	n/a	Mod	Population 24 Annual use approximately 8,000
Ruby	H	H	H	M	H	n/a	High	Population 166 Annual use approximately 60,000 Iditarod National Historic Trail

Sensitivity Level Rating Unit	Type of User	Amount of Use	Public Interest	Adjacent Land Uses	Special Areas	Other Factors	Overall Rating	Explanation
								Poorman Road Nowitna National Wildlife Refuge
Tanana	H	H	H	M	M	n/a	High	Population 246 Annual use approximately 89,000 Nowitna National Wildlife Refuge
Sensitivity Level Rating = variable								
H= High M= Moderate L= Low								

Table 6:3 Sensitivity Level Rating Sheet – Major Rivers

Form 8400-6 (September 1985)

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT Eastern Interior Field Office **SENSITIVITY LEVEL RATING SHEET**	Date: 18 November 2015 Central Yukon Field Office SQRU: Major Rivers

1. Evaluators (names)
Holli McClain, Outdoor Recreation Planner; Randy Goodwin, Outdoor Recreation Planner; Kelly Egger, Outdoor Recreation Planner

Sensitivity Level Rating Unit	Type of User	Amount of Use	Public Interest	Adjacent Land Uses	Special Areas	Other Factors	Overall Rating	Explanation
Alatna	H	M	H	L	L	n/a	Mod	Local residents and area subsistence users
Bettles	H	L	H	M	H	n/a	High	Areas of Environmental Concern
Big Salt	M	L	L	L	L	n/a	Low	Local residents and area subsistence users
North Fork Chandalar	H	M	H	H	M	n/a	High	Local residents and area subsistence users Visible from the Dalton Highway, a State Scenic Byway with values of scenic, natural, historic, cultural, archaeological and recreational Special Recreation Permit users and clients Arctic National Wildlife Refuge
Dietrick	M	M	M	L	H	n/a	Mod	Local residents and area subsistence users

Sensitivity Level Rating Unit	Type of User	Amount of Use	Public Interest	Adjacent Land Uses	Special Areas	Other Factors	Overall Rating	Explanation
								Visible from the Dalton Highway, a State Scenic Byway with values of scenic, natural, historic, cultural, archaeological and recreational Special Recreation Permit users and clients Areas of Environmental Concern
Dulbi	H	L	H	M	L	n/a	Mod	Local residents and area subsistence users Areas of Environmental Concern Special Recreation Permit users and clients Koyukuk National Wildlife Refuge
Hogatza	H	L	M	L	M	n/a	Mod	Local residents and area subsistence users Areas of Environmental Concern Special Recreation Permit users and clients Koyukuk National Wildlife Refuge
Jim	H	L	H	H	H	n/a	High	Local residents and area subsistence users Areas of Environmental Concern Recreation users Kanuti National Wildlife Refuge
John	M	L	H	L	L	n/a	Low	Local residents and area subsistence users Visitors to Gates of the Arctic National Park and Preserve
Kaltag	H	L	H	L	L	n/a	Mod	Local residents and area subsistence users
Kanuti	H	L	H	H	L	n/a	Mod	Local residents and area subsistence users

Sensitivity Level Rating Unit	Type of User	Amount of Use	Public Interest	Adjacent Land Uses	Special Areas	Other Factors	Overall Rating	Explanation
								Areas of Environmental Concern Kanuti National Wildlife Refuge
Kanuti-Kilolitna	H	L	M	M	H	n/a	Mod	Areas of Environmental Concern Special Recreation Permit users and clients
Main Stem Koyukuk	H	L	M	H	L	n/a	Mod	Local residents and area subsistence users Gates of the Arctic National Preserve
Middle Fork Koyukuk	H	L	H	H	L	n/a	Mod	Local residents and area subsistence users Commercial users Areas of Environmental Concern Special Recreation Permit users and clients Gates of the Arctic National Preserve
South Fork Koyukuk	M	M	L	M	L	n/a	Mod	Local residents and area subsistence users Visible from the Dalton Highway, a State Scenic Byway with values of scenic, natural, historic, cultural, archaeological and recreational Commercial users Recreational users Special Recreation Permit users and clients Kanuti National Wildlife Refuge
Matthews	H	M	H	H	H	n/a	High	Local residents and area subsistence users Recreation users Areas of Environmental Concern Special Recreation Permit users and clients Koyukuk National Wildlife Refuge

Sensitivity Level Rating Unit	Type of User	Amount of Use	Public Interest	Adjacent Land Uses	Special Areas	Other Factors	Overall Rating	Explanation
Melozitna	H	L	H	M	L	n/a	Mod	Local residents and area subsistence users Special Recreation Permit users and clients Koyukuk National Wildlife Refuge
Mentanontli	M	L	M	M	L	n/a	Mod	Local residents and area subsistence users Areas of Environmental Concern
Nutirwik Creek	H	L	M	H	H	n/a	High	Local residents and area subsistence users Areas of Environmental Concern Visible from the Dalton Highway, a State Scenic Byway with values of scenic, natural, historic, cultural, archaeological and recreational Special Recreation Permit users and clients Koyukuk National Wildlife Refuge
Quartz Creek (T'eedriinjik River)	H	L	H	H	H	n/a	High	Local residents and area subsistence users Recreation users
Ray	M	L	M	M	M	n/a	Mod	Local residents and area subsistence users Areas of Environmental Concern Recreation users
Sulatna	M	L	M	M	L	n/a	Mod	Special Recreation Permit users and clients Nowitna National Wildlife Refuge
Tanana	H	M	H	L	L	n/a	Mod	Local residents and area subsistence users

Sensitivity Level Rating Unit	Type of User	Amount of Use	Public Interest	Adjacent Land Uses	Special Areas	Other Factors	Overall Rating	Explanation
Tozitna	M	L	M	M	L	n/a	Mod	Local residents and area subsistence users Areas of Environmental Concern Special Recreation Permit users and clients
Upper Your Creek	M	L	M	H	L	n/a	Mod	Recreation users Special Recreation Permit users and clients Arctic National Wildlife Refuge
Yukon	H	H	H	H	L	n/a	High	Local residents and area subsistence users Areas of Environmental Concern Innoko National Wildlife Refuge Nowitna National Wildlife Refuge
Sensitivity Level Rating = variable								
H= High M= Moderate L= Low								

Table 6:4 Sensitivity Level Rating Sheet – Dalton Highway

Form 8400-6 (September 1985)

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT Eastern Interior Field Office **SENSITIVITY LEVEL RATING SHEET**	Date: 14 October 2015 Central Yukon Field Office Location: Dalton Highway

1. Evaluators (names)
Holli McClain, Outdoor Recreation Planner; Randy Goodwin, Outdoor Recreation Planner; Kelly Egger, Outdoor Recreation Planner

Sensitivity Level Rating Unit	Type of User	Amount of Use	Public Interest	Adjacent Land Uses	Special Areas	Other Factors	Overall Rating	Explanation
	H	L	H	H	H		High	Residents of Coldfoot and Wiseman
	H	M	H	H	H		High	Visitors
	M	H	M	L	H		Mod	Commercial Users

Sensitivity Level Rating = High

H= High M= Moderate L= Low

Notes: The Dalton Highway is the only access road to the oil fields along the Arctic Ocean/Beaufort Sea and was originally constructed to facilitate the construction of the Trans-Alaska Oil Pipeline. The northern portion of the highway was closed to the general public until 1994. The Trans-Alaska Oil Pipeline is visible from the Dalton Highway for over 90 Percent of the route and BLM manages the right-of-way (utility corridor). ADOT vehicle numbers for the Dalton Highway at the Yukon River Bridge for 2013 are estimated to be 80,300 annually while vehicle numbers at Atigun River are estimated to be 49,275. That would reasonably translate to

240,900 and 147,825 travelers respectively. Visitor numbers at the Arctic Interagency Visitor Center at Coldfoot are 7,970 in 2015 while visitors at Yukon Crossing are 7,611 in 2015.

Coldfoot has a population of 10 (2010)

Wiseman has a population of 14 (2010)

There are other public lands visible and accessed from the Dalton Highway. They include State of Alaska lands, Gates of the Arctic National Park and Preserve, Yukon Flats National Wildlife Refuge, Kanuti National Wildlife Refuge and Arctic National Wildlife Refuge.

The State of Alaska Department of Natural Resources has the Yukon-Tanana Area Plan for lands along the lower section of the Dalton Highway. BLM parcels are within the Lower Tanana Region and have a range of management prescriptions which include management for general / multiple uses, protect and maintain habitat values, management to protect and maintain natural wetland processes, and management for appropriate land disposal.

The Dalton Highway is a State Scenic Byway with scenic, natural, historic, cultural, archeological and recreation values.

Table 6:5 Sensitivity Level Rating Sheet – Elliott Highway

Form 8400-6 (September 1985)

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT Eastern Interior Field Office **SENSITIVITY LEVEL RATING SHEET**	Date: 14 October 2015 Central Yukon Field Office Location: Elliott Highway MP 72–150

1. Evaluators (names)
Holli McClain, Outdoor Recreation Planner; Randy Goodwin, Outdoor Recreation Planner; Kelly Egger, Outdoor Recreation Planner

Sensitivity Level Rating Unit	Type of User	Amount of Use	Public Interest	Adjacent Land Uses	Special Areas	Other Factors	Overall Rating	Explanation
	H	H	H	M	L	n/a	High	Residents of Minto and Manley
	M	H	M	M	L	n/a	Mod	Visitors
	L	H	L	L	L	n/a	Low	Commercial Users

Sensitivity Level Rating = Moderate

H= High M= Moderate L= Low

Notes: The Elliott Highway is the only access road to the communities of Minto and Manley Hot Springs. ADOT vehicle numbers for the Elliott Highway at the junction with the Minto Spur Road for 2013 are estimated to be 14,600 annually. That would reasonably translate to 43,800 travelers. BLM managed lands along this section of the Elliott Highway are generally small parcels along the road ranging in size from approximately 44,600 acres to 1,000 acres or more remote parcels around Minto road ranging in size from approximately 3,800 acres to 640 acres.

Minto has a population of 210 (2010)

Manley Hot Springs has a population of 89 (2010)

The State of Alaska Department of Natural Resources has the Yukon-Tanana Area Plan for lands along this section of the Elliott Highway. BLM parcels are within the Lower Tanana Region and have a range of management prescriptions which include management for forestry values and protect and maintain habitat values, management of the Minto Flats State Game Refuge and the Tanana Valley State Forest, management for natural processes, management to protect and maintain natural wetland processes, and management to protect and maintain recreation values.

Table 6:6 Sensitivity Level Rating Sheet – Parks Highway

Form 8400-6 (September 1985)

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT Eastern Interior Field Office **SENSITIVITY LEVEL RATING SHEET**	Date: 14 October 2015 Central Yukon Field Office Location: Parks Highway MP 231–325

1. Evaluators (names)
Holli McClain, Outdoor Recreation Planner; Randy Goodwin, Outdoor Recreation Planner; Kelly Egger, Outdoor Recreation Planner

Sensitivity Level Rating Unit	Type of User	Amount of Use	Public Interest	Adjacent Land Uses	Special Areas	Other Factors	Overall Rating	Explanation
	H	H	H	M	L	n/a	Mod	Residents of Nenana, Anderson, Healy and Denali National Park
	H	H	H	L	L	n/a	Mod	Visitors
	M	H	M	L	L	n/a	Mod	Commercial Users
Sensitivity Level Rating = Moderate								

H= High M= Moderate L= Low

Notes: The Parks Highway is the only access road to the communities of Nenana, Anderson, Healy and McKinley Park. ADOT vehicle numbers for the Parks Highway at MP 290 (close to Anderson) for 2013 are estimated to be 525,600 annually while vehicle numbers for the Parks Highway at MP 241 (close to Healy) for 2013 are estimated to be 773,800. That would reasonably translate to 1,576,800 and 2,321,400 travelers respectively. BLM managed lands along this section of the Parks Highway are generally small parcels along the road ranging in size

from approximately 40 acres to 3,200 acres or more remote parcels east of the Parks Highway between mile 282-288 ranging in size from approximately 640 acres to 3,200 acres.

Nenana has a population of 378 (2010)

Anderson has a population of 246 (2010)

Healy has a population of 1,021 (2010)

McKinley Park has a population of 185 (2010)

The State of Alaska Department of Natural Resources has the Yukon-Tanana Area Plan for lands along this section of the Parks Highway. BLM parcels are within the Parks Highway and West Alaska Range Region and have a range of management prescriptions which include management to maintain habitat values, maintain recreation values, mineral values and resources, caribou and moose habitats, and potential land disposal.

The Parks Highway is a State Scenic Byway for 116 miles from Denali State Park to Healy with scenic, natural and archaeological values.

Table 6:7 Sensitivity Level Rating Sheet – Richardson Highway

Form 8400-6 (September 1985)

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT Eastern Interior Field Office	Date: 26 July 2016
	Central Yukon Field Office
SENSITIVITY LEVEL RATING SHEET	Location: Richardson Highway

1. Evaluators (names)
Holli McClain, Outdoor Recreation Planner; Randy Goodwin, Outdoor Recreation Planner; Kelly Egger, Outdoor Recreation Planner

Sensitivity Level Rating Unit	Type of User	Amount of Use	Public Interest	Adjacent Land Uses	Special Areas	Other Factors	Overall Rating	Explanation
	M	H	M	L	L	n/a	Mod	Residents of Fairbanks, Fort Wainwright, North Pole, Eielson Airforce Base, Salcha, Delta Junction and Fort Greely
	M	H	M	L	L	n/a	Mod	Visitors
	L	H	L	L	L	n/a	Low	Commercial Users

Sensitivity Level Rating = Moderate

H= High M= Moderate L= Low

Notes: This portion of the Richardson Highway is the only access to the communities of Eielson Air Force Base, Salcha, and Fort Greely. ADOT vehicle numbers for the Richardson Highway at the junction with the Steese Highway for 2013 are estimated to be 7,427,750 annually. That would reasonably translate to 22,283,250 visitors; however most of this traffic is local traffic for

Fairbanks North Star Borough. ADOT vehicle numbers for the Richardson Highway at the junction with the Alaska Highway at Delta Junction for 2013 are estimated to be 1,452,700 annually with a traveler count of 4,358,100; however much of this traffic is local traffic for the Delta Junction area.

Delta Junction has a population of 958 (2010)

Fort Greely has a population of 539 (2010)

Salcha has a population of 1,095 (2010)

The State of Alaska Department of Natural Resources has the Draft Eastern Tanana Area Plan for lands along this section of the Richardson Highway. BLM parcels, outside the Fairbanks North Star Borough are within the Fairbanks Region and Delta Region and have a range of management prescriptions which include management to maintain habitat values, maintain recreation values, mineral values and resources, caribou and moose habitats, and potential land disposal. BLM parcels are within Fairbanks Region and the Delta Region and are outside this planning area. Other lands are associated with the Fairbanks North Star Borough and were evaluated under that form.

Table 6:8 Sensitivity Level Rating Sheet – Steese-Elliott Highway

Form 8400-6 (September 1985)

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT Eastern Interior Field Office **SENSITIVITY LEVEL RATING SHEET**	Date: 14 October 2015 Central Yukon Field Office Location: Steese-Elliott Highway

1. Evaluators (names)
Holli McClain, Outdoor Recreation Planner; Randy Goodwin, Outdoor Recreation Planner; Kelly Egger, Outdoor Recreation Planner

Sensitivity Level Rating Unit	Type of User	Amount of Use	Public Interest	Adjacent Land Uses	Special Areas	Other Factors	Overall Rating	Explanation
	M	H	M	L	L	n/a	Mod	Residents of Livengood and Fox
	M	H	M	L	L	n/a	Mod	Visitors
	L	H	L	L	L	n/a	Low	Commercial Users

Sensitivity Level Rating = Moderate

H= High M= Moderate L= Low

Notes: This portion of the Steese and Elliott Highways are the only access to the Dalton Highway and Livengood. ADOT vehicle numbers for the Elliott Highway at the junction with the Steese Highway for 2013 are estimated to be 412,500 annually. That would reasonably translate to 1,237,000 visitors; however most of this traffic is local traffic for Fox and other housing areas located adjacent to the highways. ADOT vehicle numbers for the Elliott Highway at the Tolovana River for 2013 are estimated to be 178,850 annually with a traveler count of 536,000. BLM does not manage lands along these sections of the Elliott or Steese highways outside of the Fairbanks North Star Borough.

Fox has a population of 417 (2010)

Livengood has a population of 13 (2010)

The State of Alaska Department of Natural Resources has the Yukon-Tanana Area Plan for lands along this section of the Elliott Highway. BLM parcels are within the Lower Tanana Region and are associated with the White Mountains National Recreation Area and are outside this planning area. Other lands are associated with the Fairbanks North Star Borough and were evaluated under that form.

Chapter 7: Summary

Section 7:1 Fairbanks Subunit

The tables below show the results of the VRM Inventory (VRI Class) for the Fairbanks Subunit. The first table shows inventory results for all lands in the subunit (Map 6). The second table displays VRI results for BLM-managed lands. Acreage numbers are rounded and are based on the 2009 Land Status maps.

Table 7:1 Visual Resource Inventory for all lands within the Fairbanks Subunit

Measurement	Inventory Parameters	VRI Class I (acres)	VRI Class II (acres)	VRI Class III (acres)	VRI Class IV (acres)	Percent of Subunit
Scenic Quality Rating (SQRU)	SQRU A	0	2,549,930	0	0	54%
	SQRU B	0	0	0	0	0
	SQRU C	0	0	0	2,155,680	46%
Visual Sensitivity	High	0	0	0	0	0
	Moderate	0	582,017	0	958,621	33%
	Low	0	1,967,913	0	1,197,060	67%
Distance Class	Foreground-Middleground	0	518,271	0	735,840	27%
	Background	0	634,667	0	907,216	33%
	Seldom-seen	0	1,396,992	0	512,625	40%

Table 7:2 Visual Resource Inventory for BLM-managed lands within the Fairbanks Subunit

Measurement	Inventory Parameters	VRI Class I (acres)	VRI Class II (acres)	VRI Class III (acres)	VRI Class IV (acres)	Percent of Subunit
Scenic Quality Rating (SQRU)	SQRU A	0	1,230	0	0	7%
	SQRU B	0	0	0	0	0
	SQRU C	0	0	0	17,648	93%
Visual Sensitivity	High	0	0	0	0	0
	Moderate	0	0	0	17,053	90%
	Low	0	1,230	0	594	10%
Distance Class	Foreground-Middleground	0	1,230	0	11,343	67%
	Background	0	0	0	6,305	33%
	Seldom-seen	0		0	0	0

Section 7:2 Middle Yukon Subunit

The tables below show the results of the VRM Inventory (VRI Class) for the Middle Yukon Subunit. The first table shows inventory results for all lands in the subunit (Map 7). The second table displays VRI results for only BLM-managed lands. Acreage numbers are rounded and are based on the 2009 Land Status maps.

Table 7:3 Visual Resource Inventory for all lands within the Middle Yukon Subunit

Measurement	Inventory Parameters	VRI Class I (acres)	VRI Class II (acres)	VRI Class III (acres)	VRI Class IV (acres)	Percent of Subunit
Scenic Quality Rating (SQRU)	SQRU A	0	6,452,879	0	0	21%
	SQRU B	0	599,591	3,254,157	9,731,773	43%
	SQRU C	0	0	1,675,345	9,685,402	36%
Visual Sensitivity	High	0	2,993,826	2,498,191	1,411,025	22%
	Moderate	0	2,918,633	2,431,312	8,473,708	44%
	Low	0	1,140,012	0	9,532,442	34%
Distance Class	Foreground-Middleground	0	3,154,692	4,106,657	2,809,111	31%
	Background	0	3,399,376	822,845	7,195,044	37%
	Seldom-seen	0	498,403	0	9,413,020	32%

Table 7:4 Visual Resource Inventory for BLM-managed lands within the Middle Yukon Subunit

Measurement	Inventory Parameters	VRI Class I (acres)	VRI Class II (acres)	VRI Class III (acres)	VRI Class IV (acres)	Percent of Subunit
Scenic Quality Rating (SQRU)	SQRU A	0	1,103,737	0	0	13%
	SQRU B	0	123,314	1,690,549	4,149,145	72%
	SQRU C	0	0	137,940	1,117,439	15%
Visual Sensitivity	High	0	674,974	405,877	139,052	15%
	Moderate	0	538,232	1,422,612	1,750,729	44%
	Low	0	13,844	0	3,376,803	41%
Distance Class	Foreground-Middleground	0	627,281	1,560,552	351,666	31%
	Background	0	585,925	267,937	1,608,303	29%
	Seldom-seen	0	13,844	0	3,306,616	40%

Section 7:3 Utility Corridor Subunit

The tables below show the results of the VRM Inventory (VRI Class) for the Utility Corridor Subunit. The first table shows inventory results for all lands in the subunit (Map 8). The second table displays VRI results for only BLM-managed lands. Acreage numbers are rounded and are based on the 2009 Land Status maps.

Table 7:5 Visual Resource Inventory for all lands within the Utility Corridor Subunit

Measurement	Inventory Parameters	VRI Class I (acres)	VRI Class II (acres)	VRI Class III (acres)	VRI Class IV (acres)	Percent of Subunit
Scenic Quality Rating (SQRU)	SQRU A	0	12,992,190	0	0	66%
	SQRU B	0	0	1,689,659	2,855,009	27%
	SQRU C	0	0	193,874	1,251,323	7%
Visual Sensitivity	High	0	7,490,234	1,630,007	74,136	46%
	Moderate	0	1,170,810	253,526	1,328,733	14%
	Low	0	5,082,267	0	2,703,463	40%
Distance Class	Foreground-Middleground	0	5,339,660	447,400	718,995	33%
	Background	0	3,371,350	1,436,133	683,874	28%
	Seldom-seen	0	5,032,300	0	2,703,463	39%

Table 7:6 Visual Resource Inventory for BLM-managed lands within the Utility Corridor Subunit

Measurement	Inventory Parameters	VRI Class I (acres)	VRI Class II (acres)	VRI Class III (acres)	VRI Class IV (acres)	Percent of Subunit
Scenic Quality Rating (SQRU)	SQRU A	0	4,608,149	0	0	93%
	SQRU B	0	2,061	110,435	97,895	4%
	SQRU C	0	0	9,634	122,302	3%
Visual Sensitivity	High	0	3,267,513	9,634	23,962	67%
	Moderate	0	749,525	110,435	140,515	20%
	Low	0	593,172	0	55,722	13%
Distance Class	Foreground-Middleground	0	2,762,185	120,069	22,146	59%
	Background	0	1,254,852	0	142,330	28%
	Seldom-seen	0	593,172	0	55,722	13%

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