

SAN PEDRO RIPARIAN NATIONAL CONSERVATION AREA VISUAL RESOURCE INVENTORY

August 2013



Tucson Field Office



Department of Interior
Bureau of Land Management, Arizona

Visual Resource Inventory

San Pedro Riparian National Conservation Area (SPRNCA)

Prepared for:



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List of Figures and Tables.....	v
List of Abbreviations	vi
Acknowledgments	vii
1.0 Introduction of Inventory Area	1-1
1.1 Context of the Inventory Area	1-1
1.1.1 Administrative Boundaries	1-3
1.1.2 Settlement and Land Use Patterns	1-3
2.0 Visual Resource Management System	2-1
2.1 Background and Purpose	2-1
2.2 Visual Resource Inventory Overview	2-2
2.3 Visual Resource Management Overview	2-2
2.4 Visual Resource Contrast Rating Overview	2-3
3.0 Visual Resource Inventory	3-1
3.1 Overview	3-1
3.2 Agency and Community Coordination.....	3-1
4.0 Inventory Factor 1: Scenic Quality.....	4-1
4.1 Overview	4-1
4.2 Inventory and Evaluation Methodology	4-1
4.3 Scenic Quality Factors.....	4-11
4.3.1 Landform	4-11
4.3.2 Vegetation	4-11
4.3.3 Water.....	4-11
4.3.4 Color.....	4-12
4.3.5 Influence of Adjacent Scenery	4-12
4.3.6 Scarcity.....	4-12
4.3.7 Cultural Modifications	4-12
4.4 Scenic Quality Summary	4-12
4.4.1 Key Factor Analysis.....	4-13
4.4.2 Scenic Quality Ratings.....	4-17
5.0 Inventory Factor 2: Sensitivity Levels	5-1
5.1 Overview	5-1

5.2	Inventory and Evaluation Methodology	5-2
5.3	Local Agency and Community Coordination	5-4
5.4	Rating Criteria and Scoring Method	5-4
5.5	Sensitivity Level Rating Summary.....	5-4
6.0	Inventory Factor 3: Visual Distance Zones.....	6-1
6.1	Overview	6-1
6.2	Mapping Methodology	6-1
6.3	Distance Zone Summary	6-2
7.0	Visual Resource Inventory Classes	7-1
7.1	Overview	7-1
7.2	Visual Resource Inventory Classes	7-1
8.0	References.....	8-1

Appendix A Scenic Quality Rating Unit Evaluations

Appendix B Sensitivity Level Rating Unit Evaluations

Appendix C Distance Zone Input

Appendix D Photo Log

Appendix E Physiographic Province Inventory Area

Appendix F Agency and Community Coordination

Appendix G Process Record

LIST OF FIGURES AND TABLES

Figures

Figure 1. Project Area	1-2
Figure 2. Modified SQRU Rating Form (Page 1)	4-4
Figure 3. Modified SQRU Rating Form (Page 2)	4-5
Figure 4. Scenic Quality Inventory and Evaluation Chart	4-6
Figure 5. Scenic Quality Rating Units.....	4-7
Figure 6. IOP Location Map	4-9
Figure 7. Scenic Quality Rating: Landform.....	4-23
Figure 8. Scenic Quality Rating: Vegetation.....	4-25
Figure 9. Scenic Quality Rating: Water	4-27
Figure 10. Scenic Quality Rating: Color	4-29
Figure 11. Scenic Quality Rating: Adjacent Scenery	4-31
Figure 12. Scenic Quality Rating: Scarcity	4-33
Figure 13. Scenic Quality Rating: Cultural Modifications	4-35
Figure 14. Scenic Quality Classifications	4-37
Figure 15. Sensitivity Level Ratings	5-7
Figure 16. Visual Distance Zone Ratings	6-3
Figure 17. Visual Resource Inventory Class Matrix.....	7-1
Figure 18. VRI Classifications	7-3

Tables

Table 1. Scenic Quality Rating—Listed in Order of Score	4-18
Table 2. Scenic Quality Rating—Listed by Unit Number	4-20
Table 3. Total Acres by Sensitivity Level Rating.....	5-5

LIST OF ABBREVIATIONS

ACEC	Area of Critical Environmental Concern
BLM	Bureau of Land Management
B2H	Boardman to Hemingway
GIS	Geographic Information System
GPS	Global Positioning System
IOP	Inventory Observation Point
NEPA	National Environmental Policy Act
POP	Photo Observation Point
RMP	Resource Management Plan
SLRU	Sensitivity Level Rating Unit
SPRNCA	San Pedro Riparian National Conservation Area
SQFI	Scenic Quality Field Inventory
SQRU	Scenic Quality Rating Unit
U.S.C.	United States Code
VRCR	Visual Resource Contrast Rating
VRI	Visual Resource Inventory
VRM	Visual Resource Management
WSA	Wilderness Study Area

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1.0 INTRODUCTION OF INVENTORY AREA

1.1 Context of the Inventory Area

This Visual Resource Inventory (VRI) encompasses the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) San Pedro Riparian National Conservation Area (SPRNCA), which is part of the Tucson Field Office located within the Gila District in southeastern Arizona. In order to capture the overall context of the landscape that the SPRNCA falls within, this VRI includes the surrounding mountains and bajadas that make up a portion of the Upper San Pedro Valley. The inventory area covers approximately 921,394 acres of land, with approximately 94,100 (10%) of those acres being managed by the BLM. The inventory area is bound by the Little Rincon Mountains, Johnny Lyon Hills, and Little Dragoon Mountains to the north; the Dragoon Mountains, Tombstone Hills, and Mule Mountains to the east; the Arizona and Mexico International Border to the south; and the Huachuca and Whetstone Mountains to the west—with the San Pedro River bisecting the project area from south to north (Figure 1).

The inventory area falls within the vast expanse of the Basin and Range physiographic province characterized by expansive playas and open grassland basins cut by steep, rugged mountains, mesas, and canyon terrain. The province extends across western New Mexico and continues through southern Arizona, Nevada, western Utah, and southern portions of Idaho and Oregon (refer to the physiographic province map in Appendix E). At a more regional level, the inventory area is further characterized by the Mexican Highland section of the Basin and Range physiographic province, which includes northwest-southeast-trending mountain ranges separated by sloping alluvial fans, bajadas, and terraces. Unique to this area are the high mountain ranges isolated from one another by valleys of desert grasslands and desert scrub. These “sky islands” are part of a complex of approximately 27 mountain ranges in Arizona, New Mexico, and the Mexican States of Sonora and Chihuahua.



Typical Landscape of Basin and Range Physiographic Province

The majority of the inventory area consists of creosotebush, tarbush, whitethorn acacia, yucca, mesquite and grasses that dominate the rolling hills, flats, and valleys. Juniper, oak, ponderosa pine, and pinyon pine dominate the higher mountain elevations, while the San Pedro River corridor and associated drainages are dominated by willows, cottonwoods, Arizona ash, Arizona walnut, riparian shrubs and grasses.

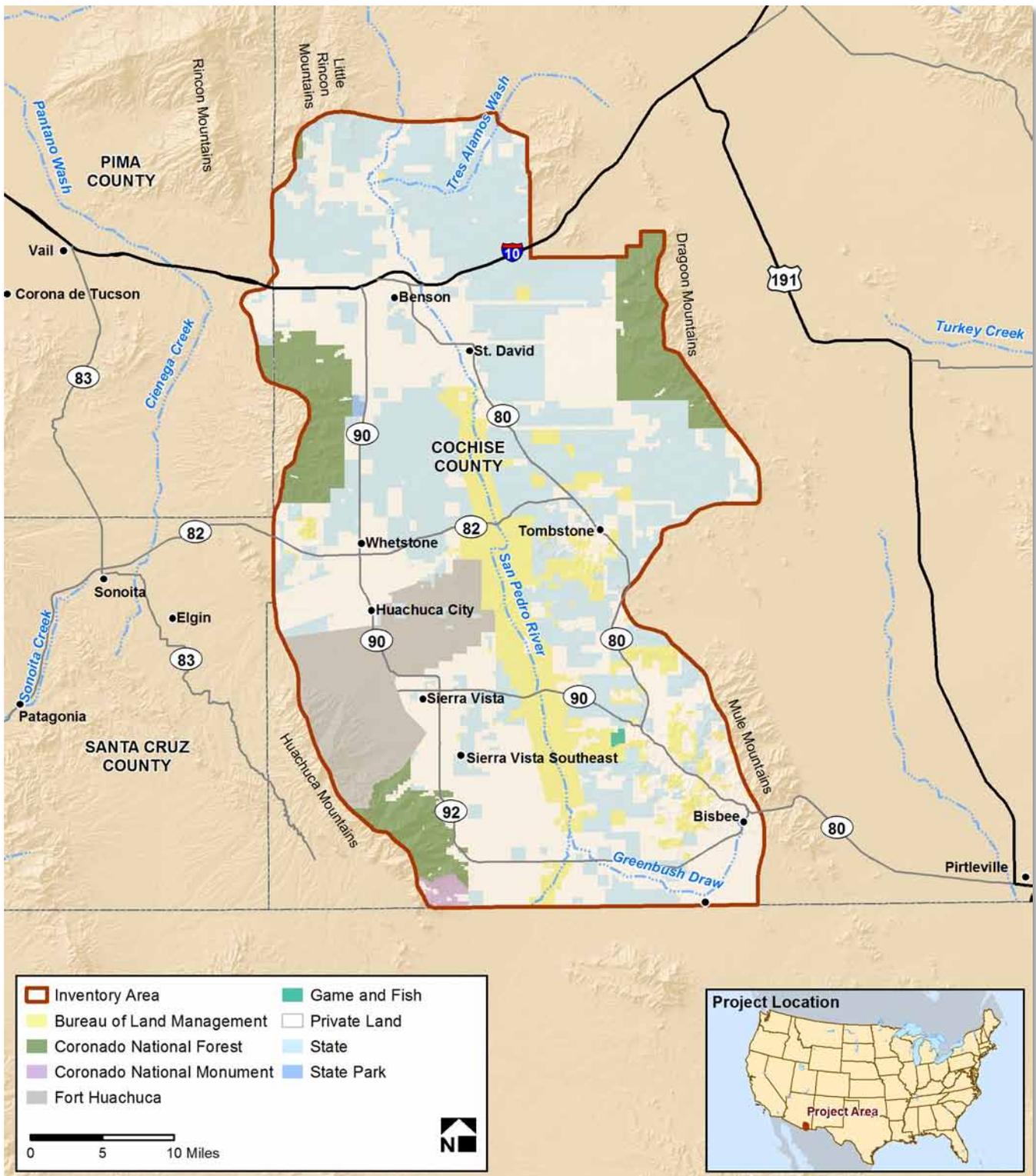


Figure 1. Project Area

1.1.1 Administrative Boundaries

There are several types of administrative boundaries within the inventory area which generally reflect land ownership and management. BLM surface-managed lands comprise a small percentage (approximately 10%) of the overall land within the inventory area. These lands are generally located in the central and southern portions of the project area. Privately owned lands (approximately 37%) are dispersed throughout the entire inventory area; however, the majority of private land is located in the western portions of the inventory area.

The remaining 53% of land within the inventory area is managed by the State of Arizona (approximately 36%), U.S. Forest Service (approximately 9%), and the U.S. Department of Defense (approximately 8%), with smaller percentages owned by the National Park Service, State, and local parks as well as Arizona Game and Fish. No Designated Wilderness Areas managed by the BLM currently exist within the inventory area.

1.1.2 Settlement and Land Use Patterns

The unique qualities of the physiographic province (i.e., geology, soils, hydrology, climate, vegetation, wildlife, etc.) have provided the basis for how the interrelationships between the land and human patterns of settlement have occurred within the inventory area. Prehistory and historical cultures have commonly defined territories by natural drainage patterns. Rivers, creeks, and natural bodies of water have served as a means of cultural dispersion as trade and migration—and eventually settlement—took place.

Settlement within the inventory area has occurred primarily near the major water source of the San Pedro River located in the central portion of the inventory area—and also in the mountainous areas that were rich in precious minerals such as copper and silver. The largest population centers are communities that have supported mining industries or military installations. These communities include the city of Sierra Vista/Fort Huachuca (population 43,888), Bisbee (population 5,575), and Benson (population 5,105) (US Census 2010).



Residential and Infrastructure Development near Mescal, Arizona

Mining operations and access to the communities within the inventory area have lead to several key transportation corridors that provide links within the inventory area and to other portions of the state. Interstate 10 is the largest transportation corridor, and is the southernmost transcontinental highway in the Interstate Highway System of the United States. This corridor runs east-west, bisecting the northern portion of the inventory area. State Routes 80 and 90 bisect the central and western portions of the inventory area, linking Sierra Vista, Benson, and Bisbee. The southern portion of the inventory area

includes State Route 92, which links Bisbee and Sierra Vista near the international border of the United States and Mexico.

Once providing a landscape setting for primitive cultures centered on gathering and big-game hunting, the San Pedro River Valley later included advanced prehistoric cultures that established permanent structures and focused on agriculture. Today, the valley provides for a culture of urban and rural settlement, livestock grazing, agriculture, mining, and military operations.

The inventory area affords a wide range of recreational and tourism opportunities, serving as a destination for many user groups. The diversity of landforms, vegetation, and habitats provide a variety of settings for recreational hiking, camping, hunting, and birding. Tourism draws include the SPRNCA, Kartchner Caverns, and the historic mining towns of Bisbee and Tombstone. The SPRNCA itself draws recreationists from local, regional, national, and international publics. It is recognized by the National Audubon Society as “the first globally important bird area” and attracts thousands each year to view the more than 100 resident species and over 250 migratory species of birds that can be found there. In 1997, the SPRNCA was recommended “Suitable” for inclusion in the Wild and Scenic Rivers System, is habitat for five proposed or listed threatened and endangered species, and has significant cultural resources dating back approximately 11,000 years.

While adaptation and modifications to the land within the inventory area have historically been influenced by agricultural and mining development, the demands for water have increased with the population growth of surrounding cities and towns, specifically Sierra Vista. Increased water use has contributed to reductions in water levels of the San Pedro River to the extent that water is no longer visible in some stretches of the river. The installation of the international border fence has also aided in the reduction of visible water from the San Pedro River as a result of the obstruction of sheet and other surface flows. Energy development and energy distribution needs throughout the western United States has increased proposals for new transmission line corridors within the inventory area.

2.0 VISUAL RESOURCE MANAGEMENT SYSTEM

2.1 Background and Purpose

By congressional mandate, BLM is responsible for managing the resources of public lands for multiple use and sustained yield. This involves balancing the development of diverse resources and ensuring that environmental quality and productivity are not permanently impaired. The BLM's responsibilities for visual management are clearly stated in the following excerpts from federal legislation.

The BLM's responsibilities for managing and protecting scenic values of public lands are further established by requirements in the following federal regulations:

Federal Land Policy and Management Act of 1976 (43 United States Code [U.S.C.] 1701 et seq.)

- Section 102(a)(8) states that “public lands be managed in a manner that will protect the quality of the . . . scenic . . . values.”
- Section 103(c) identifies “scenic values” as one of the resources for which public land should be managed.
- Section 201(a) states that “the Secretary shall prepare and maintain on a continuing basis an inventory of all public lands and their resources and other values (including . . . scenic values).”
- Section 505(a) requires that “each right-of-way shall contain terms and conditions which will . . . minimize damage to the scenic and esthetic values.”

National Environmental Policy Act of 1969 (43 U.S.C. 4321 et seq.)

- Section 101(b) requires that measures be taken to “assure for all Americans . . . esthetically pleasing surroundings.”
- Section 102 requires agencies to “utilize a systematic, interdisciplinary approach which will ensure the integrated use of . . . Environmental Design Arts in the planning and decision-making.”

Surface Mining Control and Reclamation Act of 1977 (30 U.S.C. 1201 et seq.)

- Section 102(d) requires that measures be taken to “assure that surface coal mining operations are so conducted as to protect the environment.”

It is the mission of the BLM to sustain the health, diversity, and productivity of the public lands for the use and enjoyment of present and future generations. BLM's 8400 series policy and guidance has “a basic stewardship responsibility to identify and protect visual values on all BLM lands.” The BLM implemented the Visual Resource Management (VRM) system in 1975 to accomplish these mandates.

The VRM system involves inventorying the visual environment to create a baseline condition, establishing visual management objectives through the resource management planning process, and evaluating proposed activities to determine whether they comply with the management objectives and how they will alter the existing visual environment from the baseline conditions. According to BLM Manual H-1601-1, Land Use Planning, implementation decisions must be designed to achieve VRM objectives within each VRM class. VRM classes may reflect VRI classes, but they may not necessarily do so since management objectives for other resources may require different visual management needs.

2.2 Visual Resource Inventory Overview

As part of the VRM program, the BLM is to prepare and maintain—on a continual basis—an inventory of visual values of all its public lands. The inventory stage identifies the visual resources of an area and assigns them to an inventory class using the BLM's VRI process, which is described in BLM Manual H-8410-1. The VRI process consists of the following:

- A scenic quality evaluation to rate the visual appeal of an area
- A sensitivity level analysis to assess public concern of an area's scenic quality and the public's sensitivity to potential changes in the visual setting
- A delineation of distance zones to indicate the relative visibility of the landscape from primary travel routes or observation points

BLM-managed public lands are classified according to policy direction found in Manual 8400 and related Handbook 8410-1. Current policy requires that every acre of BLM land be inventoried for visual values and be assigned one of four VRI classes (Class I, II, III, or IV). Class I is reserved for those areas where a management decision has been made previously to maintain a natural landscape. This includes areas such as national wilderness areas, the wild section of national wild and scenic rivers, and other congressionally and administratively designated areas where decisions have been made to preserve a natural landscape. VRI consists of a scenic quality evaluation, sensitivity level analysis, and a delineation of distance zones. Based on a matrix combination of these factors, BLM-administered lands are placed into one of three VRI classes (Class II, III, or IV). These inventory classes represent the relative value of the visual resources, with Classes I and II being the most valued, Class III representing a moderate value, and Class IV being of lesser visual value. The inventory classes provide the basis for considering visual values in the resource management planning (RMP) process and constitute the current state of visual resource values as part of the affected environmental sections of environmental analysis.

2.3 Visual Resource Management Overview

Since VRI classes are informational in nature and do not establish management direction, VRM classes are established to reflect the resource-allocation decisions made in the RMP. Once the VRM classes are established, visual management objectives are established for each class.

All actions proposed during the RMP process that would result in surface disturbances must consider the importance of the visual values and the impacts the project may have on those values. Management decisions in the RMP must reflect the value of visual resources. In fact, the value of the visual resource can be a basis for some management decisions. For example, highly scenic areas that need special management attention may be designated as scenic areas of critical environmental concern (ACECs) and classified as VRM Class I based on the importance of the visual values. Likewise, during the planning process, inventory class boundaries may be adjusted as necessary to reflect resource-allocation decisions to provide for development activities that require a major modification of the existing landscape character (e.g., designating a VRM Class IV in an area inventoried as a VRI Class III).

The following VRM objectives have been established for each VRM class (BLM Manual H-8410-1):

- **Class I**—The objective of this class is to preserve the existing character of the landscape. This class provides for natural ecological changes; however, it does not preclude very limited management activity. The level of change to the characteristic landscape should be very low and must not attract attention.
- **Class II**—The objective of this class is to retain the existing character of the landscape. The level of change to the characteristic landscape should be low. Management activities may be seen but should not attract the attention of the casual observer. Any changes must repeat the basic elements of form, line, color, and texture found in the predominant natural features of the characteristic landscape.
- **Class III**—The objective of this class is to partially retain the existing character of the landscape. The level of change to the characteristic landscape should be moderate. Management activities may attract attention but should not dominate the view of the casual observer. Changes should repeat the basic elements found in the predominant natural features of the characteristic landscape.
- **Class IV**—The objective of this class is to provide for management activities that require major modifications of the existing character of the landscape. The level of change to the characteristic landscape can be high. These management activities may dominate the view and be the major focus of viewer attention. However, every attempt should be made to minimize the impact of these activities through careful location, minimal disturbance, and repetition of the basic elements.

2.4 Visual Resource Contrast Rating Overview

The Visual Resource Contrast Rating (VRCR) system is a systematic process used by the BLM to analyze noticeable visual changes from proposed projects and activities using VRM classes that are developed as part of the RMP process. The VRCR is primarily intended as a guide to assist in applying the basic elements of design (form, line, color and texture) in the resolution of noticeable visual alterations. These basic elements are also evaluated as part of the VRI process. The basic principle of

the system is to evaluate to what degree a management activity affects the visual quality of the landscape based on the visual contrast between a project and the existing landscape. The contrast can be measured by comparing the project features with the major features in the existing landscape. The basic elements of form, line, color and texture are used to make this comparison and to describe the visual contrast created by the project. This assessment process provides a means for determining noticeable visual alterations and for identifying measures to mitigate the identified changes.

The VRCR is done from the most critical viewpoints or key observation points (KOPs) of the proposed project or activity. KOPs are usually along commonly traveled routes or at other likely observation points. Factors that should be considered in selecting KOPs are angle of observation, number of viewers, length of time the project is in view, relative project size, season of use, and light conditions. Linear projects such as powerlines, pipelines, wind energy development, or mining should be rated from several viewpoints that represent:

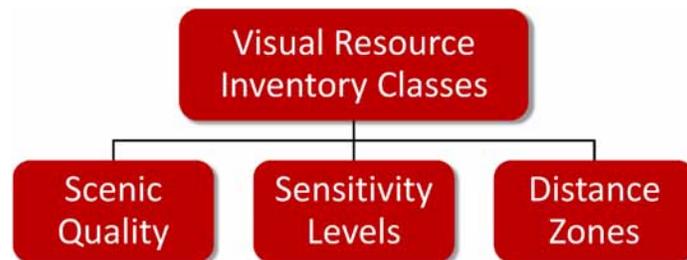
- Most critical viewpoints such as views from communities and road crossings.
- Typical views encountered in representative landscapes, if not covered by critical viewpoints.
- Any special project or landscape features such as skyline crossings, river crossings, substations, etc.

3.0 VISUAL RESOURCE INVENTORY

3.1 Overview

Utilizing the BLM's VRI process described in Section 2.2, Visual Resource Inventory Overview, this inventory of visual resources was prepared based on the following three components—each of which is explained in further detail within its respective section of the document:

- **A scenic quality evaluation** to rate the visual appeal of the inventory area based on vegetation, landform, water, color, adjacent scenery, scarcity, and cultural modifications. Scenic quality is rated as A, B, or C.
- **A sensitivity level analysis** to assess public concern of the inventory area's scenic quality and the public's sensitivity to potential changes in the visual setting. Evaluation is based on types of users, amount of use, public interest (local, regional, national, international), adjacent land uses, and presence of special areas. Sensitivity level is rated as high, medium, or low.
- **A delineation of distance zones** to indicate the relative visibility of the inventory area's landscape from primary travel routes or observation points within the foreground-midground zone (less than 3 to 5 miles away), background zone (to a distance of 15 miles away), and seldom-seen zone (more than 15 miles away or hidden from view in any zone).



As originally developed, the inventory process relied on the manual overlay of mapping layers and preparation of forms to document the data collected and used in the identification of the inventory classes. In an effort to increase the availability of inventory data for planning and project use and to make the information consistent and shareable across the agency, the BLM developed geodata standards for storing the information collected and prepared in VRIs. This inventory follows the National VRI Data Standard and associated VRI Implementation Guide (geodatabase) updated as of August 18, 2010.

3.2 Agency and Community Coordination

In order to enhance the accuracy of the sensitivity level analysis, a literature search and a series of outreach calls were conducted. The literature search identified specific policies, guidelines, goals, and/or strategies that local, regional, and state agencies and communities had for protecting scenic

views and places. This search included review of agency and community websites and plans—identifying visions, goals, destination locations, tourism information, etc., that would assist in determining visually important areas within the inventory area.

The outreach calls involved a general outreach letter and map that BLM sent to a group of contacts. The contacts were subsequently called to discuss their visual sensitivities within the inventory area. Detailed notes were recorded during the calls and polygons were also drawn on a map to represent various areas of sensitivity that the respondents mentioned. Based on the conversation, each of the polygons was assigned a high, moderate, or low sensitivity level to reflect the respondents' opinions.

The polygons were then mapped to represent the contact's high, moderate, and low visual sensitivities. Together, BLM and LSD reviewed the findings of the literature search and outreach calls in relation to the preliminary units that had been developed, and revised the SLRUs based on the additional information.

A more detailed explanation of the agency and community coordination is provided in the Process Record in Appendix G. The results of the literature search, a copy of the outreach letter and map, the list of phone contact responses, and copies of the maps representing the phone contact's high, moderate, and low visual sensitivities are provided in Appendix F.

4.0 INVENTORY FACTOR 1: SCENIC QUALITY

4.1 Overview

The initial step in the VRI process is to divide the landscape into units that have generally similar characteristics based on the key factors, especially landform, vegetation, development, and sometimes water. These units are called SQRUs. Each unit is subsequently described in terms of its landscape character elements of form, line, color, and texture and evaluated for seven key factors. The scenic quality factors are scored on a scale of 1 to 5—with the exceptions of the cultural modifications factor, which is scored on a scale of -4 to 2, and the scarcity factor, which is scored on a scale of 1 to 5+. The following information provides a more detailed discussion of the inventory process, the landscape character elements, and the scoring and evaluation criteria for the key scenic-quality factors.

4.2 Inventory and Evaluation Methodology

In coordination with the initial kickoff meeting in November 2012, the inventory team took part in a scenic quality rating workshop that included an overview of scenic quality evaluation, delineation of draft SQRUs, and determination of approximate travel routes and inventory observation points (IOPs). The overview of BLM's scenic quality evaluation process included a review of the guidelines as described in Manual H-8410-1. Following the overview, the inventory team delineated preliminary SQRUs on field maps, determined preliminary IOPs, and planned primary travel routes from which to access IOPs.

The field maps used during the workshop were developed using GIS data provided by the BLM Arizona Tucson Field Office and supplementary data from open sources. The inventory team worked collaboratively in the workshop to delineate the draft SQRUs based on the BLM staff's knowledge of the visual appearance of the landscape. The draft SQRU delineations divided the planning area into units with similar visual characteristics—based primarily on physiographic features; cultural modifications; and similar visual patterns, textures, colors, and variety.

Once the draft SQRUs were delineated, the inventory team planned the locations of preliminary IOPs using the field maps and BLM Surface Management Status topographic maps. Preliminary IOPs were determined based on a variety of factors, including the general amount of users visiting the area, accessibility, and logistical viewpoint locations. The preliminary IOPs were marked on the field maps to represent general locations from which the SQRUs would be inventoried.

The scenic quality field inventory was conducted in December 2012, shortly after the VRI workshop. During fieldwork efforts, the team inventoried each of the SQRUs, traveling primarily on the routes designated in the travel planning process. Because field verification is required to determine the optimal viewing locations for IOPs, exact IOP locations for each SQRU were determined by the team in the field. The inventory team recorded views from the IOPs with a GPS-enabled digital camera, which recorded geographical locations (latitude and longitude) for each photo. At the inventory team's

discretion, additional photo observation points (POPs) were recorded throughout each SQRU to more fully characterize additional and/or unique elements that added to or detracted from the unit's scenic quality. Additional data was also recorded at each IOP/POP to assist in providing the data required for the BLM's VRI geodatabase. A photo log from the field inventory is provided in Appendix D.

During the field inventory, the team completed modified BLM Scenic Quality Field Inventory (SQFI) rating forms (Form 8400-1, BLM Manual H-8410-1) for each SQRU (see the two-page modified form in Figures 2 and 3), which involved a three-step evaluation process.

In the first step of evaluating each SQRU, landscape character was defined in terms of form, line, color, and texture, as described below and as exemplified in Illustrations 4, 5, 6, and 7 in BLM Manual H-8410-1:

- **Form**—The mass or shape of an object, or of objects that appear unified.
- **Line**—The path, real or imagined, that the eye follows when perceiving abrupt differences in form, color, or texture or when objects are aligned in a one-dimensional sequence. Usually evident as the edge of shapes or masses in the landscape.
- **Color**—The property of reflecting light of a particular intensity and wavelength (or mixture of wavelengths) to which the eye is sensitive. It is the major visual property of surfaces.
- **Texture**—The aggregation of small forms or color mixtures into a continuous surface pattern; the aggregated parts are enough that they do not appear as discrete objects in the composition of a scene.

The second step included identification of general comments regarding the character, land use, or other aspects of the SQRU in the narrative section of the SQFI form. All notes were then summarized in paragraph form for use in the geodatabase.

In the final step, scores in increments of 0.5 were recorded for each of the seven scenic quality factors of the landscape within the SQRUs. The scores were based on the scales described in the Scenic Quality Inventory and Evaluation Chart (Figure 4). As required by BLM manual 8400, each of the factors was ranked on a comparative basis with similar features within the physiographic province. As previously noted, the inventory area falls within the Columbia Plateau physiographic province (refer to the physiographic province map in Appendix E). The scores for each factor were then totaled, and a scenic quality classification of A, B, or C was determined using the numeric scale on the SQFI form. Due to the use of 0.5 unit scoring increments, scores of 11.5 were rounded up to a scenic quality classification of "B," and scores of 18.5 were rounded up to a scenic quality classification of "A."

While in the field, the inventory team also reviewed the draft SQRU delineations and further refined the boundaries on the field maps. Each unit was given a name that generally reflected landscape features referred to by local residents. Several of the preliminary units were split and/or combined, resulting in a total of 16 SQRUs (see Figure 5). Unit boundaries were subsequently digitized and refined using digital

aerial topography in order to more accurately portray the divisions in landscape character. As a result of the refining process, the number 14 was not used as an SQRU number.

The number of IOPs per SQRU varied according to the size of each unit and/or the relative complexity of each unit. Final IOPs were determined by selecting the locations that were most representative of the unit as a whole (Figure 6). Due to limited access and/or limited views, the IOPs for some units were identified outside the SQRU boundaries—providing a view into the unit from an adjacent unit. The information collected on the SQFI forms, along with IOP photos for each unit, are provided in Appendix A.

UNITED STATES
 DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
 BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT
 SCENIC QUALITY FIELD INVENTORY

Date:	
District/ Field Office:	
Resource Area:	
SQRU #:	IOP #:

1. EVALUATORS *(names)*

2. LANDSCAPE CHARACTER *(Feature)*

	a. LANDFORM/WATER	b. VEGETATION	c. STRUCTURE <i>(General)</i>
FORM			
LINE			
COLOR			
TEXTURE			

3. NARRATIVE

Figure 2. Modified SQRU Rating Form (Page 1)

4. SCORE (Circle Appropriate Level)*			SCENIC QUALITY CLASSIFICATION
	Rating	Explanation or Rationale	
a. Landform			___ A= 19 or more
b. Vegetation			___ B= 12-18
c. Water			___ C= 11 or less
d. Color			
e. Adjacent Scenery			
f. Scarcity			
g. Cultural Modification			
TOTALS			

Comments:

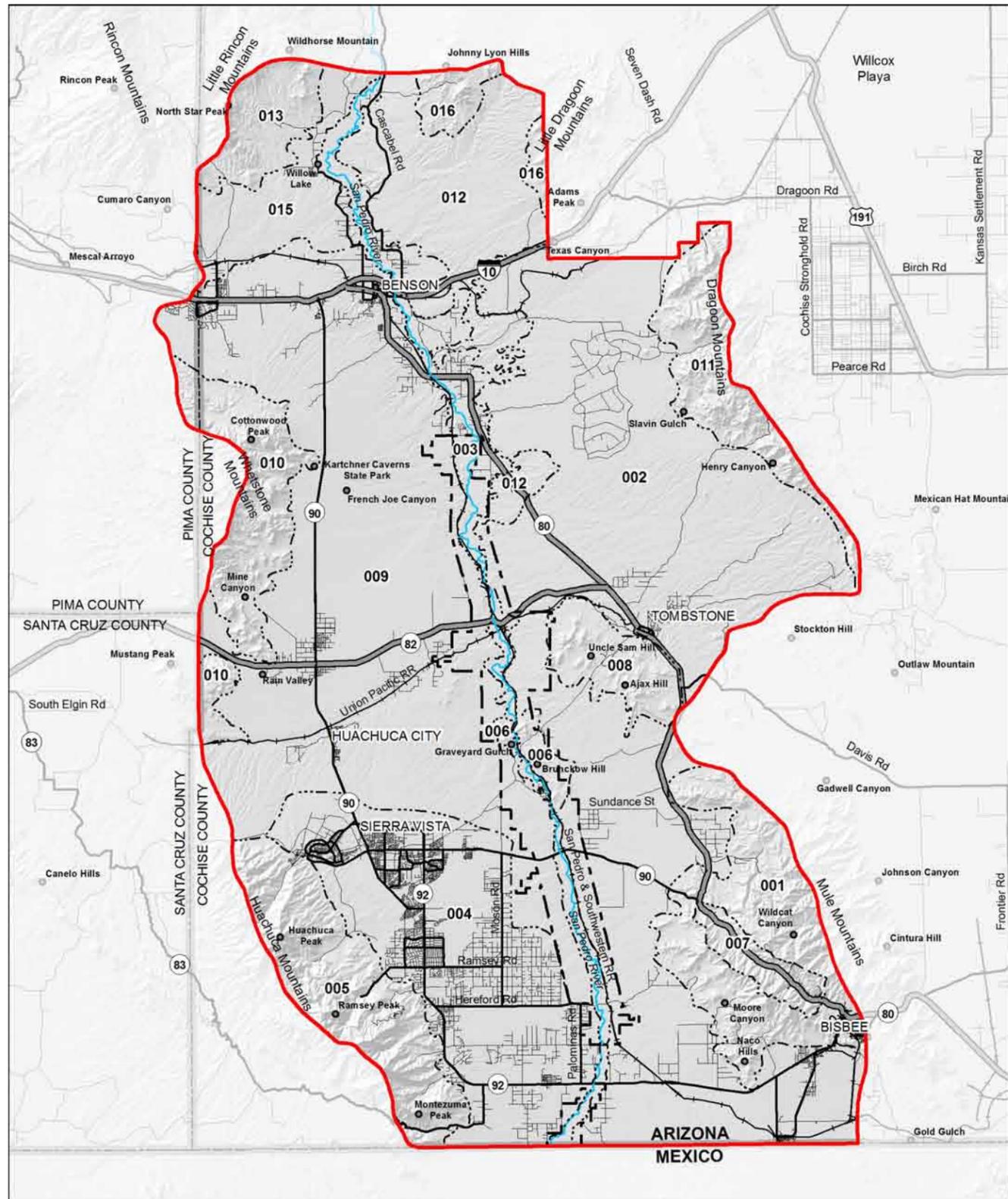
Figure 3. Modified SQRU Rating Form (Page 2)

Key Factors	Rating Criteria and Score		
Landform	High vertical relief as expressed in prominent cliffs, spires, or massive rock outcrops, or severe variation or highly eroded formations including major dune systems or detail features dominant and exceptionally striking and intriguing such as glaciers. 5	Steep canyons, mesas, buttes, cinder cones, and drumlins, or interesting erosional patterns of variety in size and shape of landforms, or detail features which are interesting though not dominant. 3	Low rolling hills, foothills, or flat valley bottoms, or few or no interesting landscape features. 1
Vegetation	A variety of vegetative types as expressed in interesting forms, textures, and patterns. 5	Some variety of vegetation, but only one or two major types. 3	Little or no variety or contrast in vegetation. 1
Water	Clear and clean appearing, still, or cascading white water, any of which are a dominant factor in the landscape. 5	Flowing, or still, but not dominant in the landscape. 3	Absent, or present, but not noticeable. 0
Color	Rich color combinations, variety or vivid color, or pleasing contrasts in the soil, rock, vegetation, water or snow fields. 5	Some intensity or variety in colors and contrast of the soil, rock and vegetation, but not a dominant scenic element. 3	Subtle color variations, contrast, or interest, generally mute tones. 1
Influence of Adjacent Scenery	Adjacent scenery greatly enhances visual quality. 5	Adjacent scenery moderately enhances overall visual quality. 3	Adjacent scenery has little or no influence on overall visual quality. 0
Scarcity	One of a kind or unusually memorable, or very rare within region. Consistent chance for exceptional wildlife or wildflower viewing, etc. *5+	Distinctive, though somewhat similar to others within the region. 3	Interesting within its setting, but fairly common within the region. 1
Cultural Modifications	Modifications add favorably to visual variety while promoting visual harmony. 2	Modifications add little or no variety to the area, and introduce no discordant elements. 0	Modifications add variety but are very discordant and promote strong disharmony. -4

Figure Source: BLM Manual H-8410-1, Illustration 2.

* A rating of greater than 5 can be given but must be supported by written justification.

Figure 4. Scenic Quality Inventory and Evaluation Chart



Key

- SPRNCA VRI Boundary
- SPRNCA Boundary
- VRI Scenic Quality Rating Unit Boundary

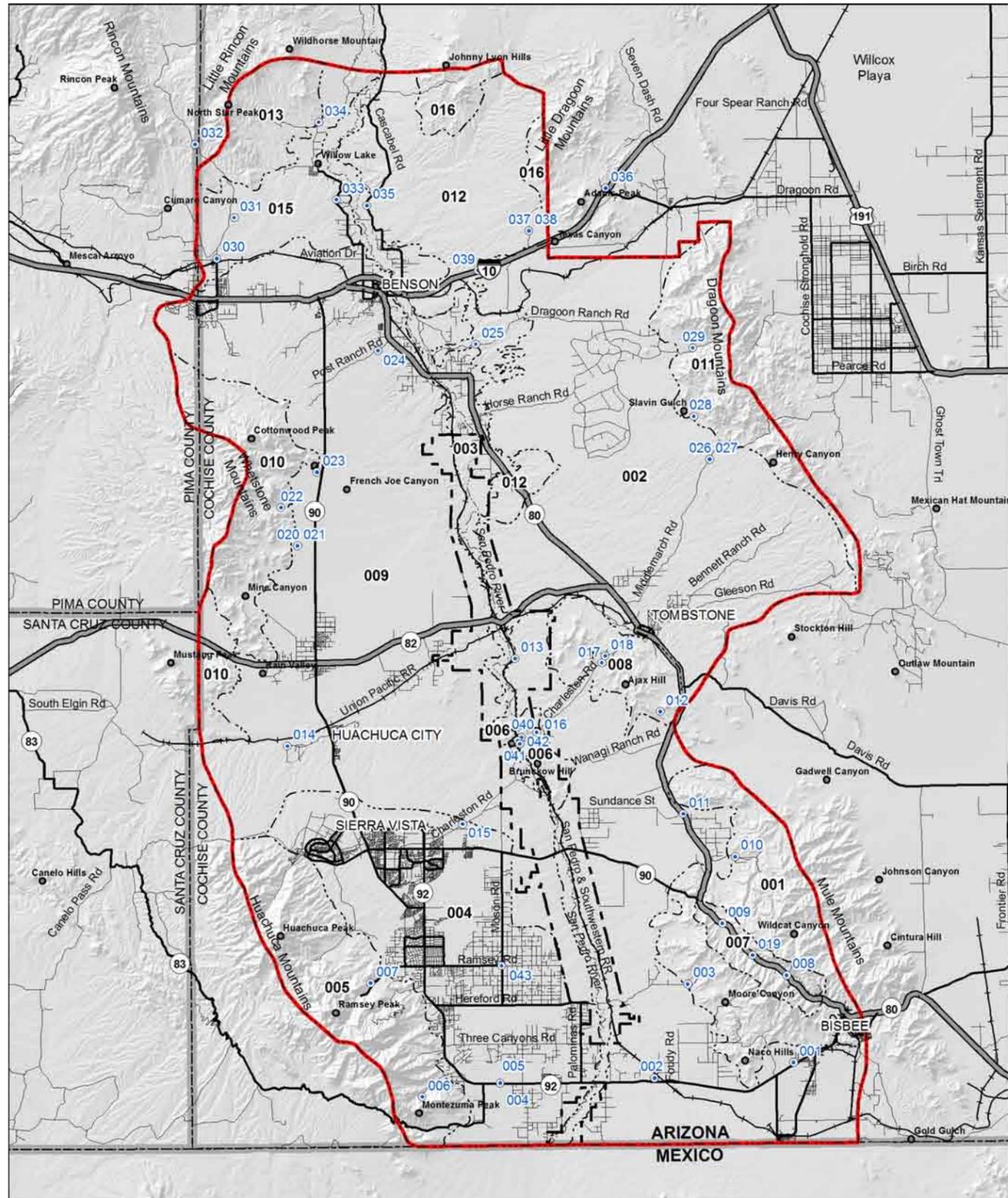
0 5 10
Miles

NORTH

- Scenic Quality Rating Unit Number, SQRU Name**
- 001 - Mule Mountains
 - 002 - Drought / Mule Mountains Bajada
 - 003 - San Pedro River Corridor
 - 004 - Huachuca Mountains Bajada
 - 005 - Huachuca Mountains
 - 006 - Charleston Hills
 - 007 - Banning Creek Canyon
 - 008 - Tombstone Hills
 - 009 - Whetstone Bajada
 - 010 - Whetstone / Mustang Mountains - (Multi-part Unit)
 - 011 - Drought Mountains
 - 012 - Little Drought Bajada - (Multi-part Unit)
 - 013 - Rincon Mountains
 - 015 - Rincon Bajada
 - 016 - Little Drought / Johnny Lyon Hills - (Multi-part Unit)

Figure 5. Scenic Quality Rating Units

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Key

- SPRNCA VRI Boundary
- SPRNCA Boundary
- VRI Scenic Quality Rating Unit Boundary
- VRI Observation Points

0 5 10
Miles

N
↑

- Scenic Quality Rating Unit Number, SQRU Name**
- 001 - Mule Mountains
 - 002 - Driagoon / Mule Mountains Bajada
 - 003 - San Pedro River Corridor
 - 004 - Huachuca Mountains Bajada
 - 005 - Huachuca Mountains
 - 006 - Charleston Hills
 - 007 - Banning Creek Canyon
 - 008 - Tombstone Hills
 - 009 - Whetstone Bajada
 - 010 - Whetstone / Mustang Mountains - (Multi-part Unit)
 - 011 - Driagoon Mountains
 - 012 - Little Driagoon Bajada - (Multi-part Unit)
 - 013 - Rincon Mountains
 - 015 - Rincon Bajada
 - 016 - Little Driagoon / Johnny Lyon Hills - (Multi-part Unit)

Figure 6. IOP Location Map

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4.3 Scenic Quality Factors

The VRM program identifies seven key factors to be considered in the evaluation of scenic quality. These factors were distinguished by BLM as elements that would generally be a part of the visual landscape in most any setting; the following is a brief description of each.

4.3.1 Landform

Landform refers to the topographic features that make up the surface of the earth, including plains, valleys, mountains, and cliffs. Topography is considered to be more interesting as it gets steeper or more massive, or more severely or universally sculptured.

Outstanding landforms may be monumental, or they may be exceedingly artistic and subtle such as certain badlands, pinnacles, arches, and other extraordinary formations. Areas with low rolling hills or flat valley bottoms generally have a lower value because they have fewer interesting features.



Landforms of Dragoon Mountains

4.3.2 Vegetation

Vegetation refers to the visible vegetative material growing on the surface of the landforms. Vegetation has a higher value when there is more variety and there are plant groupings with interesting forms, textures, and patterns. Short-lived vegetative displays can also be considered if they are known to be reoccurring or visually spectacular. Smaller-scale vegetative features are also considered if they add striking and intriguing detail elements to the landscape (e.g., gnarled or wind-beaten vegetation, interesting tree forms). Landscapes with little variety in vegetation generally have a lower value because they are less visually interesting.

4.3.3 Water

Water refers to the presence of water in the landscape. Water is valued to a greater degree when it is a dominating factor in the landscape. Movement, scale, and cleanliness of water features all tend to add to the dominance of the water features. Water that is still, small in scale, and generally less noticeable is considered to be less interesting or dominating and therefore has a lower value.



San Pedro River near San Pedro House

4.3.4 Color

Color refers to the overall hues and tints of the basic components of the landscape (e.g., soil, rock, vegetation) as they appear during seasons or periods of high use. Color has a higher value when there are rich color combinations, vivid colors, or a variety of colors. Areas where the colors lack variety or are subtle or disharmonious are considered to be less interesting and therefore have a lower value.

4.3.5 Influence of Adjacent Scenery

Influence of adjacent scenery refers to the degree to which the scenery outside the unit being rated enhances the overall impression of the scenery within the rating unit. Areas with interesting adjacent scenery therefore are considered more valuable than those without appealing scenery surrounding them. The distance at which adjacent scenery will influence scenery within the rating unit will normally range from 0 to 5 miles, depending on the characteristics of topography, vegetative cover, and other such factors. Areas where the adjacent scenery has little or no influence on the visual quality of the unit being rated generally have a lower value. Occasionally adjacent scenery may increase the score of a less scenic unit to the point where the final score is greater than that unit making up the high adjacent scenery score.



Adjacent Scenery of Huachuca Mountains (Unit #05), view from Huachuca Mountains Bajada (Unit #04)

4.3.6 Scarcity

Scarcity refers to scenic features that appear to be relatively unique or rare within one physiographic region. Features that are uncommon or unusually memorable within the physiographic region are considered more valuable, while common features are considered less interesting.

4.3.7 Cultural Modifications

Cultural modifications refer to human-made modifications to landforms, water, or vegetation, as well as the addition of structures to a landscape. Cultural modifications have a higher value when they complement the landscape and promote visual harmony. Modifications that are discordant or disharmonic and that detract from the scenery in the form of a negative intrusion have a lower value.

4.4 Scenic Quality Summary

Sections 4.4.1 and 4.4.2 summarize the overall key factor analysis and the final SQRU ratings and classifications. Table 1 presents the total acres by scenic quality rating, and Table 2 presents the key factor ratings, the total SQRU score, and the overall scenic quality ratings (A, B, or C) by unit number. Maps depicting the key factor ratings and the overall SQRU ratings for the inventory area are presented

in Figures 7–14. A collection of photos are also included in Appendix E for calibration purposes, and to demonstrate the variety in ratings for each factor within the inventory area.

4.4.1 Key Factor Analysis

Landform

Ratings for landform were generally higher near the periphery of the inventory area which is associated with the mountainous boundary of the San Pedro Valley. The average SQFI score for the inventory area was approximately 2.8.

In general, the areas at the periphery of the watershed and areas with vertical mountain formations have more dramatic topographical relief. The higher degree of vertical relief in these areas introduces interesting shapes and forms into the landscape, which



Landform of Dagoon Mountains (Unit #11)

occasionally become dominating elements. A score of 4.5 was the highest rating, which was recorded for the Dagoon Mountains Unit (#11) and included dramatic geological formations.

Ratings were generally lower, dispersed throughout the central portions of the inventory area which stretch to the base of the mountains surrounding the project area. These areas consist mostly of flat, slightly sloping to rolling terrain, with few interesting topographical features. An SQFI score of 1.0 was the lowest rating, which was recorded for the Whetstones Bajada Unit (#09).

Landform within the inventory area ranges from rolling to undulating consistent landforms increasing to high vertical relief forms like the Dagoon Mountains. Portions of the inventory area exhibiting greater landform variety received higher scores.

Vegetation

Vegetation types within the inventory area's physiographic province are diverse in appearance. Flat to rolling lowlands are generally covered by Chihuahuan Creosotebush Desert Scrub vegetation, with cropland and deciduous trees clustered along rivers and drainageways. Vegetative diversity generally increases in mountainous uplands, where shrubs and grasses give way to pinyon, scrub oak, and pine. The upland and riparian areas generally received higher scores due to the visual variety that the vegetative types provide.

Since vegetative variety correlates closely with mountainous terrain and/or drainage corridors, ratings for vegetation generally parallel those of landform. Ratings for vegetation were generally higher along the periphery of the inventory area as well as the central portion of the inventory area associated with the San Pedro River. The average SQFI rating for the project area was approximately 3.3.

In areas where vegetative variety is higher, the vegetative forms create interesting forms, textures, and patterns. This is particularly true in areas with vertical relief due to the increased contrast associated with scattered and clumped vegetation. A score of 4.5 was the highest rating, which was recorded for the Huachuca Mountains Unit (#05) and the Dragoon Mountains Unit (#22) for its variety and combination of upland and riparian plant material found along drainages.

The flat to rolling lowlands generally received the lowest ratings since they often include vast stands of Chihuahuan Creosotebush Desert Scrub vegetation. A score of 2.0 was the lowest rating, which was recorded for one unit, the Charleston Hills Unit (#06) located within the central portion of the inventory area. This unit was generally dominated by sparse creosotebush and grasses with limited vegetative variety.

Water

Water within the physiographic province consists of the San Pedro River along with perennial creeks and drainages, many portions of the inventory area do not have noticeable water bodies. Ratings for water were highest within the central portion of the study area and associated with the San Pedro River. The average SQFI rating in the inventory area was approximately 0.6.

Water was rated highest in the areas where the water is generally visible or flowing and sometimes a dominant factor in the landscape. A score of 3.0 was the highest rating, which was recorded for the San Pedro River Corridor Unit (#03).



San Pedro River Corridor (Unit #03) near Charleston Hills

The majority of the inventory area (nine units) received a score of 0.0 because water bodies of any form were not visible during the field inventory and were not known to be present. Lower scores of 1.0 to 1.5 were recorded for areas where water was observed to be present but not very noticeable. Many areas, such as those with flat to rolling terrain, contain small amounts of water that are not generally visible. Perennial creeks are the most common water features in these areas.

Color

Landform colors vary throughout the physiographic province, generally ranging from brown/beige to gray, white, and red. In many areas, vegetation is dense and landform colors are not visible. Vegetation color in the province varies throughout the year with seasonal changes. During the fall and winter, the colors of the vegetation are generally muted and contrast subtly with the colors of the landforms, except in the early fall when bright colors of plants such as cottonwood and scrub oak add bold colors to the landscape in higher elevations and along riparian corridors. In spring and summer, the multiple dark to bright green tones of the vegetation create strong color contrasts with the landforms, and wildflowers

add a variety of color to the landscapes. The dark greens of the juniper, pine also add to the visual variety.

While the fieldwork for this inventory occurred in mid-winter, the color factor evaluation took into consideration the landscape's seasonal changes through study of the physiographic province and supplemented with local knowledge of BLM staff. The scores allocated for color in each SQRU reflect the changes anticipated throughout the seasons.

Ratings for color were generally highest in the central portion of the inventory area as well as along the northeastern, southwestern, and northwestern boundaries of the inventory area. The higher color ratings occurred in two distinct areas: higher-elevation mountain areas where vertical landforms and escarpments heightened the geological strata colors in contrast with vegetation and along dense riparian areas.

The vegetative patterns and colors created interesting contrasts with the surrounding landscape in these areas, and the rich color combinations became a dominant element in the landscape. A score of 4.0 was the highest rating, which was recorded for the San Pedro River Corridor Unit (#03), Huachuca Mountains Unit (#05), and the Dragoon Mountains Unit (#11).

Ratings were generally lowest in the central-core portions of the inventory area, with the average SQFI rating for the project area being approximately 2.9. The lower ratings for color generally occurred where lands are flat to rolling. Rock and soil colors are generally not visible in these areas, and many areas are uniformly covered with similarly colored vegetation. Variations in these areas are subtle, with generally muted tones. A score of 2.0 was the lowest rating, which was recorded for four units.

Influence of Adjacent Scenery

Higher ratings for adjacent scenery were generally recorded in the central-core portions of the inventory area. The average SQFI rating for adjacent scenery in the overall project area was approximately 3.0.

Ratings for adjacent scenery were generally higher for units that are adjacent to or in proximity of high vertical landforms to offer distant panoramic views of surrounding landforms. In these units, the forms, lines, and colors of the surrounding landscapes greatly enhance the scenic quality of the evaluated units. A score of 4.0 was the highest rating, which was recorded for the Dragoon /Mule Mountains Bajada Unit (#02), the Huachuca Mountains Bajada Unit (#04), and the Whetstones Bajada Unit (#09)—all of which have vast uninterrupted views of surrounding mountains that offer visual variety on a typically flat to slightly rolling landscape.



*Adjacent scenery of the Mule Mountains
(Unit #01)*

Lower ratings for adjacent scenery were generally recorded for units surrounded by vast, open, flat landscapes; units located within valleys and canyons where surrounding landscapes are not visible; and units that are scenic of themselves and create the adjacent scenery for other units. In these cases, the surrounding scenery has little or no influence on the overall visual quality of the unit. A score of 0.0 was the lowest rating, which was recorded for the Banning Creek Canyon Unit (#07).

Where the adjacent unit tends to blend into the terrain the adjacent scenery tends to be relatively low. Where a variety in characteristics and landform exist, there is a higher score.

Scarcity

Ratings for scarcity were highest in central portion of the inventory area. The surrounding units contain landscapes more common to the physiographic province and therefore generally received lower ratings. The average SQFI rating for the project area was 2.2.

Scarcity was generally higher for units with landforms and vegetation that diverge from those that typify the physiographic province. A score of 5.0 was given to the San Pedro River Corridor Unit (#03). The San Pedro River Corridor Unit scored high because of its uniqueness within the province due to its wide breadth of a river valley bottom and distinctive vegetation characteristics that are uncommon within the Mexican Highland section of the Basin and Range physiographic province.

Scarcity was generally lower for units with flat to slightly sloping landforms and somewhat monotype vegetation that are indicative features of the physiographic province. These areas were identified throughout the majority of the inventory area. A score of 1.0 was the lowest rating, which was recorded for six units.

Cultural Modifications

Ratings for cultural modifications were higher than average in two rating units. These units are located in the central and southeastern portions of the inventory area. Areas with highest discordant cultural modifications are located in the southwestern portion of the project area near populated urban centers. The average SQFI rating for the overall project area was approximately 0.4.

Units with higher ratings generally include structures or modifications that add favorably to the historical context of the region. A score of 0.5 was the highest rating, which was recorded for the Charleston Hills Unit (#06) and the Banning Creek Canyon Unit (#07).

Six units include a fairly even number of harmonic and discordant cultural modifications. These areas were given a score of 0.0 since the varying modifications offset one another.

Negative scores were recorded for areas with discordant cultural modifications, such as highly visible and sometimes visually dominating urban development and transmission lines. A score of -2.0 was the lowest rating, which was recorded for one unit that included high urban development associated with the city of Sierra Vista and Fort Huachuca.

4.4.2 Scenic Quality Ratings

The scenic quality rating is the result of totaling the scores of the seven key factors on the SQFI form and assigning the rating based on points according to the following scale:

- Class A = a score of 19 points or more
- Class B = a score of 12 to 18 points
- Class C = a score of 11 points or less

The analysis included the evaluation of the key factors for all 15 SQRUs. In numerous cases, increments of 0.5 were used in order to determine a more accurate score for a particular factor. As such, ratings falling between A and B (a score of 18.5) or B and C (a score of 11.5) were rounded up to the higher classification.

Four SQRUs received a Class A rating; these units account for approximately 27% of the inventoried area. The highest rating given was a 21.0 for the San Pedro River Corridor Unit (#03). The scenic quality in these units scored high due primarily to the size and diversity of their landforms; however variety of color and vegetation, influence from dominant water features, and general scarcity of the landscapes also increased the scores. These units are located within the central portion of the inventory area as well as the northeastern, southwestern and northeastern portions of the inventory area.

The total rating scores of the SQRUs in the overall inventory area were most often in the range of 11.5 to 18, which placed them in Class B for overall scenic quality. Many of these units encompass rolling mountains or units with variable topographic relief. Units with Class B ratings are disbursed throughout the inventory area. In total, six units have a Class B rating, which account for approximately 40% of the areas inventoried. The highest B rating of 17.5 was recorded for the Whetstone/Mustang Mountains Unit (#10).

The remaining SQRUs received a Class C rating, with scores of 11 or less. These units generally include flat to slightly undulating landforms and cover vast areas throughout central portions of the inventory area stretching from the southern boundary to the northern. In total, five units have a Class C rating, these units account for approximately 33% of the inventoried areas within the overall inventory area. A score of 11 was the highest C rating, which was recorded for the Little Dragoons Bajada Unit (#12).

Table 1. Scenic Quality Rating—Listed in Order of Score

Scenic Quality Rating Unit Summary										Tucson Field Office December 2012	
Unit Number	Landform	Vegetation	Water	Color	Adjacent Scenery	Scarcity	Cultural Modification	Score	Rating	Acres	Explanation
003 San Pedro River Corridor	2	4	3	4	3	5	0	21	A	38,228	This unit encompasses the San Pedro River and the San Pedro Riparian National Conservation Area which consists of a flat river corridor that has dense riparian and desert grasslands. Areas are often obscured due to dense vegetation.
011 Dragoon Mountains	4.5	4.5	1.5	4	3	3	0	20.5	A	26,912	This unit consists of dramatic, layered landforms with distinctive rock outcrops that vary in scale and form. Vegetation is diverse with riparian, mesquite, and conifer at higher elevations. Development is scattered.
005 Huachuca Mountains	3.5	4.5	1	4	2.5	3	0	18.5	A	44,990	This unit consists of steep mountains with rock outcrops. Recent fires have impacted vegetation; regrowth is occurring and is low in stature. Pockets of ponderosa pine are visible at high elevations. Fort Huachuca utilizes the northern portion of the unit.
013 Rincon Mountains	4	4	1.5	3.5	2.5	3.5	-0.5	18.5	A	16,811	This unit includes dramatic, layered mountain ranges with distinctive large scale rock formations that contrast with surrounding vegetation in color and form. Development includes large transmission lines and scattered ranches.
010 Whetstone/Mustang Mountains	4	4	0	3.5	3	3	0	17.5	B	35,038	Unit consists of step mountain formations with large rock buttes, outcrops and cliffs. Vegetation is varied and consists of grasses, creosote, mesquite and juniper. Transmission lines as well as scattered residential are within the unit.
007 Banning Creek Canyon	4	3.5	1.5	3	0	3.5	0.5	16	B	8,927	Unit consists of large "V"-shaped canyon with vertical cliff faces and rock outcrops. Cultural development is scattered through canyon and includes the historic portion of the town of Bisbee. Vegetation is diverse and adds variety.
016 Little Dragoon /Johnny Lyon Hills	3.5	3.5	0	3	3	2.5	-0.5	15	B	9,409	This unit consists of bold mountain features with distinctive rock formation outcrops. Vegetation is diverse in form and height. Development consists of the Interstate 10 corridor, scattered ranches and communication towers.
001 Mule Mountains	3	3.5	0	2.5	2.5	1.5	0	13	B	49,293	This unit consists of rolling hills and steep mountains with rugged rock outcrops and diagonal rock banding. Vegetation consists of a variety of forms and heights which include creosote, oak and various grasses.
008 Tombstone Hills	2.5	2.5	0	2.5	3	2.5	-0.5	12.5	B	16,711	Unit consists of rolling to rounded pyramidal hills adjacent to the town of Tombstone. Vegetation is low and varies in density. Areas of rock banding are visible as well as historic mining development.

Table 1. Scenic Quality Rating—Listed in Order of Score (continued)

Scenic Quality Rating Unit Summary										Tucson Field Office December 2012	
Unit Number	Landform	Vegetation	Water	Color	Adjacent Scenery	Scarcity	Cultural Modification	Score	Rating	Acres	Explanation
006 Charleston Hills	3	2	0	2	3.5	1	0.5	12	B	5,051	This unit includes rounded, conical sloping hills with vegetation that consists of mesquite and creosote. Exposed soils from historic development contrast with surface soils and vegetation. Unit is adjacent to the San Pedro River.
012 Little Dragoon Bajada	2	2.5	0	2	3.5	1	0	11	C	60,436	This unit includes sloping badland formations with small buttes. Soil colors are white/gray to buff. Vegetation is stippled with areas of higher density along valley bottoms. Unit is mostly undeveloped.
009 Whetstone Bajada	1	2.5	1	2	4	1	-1	10.5	C	223,011	This unit consists of a large, expansive bajada along the west side of the San Pedro River that includes the town of Benson and the Babocomari River. Vegetation is primarily low in stature consisting of creosote, mesquite and grasses.
015 Rincon Bajada	2	2.5	0	2.5	3.5	1	-1	10.5	C	26,037	Units consists of a flat to rolling bajada with erosional patterns. There is some development, with a recreated townsite used in movie. Vegetation consists of mesquite, creosote and grasses.
002 Dragoon /Mule Mountains Bajada	1.5	2.5	0	2	4	1	-1	10	C	264,578	This unit consists of a large, expansive bajada along the east side of the San Pedro River that extends from south to north. Vegetation is primarily creosote, mesquite and grasses with occasional yucca which have variation in height and form.
004 Huachuca Mountains Bajada	1.5	3	0	2.5	4	1	-2	10	C	95,962	This unit consists of a large, expansive bajada along the southwest side of the San Pedro River that includes the city of Sierra Vista. Vegetation is muted in color and primarily low in stature consisting of creosote, mesquite and grasses.
Evaluators:	Craig Johnson, Chris Bockey, Karla Rogers, Jim Mahoney, Catie Fenn, Eric Baker, Laura Olais, Claire Crow, Francisco Mendoza, Susan Bernal, Don Applegate										

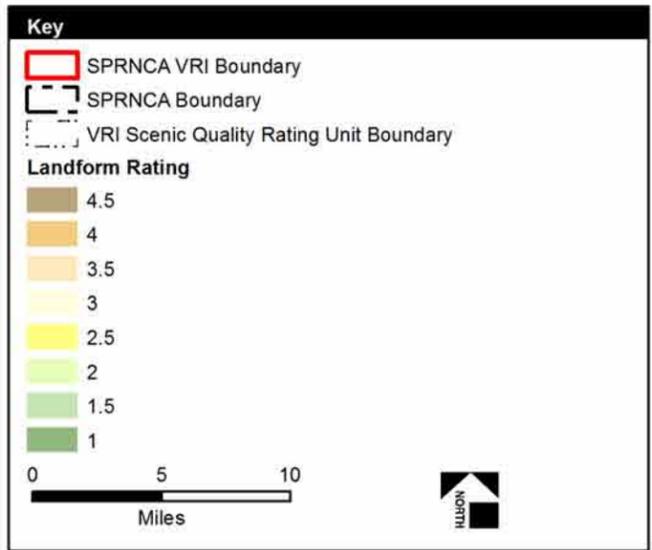
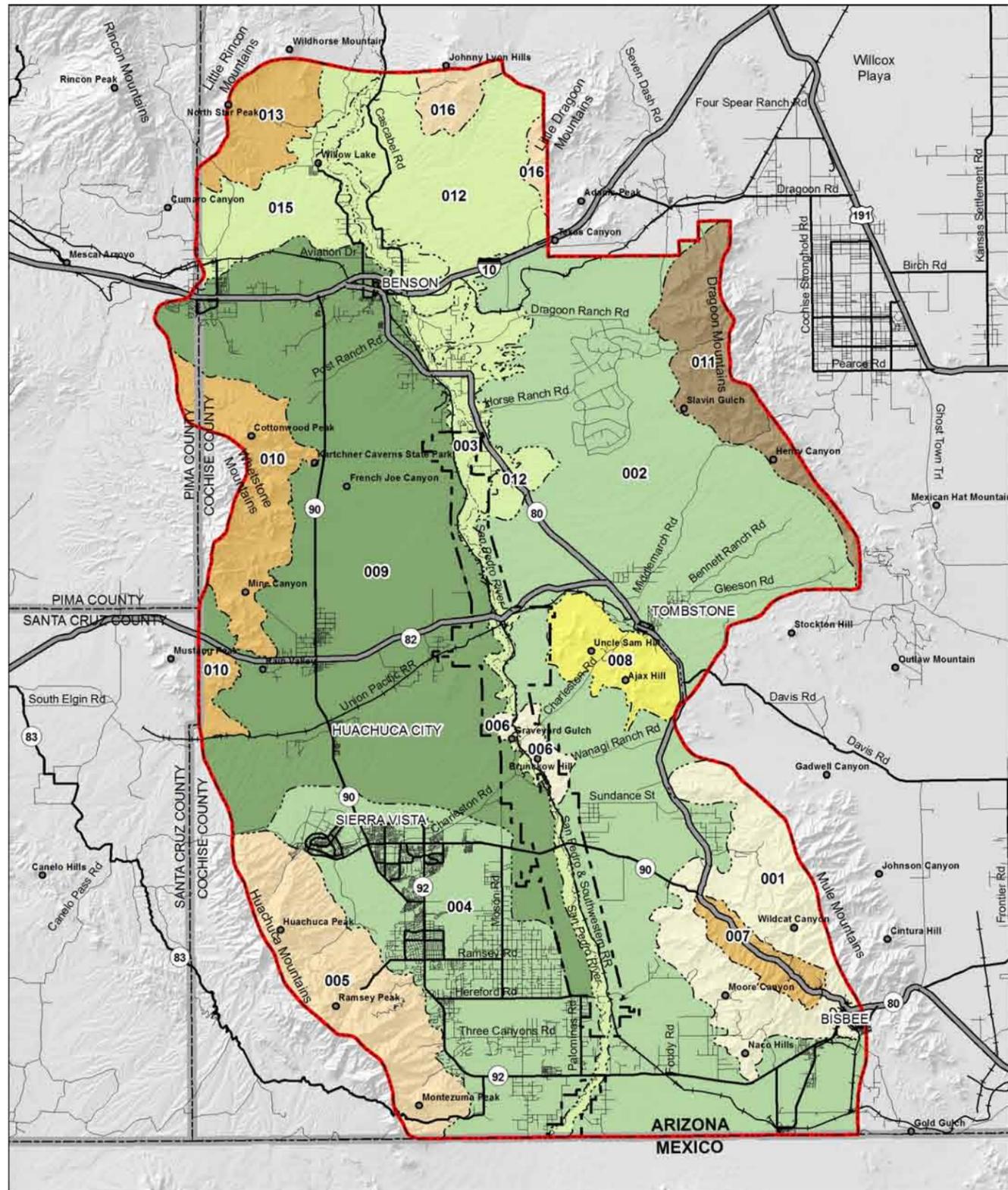
Table 2. Scenic Quality Rating—Listed by Unit Number

Scenic Quality Rating Unit Summary											Tucson Field Office December 2012	
Unit Number	Landform	Vegetation	Water	Color	Adjacent Scenery	Scarcity	Cultural Modification	Score	Rating	Acres	Explanation	
001 Mule Mountains	3	3.5	0	2.5	2.5	1.5	0	13	B	49,293	This unit consists of rolling hills and steep mountains with rugged rock outcrops and diagonal rock banding. Vegetation consists of a variety of forms and heights which include creosote, oak and various grasses.	
002 Dragoon /Mule Mountains Bajada	1.5	2.5	0	2	4	1	-1	10	C	264,578	This unit consists of a large, expansive bajada along the east side of the San Pedro River that extends from south to north. Vegetation is primarily creosote, mesquite and grasses with occasional yucca which have variation in height and form.	
003 San Pedro River Corridor	2	4	3	4	3	5	0	21	A	38,228	This unit encompasses the San Pedro River and the San Pedro Riparian National Conservation Area which consists of a flat river corridor that has dense riparian and desert grasslands. Areas are often obscured due to dense vegetation.	
004 Huachuca Mountains Bajada	1.5	3	0	2.5	4	1	-2	10	C	95,962	This unit consists of a large, expansive bajada along the southwest side of the San Pedro River that includes the city of Sierra Vista. Vegetation is muted in color and primarily low in stature consisting of creosote, mesquite and grasses.	
005 Huachuca Mountains	3.5	4.5	1	4	2.5	3	0	18.5	A	44,990	This unit consists of steep mountains with rock outcrops. Recent fires have impacted vegetation; regrowth is occurring and is low in stature. Pockets of ponderosa pine are visible at high elevations. Fort Huachuca utilizes the northern portion of the unit.	
006 Charleston Hills	3	2	0	2	3.5	1	0.5	12	B	5,051	This unit includes rounded, conical sloping hills with vegetation that consists of mesquite and creosote. Exposed soils from historic development contrast with surface soils and vegetation. Unit is adjacent to the San Pedro River.	
007 Banning Creek Canyon	4	3.5	1.5	3	0	3.5	0.5	16	B	8,927	Unit consists of large "V"-shaped canyon with vertical cliff faces and rock outcrops. Cultural development is scattered through canyon and includes the historic portion of the town of Bisbee. Vegetation is diverse and adds variety.	
008 Tombstone Hills	2.5	2.5	0	2.5	3	2.5	-0.5	12.5	B	16,711	Unit consists of rolling to rounded pyramidal hills adjacent to the town of Tombstone. Vegetation is low and varies in density. Areas of rock banding are visible as well as historic mining development.	
009 Whetstone Bajada	1	2.5	1	2	4	1	-1	10.5	C	223,011	This unit consists of a large, expansive bajada along the west side of the San Pedro River that includes the town of Benson and the Babocomari River. Vegetation is primarily low in stature consisting of creosote, mesquite and grasses.	
010 Whetsone/Mustang Mountains	4	4	0	3.5	3	3	0	17.5	B	35,038	Unit consists of step mountain formations with large rock buttes, outcrops and cliffs. Vegetation is varied and consists of grasses, creosote, mesquite and juniper. Transmission lines as well as scattered residential are within the unit.	

Table 2. Scenic Quality Rating—Listed by Unit Number (continued)

Scenic Quality Rating Unit Summary										Tucson Field Office December 2012	
Unit Number	Landform	Vegetation	Water	Color	Adjacent Scenery	Scarcity	Cultural Modification	Score	Rating	Acres	Explanation
011 Draoon Mountains	4.5	4.5	1.5	4	3	3	0	20.5	A	26,912	This unit consists of dramatic, layered landforms with distinctive rock outcrops that vary in scale and form. Vegetation is diverse with riparian, mesquite, and conifer at higher elevations. Development is scattered.
012 Little Draoon Bajada	2	2.5	0	2	3.5	1	0	11	C	60,436	This unit includes sloping badland formations with small buttes. Soil colors are white/gray to buff. Vegetation is stippled with areas of higher density along valley bottoms. Unit is mostly undeveloped.
013 Rincon Mountains	4	4	1.5	3.5	2.5	3.5	-0.5	18.5	A	16,811	This unit includes dramatic, layered mountain ranges with distinctive large scale rock formations that contrast with surrounding vegetation in color and form. Development includes large transmission lines and scattered ranches.
015 Rincon Bajada	2	2.5	0	2.5	3.5	1	-1	10.5	C	26,037	Units consists of a flat to rolling bajada with erosional patterns. There is some development, with a recreated townsite used in movie. Vegetation consists of mesquite, creosote and grasses.
016 Little Draoon /Johnny Lyon Hills	3.5	3.5	0	3	3	2.5	-0.5	15	B	9,409	This unit consists of bold mountain features with distinctive rock formation outcrops. Vegetation is diverse in form and height. Development consists of the Interstate 10 corridor, scattered ranches and communication towers.
Evaluators:	Craig Johnson, Chris Bockey, Karla Rogers, Jim Mahoney, Catie Fenn, Eric Baker, Laura Olais, Claire Crow, Francisco Mendoza, Susan Bernal, Don Applegate										

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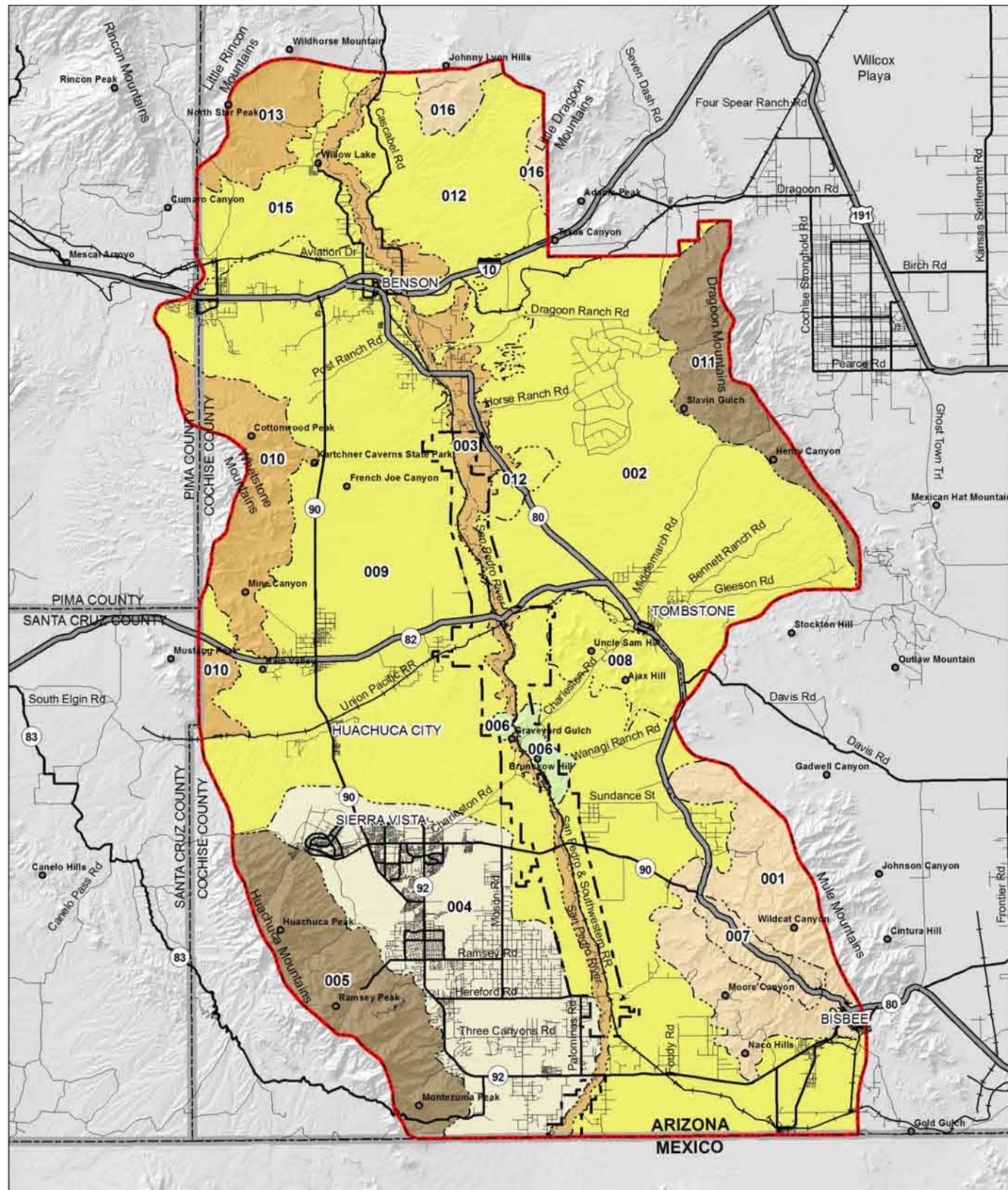


Scenic Quality Rating Unit Number, SQRU Name

- 001 - Mule Mountains
- 002 - Dragoon / Mule Mountains Bajada
- 003 - San Pedro River Corridor
- 004 - Huachuca Mountains Bajada
- 005 - Huachuca Mountains
- 006 - Charleston Hills
- 007 - Banning Creek Canyon
- 008 - Tombstone Hills
- 009 - Whetstone Bajada
- 010 - Whetsone / Mustang Mountains - (Multi-part Unit)
- 011 - Dragoon Mountains
- 012 - Little Dragoon Bajada - (Multi-part Unit)
- 013 - Rincon Mountains
- 015 - Rincon Bajada
- 016 - Little Dragoon / Johnny Lyon Hills - (Multi-part Unit)

**Figure 7. Scenic Quality Rating:
Landform**

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Key

- SPRNCA VRI Boundary
- SPRNCA Boundary
- VRI Scenic Quality Rating Unit Boundary

Vegetation Rating

- 4.5
- 4
- 3.5
- 3
- 2.5
- 2

0 5 10
Miles

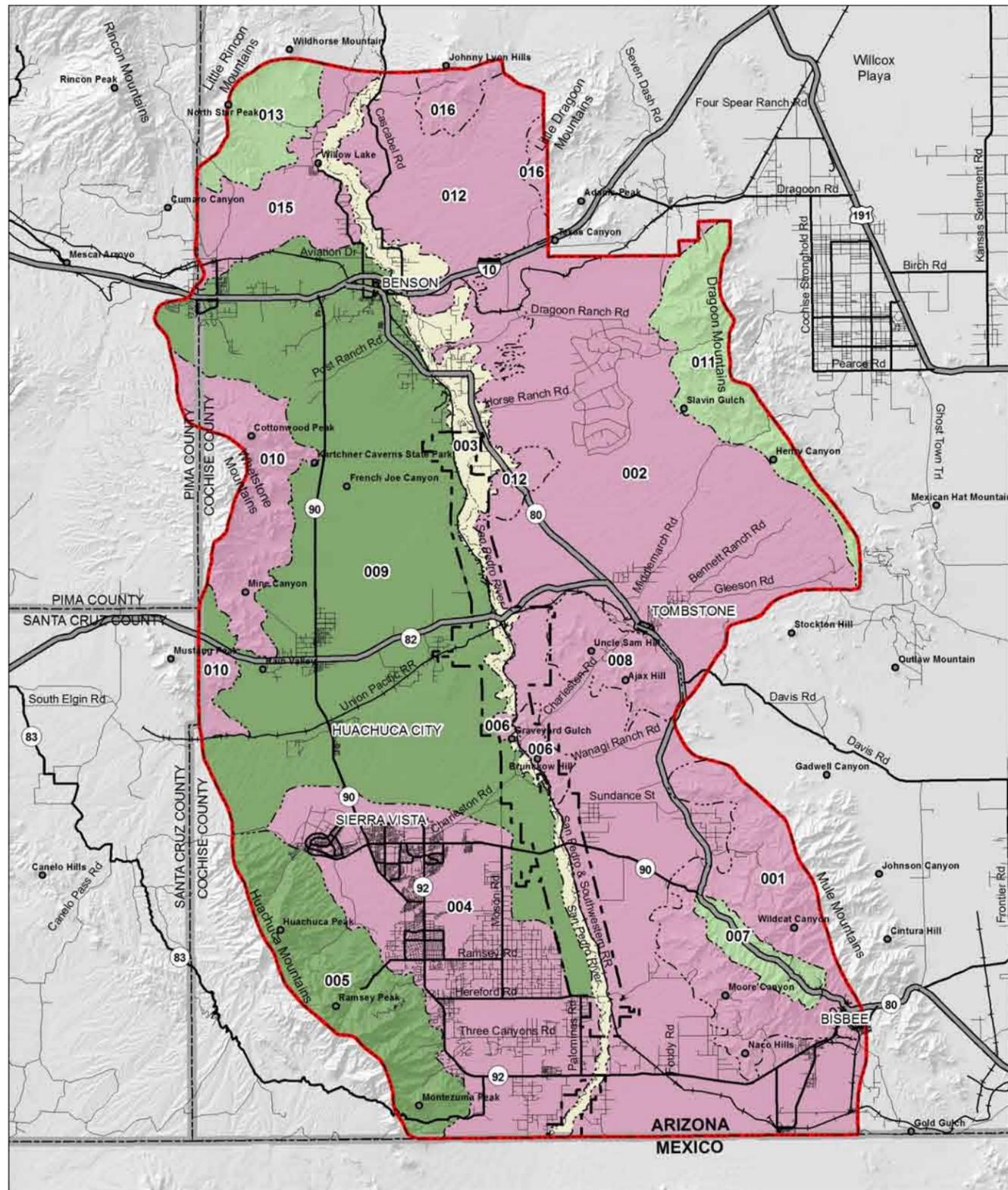
NORTH

Scenic Quality Rating Unit Number, SQRU Name

- 001 - Mule Mountains
- 002 - Dragoon / Mule Mountains Bajada
- 003 - San Pedro River Corridor
- 004 - Huachuca Mountains Bajada
- 005 - Huachuca Mountains
- 006 - Charleston Hills
- 007 - Banning Creek Canyon
- 008 - Tombstone Hills
- 009 - Whetstone Bajada
- 010 - Whetsone / Mustang Mountains - (Multi-part Unit)
- 011 - Dragoon Mountains
- 012 - Little Dragoon Bajada - (Multi-part Unit)
- 013 - Rincon Mountains
- 015 - Rincon Bajada
- 016 - Little Dragoon / Johnny Lyon Hills - (Multi-part Unit)

Figure 8. Scenic Quality Rating: Vegetation

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Key

- SPRNCA VRI Boundary
- SPRNCA Boundary
- VRI Scenic Quality Rating Unit Boundary

Water Rating

- 3
- 1.5
- 1
- 0

0 5 10
Miles

NORTH

Scenic Quality Rating Unit Number, SQRU Name

- 001 - Mule Mountains
- 002 - Dragoon / Mule Mountains Bajada
- 003 - San Pedro River Corridor
- 004 - Huachuca Mountains Bajada
- 005 - Huachuca Mountains
- 006 - Charleston Hills
- 007 - Banning Creek Canyon
- 008 - Tombstone Hills
- 009 - Whetstone Bajada
- 010 - Whetstone / Mustang Mountains - (Multi-part Unit)
- 011 - Dragoon Mountains
- 012 - Little Dragoon Bajada - (Multi-part Unit)
- 013 - Rincon Mountains
- 015 - Rincon Bajada
- 016 - Little Dragoon / Johnny Lyon Hills - (Multi-part Unit)

Figure 9. Scenic Quality Rating: Water

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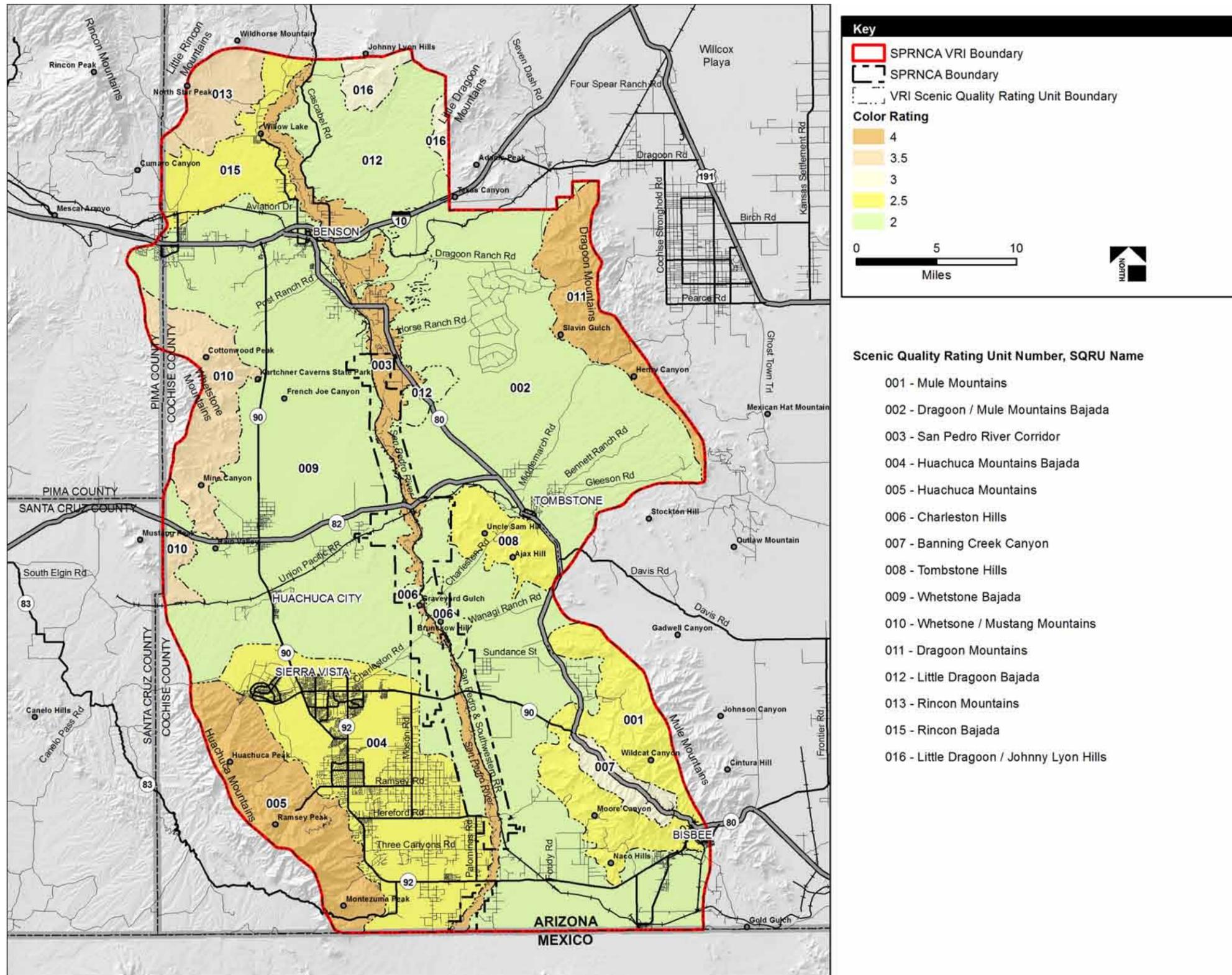


Figure 10. Scenic Quality Rating: Color

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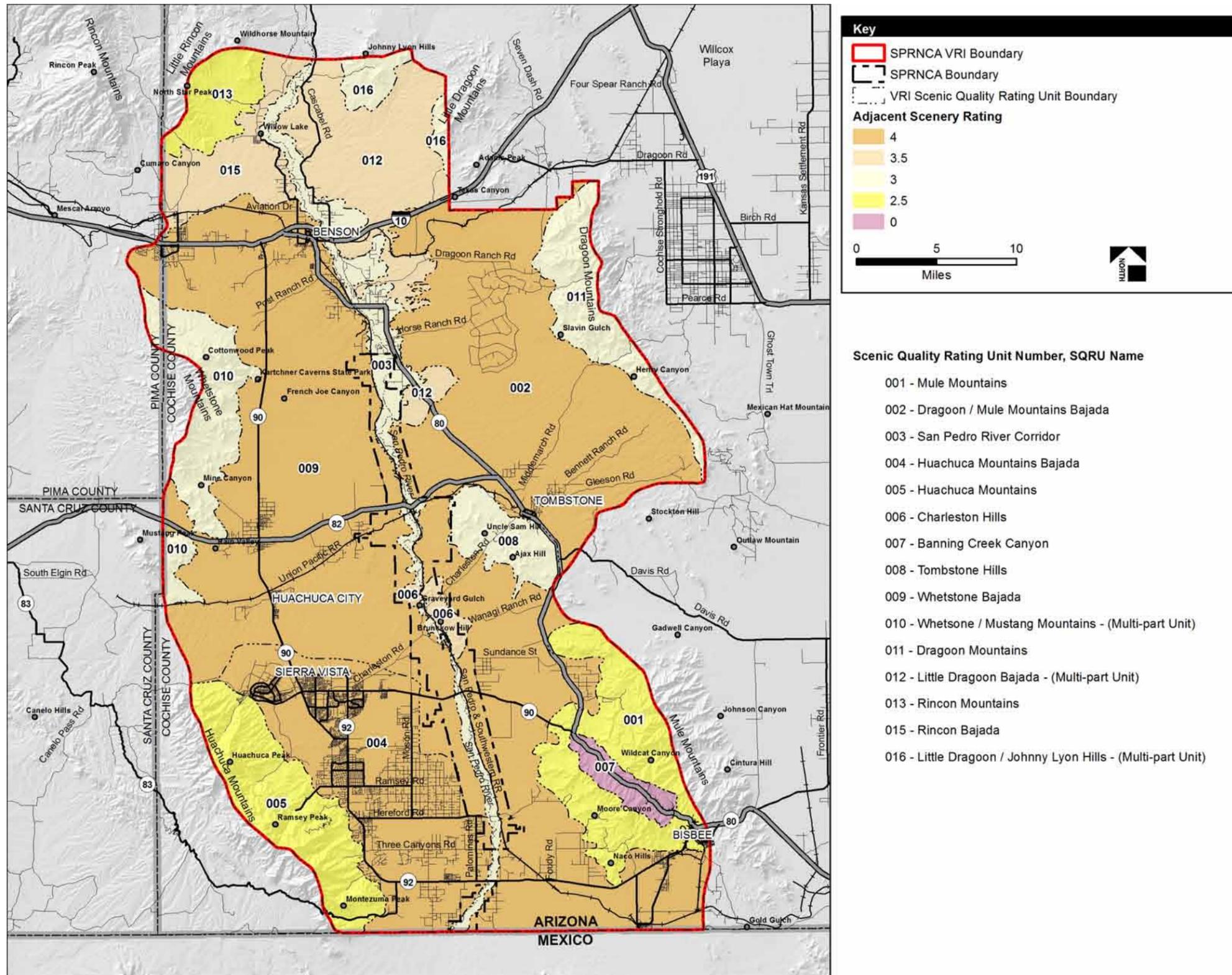
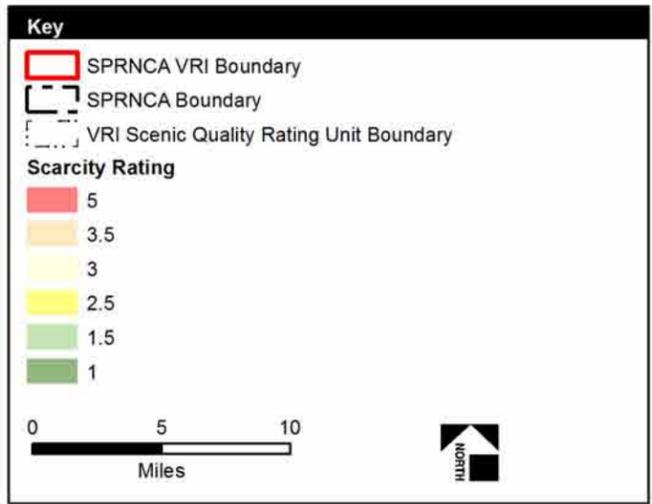
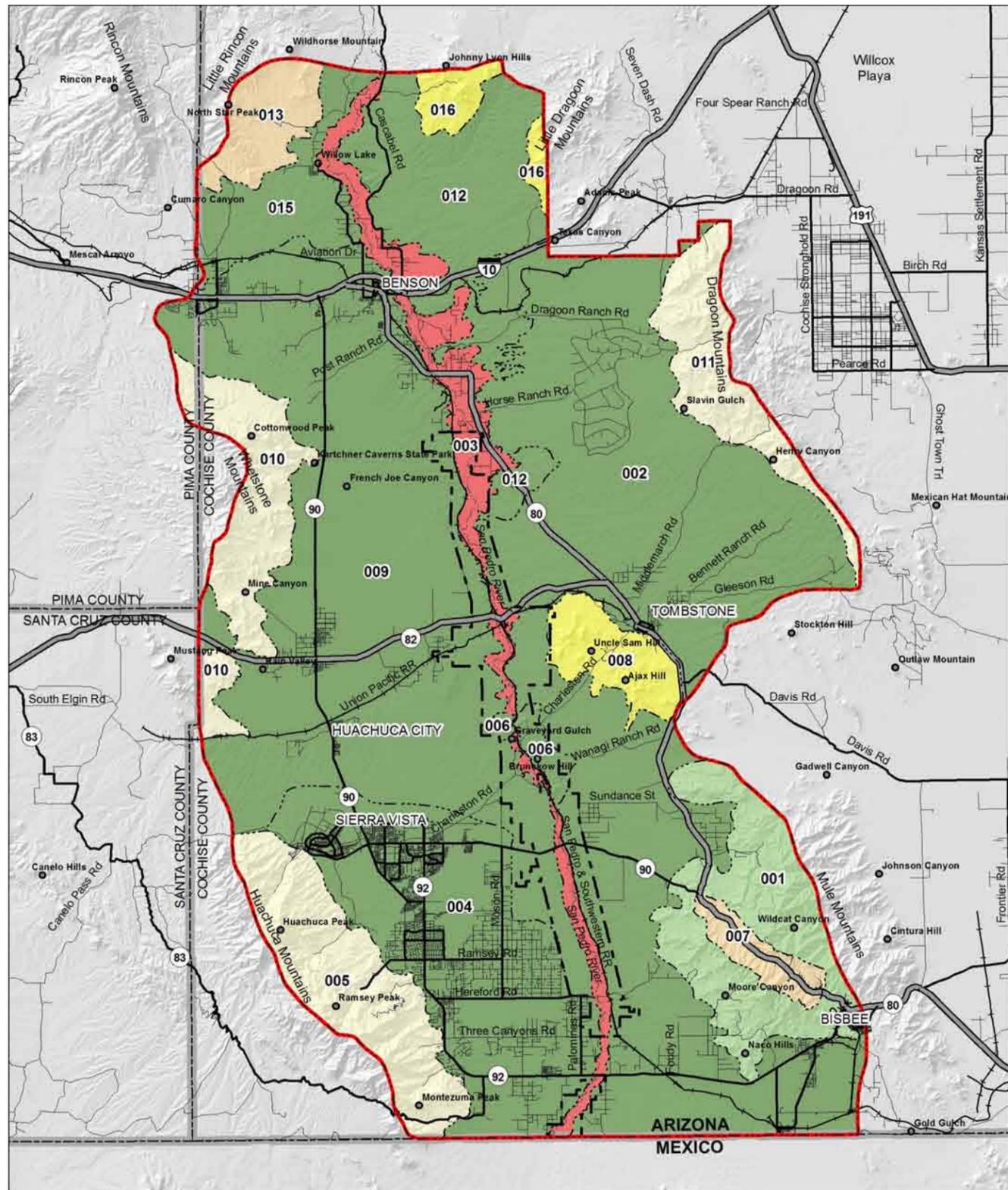


Figure 11. Scenic Quality Rating:
Adjacent Scenery

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- Scenic Quality Rating Unit Number, SQRU Name**
- 001 - Mule Mountains
 - 002 - Dragoon / Mule Mountains Bajada
 - 003 - San Pedro River Corridor
 - 004 - Huachuca Mountains Bajada
 - 005 - Huachuca Mountains
 - 006 - Charleston Hills
 - 007 - Banning Creek Canyon
 - 008 - Tombstone Hills
 - 009 - Whetstone Bajada
 - 010 - Whetsone / Mustang Mountains - (Multi-part Unit)
 - 011 - Dragoon Mountains
 - 012 - Little Dragoon Bajada - (Multi-part Unit)
 - 013 - Rincon Mountains
 - 015 - Rincon Bajada
 - 016 - Little Dragoon / Johnny Lyon Hills - (Multi-part Unit)

Figure 12. Scenic Quality Rating: Scarcity

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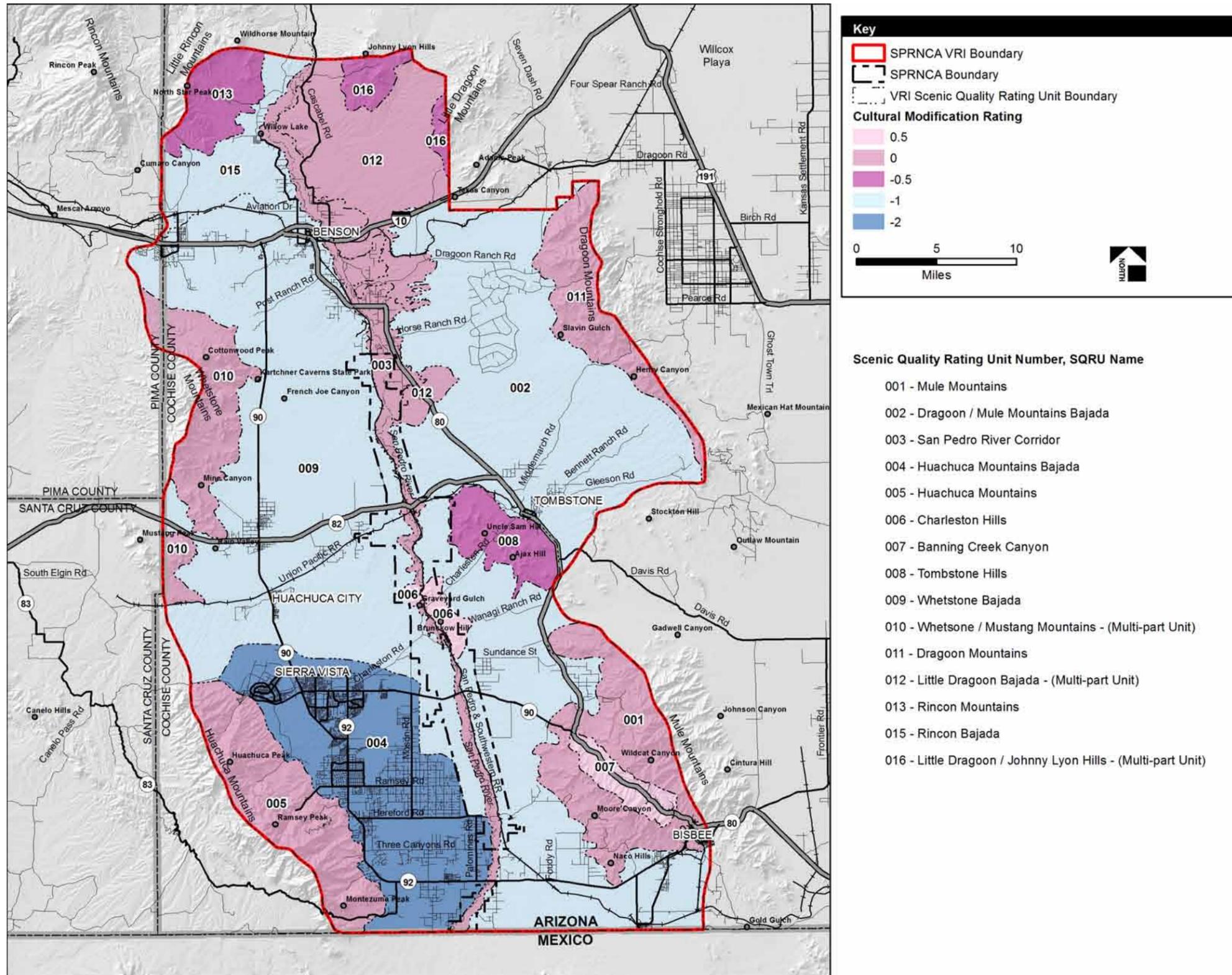
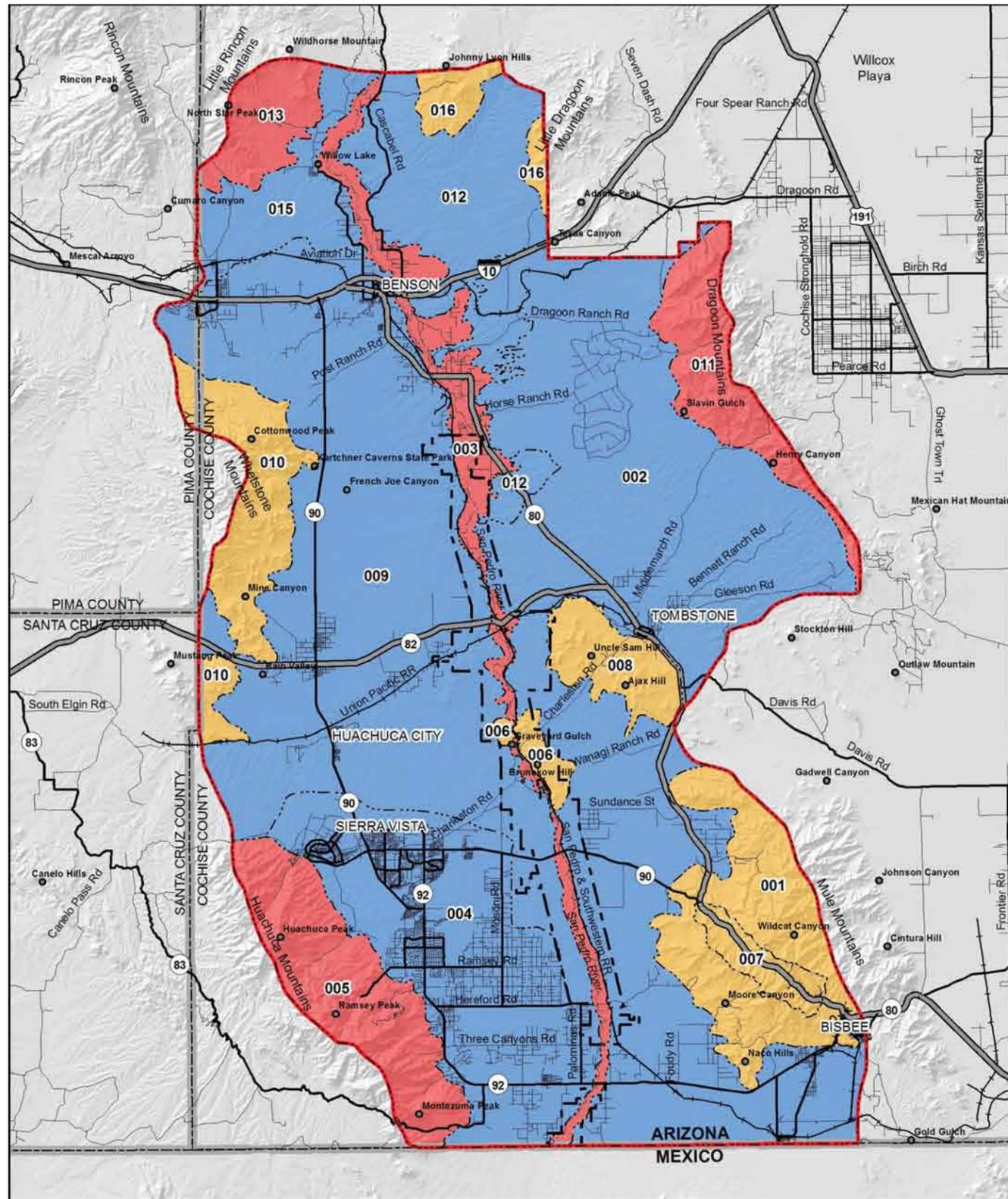


Figure 13. Scenic Quality Rating:
Cultural Modifications

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Key - Scenic Quality Classifications

Administrative Boundaries		Acres	% of Total Acres w/ in Inventory Area	% of BLM Acres w/ in Inventory Area	% of SPRNCA Acres w/in Inventory Area
	Inventory Area (IA)*	921394	100%		
	IA Non-BLM Acres	827294	90%		
	IA BLM Acres	94101	10%	100%	100%
Visual Resource Inventory		Acres	% of Total Acres w/ in Inventory Area	% of BLM Acres w/ in Inventory Area	% of SPRNCA Acres
	Total Area Inventoried	921394	100%	100%	100%
	Scenic Quality A	126942	14%	16%	26%
	Scenic Quality B	124429	14%	25%	8%
	Scenic Quality C	670024	73%	59%	66%

* The Inventory Area (IA) is only a portion of the Field Office boundary.

** No Wilderness Areas or Wilderness Study Areas are present within the Visual Resource Inventory.

Scenic Quality Rating Unit Number, SQRU Name

- 001 - Mule Mountains
- 002 - Dragoon / Mule Mountains Bajada
- 003 - San Pedro River Corridor
- 004 - Huachuca Mountains Bajada
- 005 - Huachuca Mountains
- 006 - Charleston Hills
- 007 - Banning Creek Canyon
- 008 - Tombstone Hills
- 009 - Whetstone Bajada
- 010 - Whetsone / Mustang Mountains - (Multi-part Unit)
- 011 - Dragoon Mountains
- 012 - Little Dragoon Bajada - (Multi-part Unit)
- 013 - Rincon Mountains
- 015 - Rincon Bajada
- 016 - Little Dragoon / Johnny Lyon Hills - (Multi-part Unit)

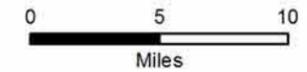


Figure 14. Scenic Quality Classifications

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5.0 INVENTORY FACTOR 2: SENSITIVITY LEVELS

5.1 Overview

The evaluation of sensitivity levels in the VRM process provides a measure and an indication of the public's concern for visual environment. In this part of the process, public lands are assigned high, moderate, or low sensitivity levels by analyzing certain factors that contribute to the public's overall concern of an area's scenic quality. These factors, as identified in BLM Manual H-8410-1, include the following:

- **Types of Users**—Visual sensitivity will vary with the type of users. Recreational sightseers may be highly sensitive to any changes in visual quality, whereas workers who pass through the area on a regular basis may not be as sensitive to change.
- **Amount of Use**—Areas seen and used by large numbers of people are potentially more sensitive. Protection of visual values usually becomes more important as the number of viewers increase.
- **Public Interest**—Visual quality of an area may be of concern to local, state, or national groups. Indicators of this concern are usually expressed in public meetings, letters, newspaper or magazine articles, newsletters, land-use plans, etc. Public controversy created in response to proposed activities that would change the landscape character should also be considered.
- **Adjacent Land Uses**—Interrelationship with land uses in adjacent lands can affect the visual sensitivity of an area. For example, an area within the viewshed of a residential area may be very sensitive, whereas an area surrounded by commercially developed lands may not be visually sensitive.
- **Special Areas**—Management objectives for special areas such as natural areas, wilderness areas or WSAs, wild and scenic rivers, scenic areas, scenic roads or trails, and ACECs frequently require special consideration for the protection of the visual values. This does not necessarily mean that these areas are scenic but rather that one of the management objectives may be to preserve the natural landscape setting. The management objectives for these areas may be used as a basis for assigning sensitivity levels.
- **Other Factors**—Other information, such as research or studies, that includes indicators of visual sensitivity should also be considered when assigning sensitivity levels to an area.

According to the VRM manual, there are no standard procedures for delineating SLRUs. The SLRU boundaries depend on the factors driving the sensitivity consideration at the time of the inventory and reflect public sentiment which requires a qualitative analytical approach to understand and describe geospatially.

The most important aspect of preparing the units is a thorough review and understanding of the sensitivity factors described above. Rating units can be based on physical attributes of the land, delineation of viewsheds, or any other means that prove useful in capturing changes in sensitivity based on the sensitivity factors. Distance zones from population centers or high profile landscape features can also play an important role in identifying the SLRU boundaries because sensitivity to change in the visual landscape can be moderated by the level of detail or visibility of a potential change.

Determining the overall sensitivity level of an area is a qualitative analysis that requires careful consideration of all of the above factors by BLM staff members who have the detailed knowledge of the use of public lands within in their field office. Other agency and community input were incorporated with the BLM staff input into the sensitivity level analysis for this inventory. Both the rating of individual sensitivity factors and the relationship between factors were analyzed in determining the overall rating of an area.

5.2 Inventory and Evaluation Methodology

In coordination with the initial kickoff meeting in November 2012, the inventory team took part in a sensitivity level rating workshop that included an overview of sensitivity level evaluation, delineation of draft SLRUs, and completion of SLRU forms that captured the necessary data. The overview of BLM's sensitivity level evaluation process included a review of the guidelines as described in Manual H-8410-1.

Following the overview, the inventory team delineated preliminary SLRUs on maps to distinguish areas of low, medium, and high visual sensitivity. The preliminary units were defined based on the BLM staff's knowledge of the inventory area, and reflected their perceptions of changes in the public's sensitivity to potential visual change. In order to capture the full range of people that may have potential concerns, the exercise considered local, regional, national, and international publics. In addition to publics that use portions of the inventory area for recreation/tourism, business, or residing, consideration was given to people that do not necessarily use areas but are nonetheless concerned about the existence of the visual aspects of the landscape. The analysis also accounted for various types of concerns, including amount of exposure, adjacency of uses/landscapes, special identification of areas, and general significance to the publics. Discussions during the SLRU delineation and rating process additionally included varying amounts of public resilience to change throughout the inventory area.

After the preliminary SLRU boundaries were identified, the inventory team evaluated each of the units based on the six sensitivity rating factors and assigned an overall rating to each unit. As the units were rated, unit boundaries were modified as needed based on which delineation would best reflect the differing degrees of sensitivity. The ratings for each unit were recorded on a Sensitivity Level Rating Sheet (Form 8400-6, BLM Manual H-8410-1), along with a number and name for the unit. Explanations for individual factor ratings, along with the overall unit rating, were also recorded on the forms.

To augment the BLM's knowledge of public sensitivities in the inventory area, a literature search and a series of outreach calls were conducted. The literature search identified specific policies, guidelines, goals, and/or strategies that local, regional, and state agencies and communities had for protecting scenic views and places. This search included review of agency and community websites and plans—identifying visions, goals, destination locations, tourism information, etc. that would assist in determining visually important areas within the inventory area.

The outreach calls involved a general outreach letter and map that BLM sent to a group of contacts. These contacts were subsequently called to discuss their visual sensitivities within the inventory area. Detailed notes were recorded during the calls and polygons were also drawn on a map to represent various areas of sensitivity that the respondents mentioned. Based on the conversation, each of the polygons was assigned a high, moderate, or low sensitivity level to reflect the respondents' opinions.

The results of these efforts is located in Appendix F, and a detailed description of the agency and community coordination efforts for this VRI is provided in the Process Record located in Appendix G. The inventory team reviewed these findings in relation to the preliminary units they had developed, and revised the SLRUs as appropriate based on the additional information.

Based on the inventory team's knowledge of visual sensitivities within the areas, and the findings of the agency and community coordination, many of the areas with highest sensitivity centered around views of prominent mountain landforms and the San Pedro River corridor. These prominent landforms—including the Whetstone, Mule, Huachuca, Dragoon, and Little Rincon Mountains—were thought to have a high level of public concern from local, regional, and even national publics since these groups of people are drawn to their visual qualities and use them as reference points within the valley.

Moderate concerns for visual change primarily encompassed the open, gently sloping bajadas within the inventory area, as determined by the inventory team and subsequently reinforced by agency and community coordination efforts. Public interest for these areas is generally split between those that appreciate the iconic views of these vast, natural landscapes, and those that see these areas as suitable for development and grazing. Although public interest for these areas varies, data collected for this analysis consistently showed that the differing publics identify these bajada areas as moderately sensitive to visual change.

The data collected also supported the notion that although residents were concerned with the views and scenery surrounding their communities, they have generally been more tolerant of visual changes within their communities. For this reason, the general areas of Benson, Mescal, and Sierra Vista were rated as having the lowest degree of visual sensitivity. These are the most developed areas within the inventory area, and represent general areas in which the public have already accepted visual alterations to the landscape. While the local publics are particularly concerned with visual quality in and around these areas in which they live and work, these areas represent lower overall concern levels due to the presence of existing cultural modifications and the increased ability of the landscape to absorb visual changes.

5.3 Local Agency and Community Coordination

A literature search and a series of outreach calls were conducted in order to add depth the inventory team's knowledge of visual sensitivities within the inventory area. This information was compared to the preliminary SLRUs that were created by the inventory team, and revisions were made to the units to account for inconsistencies that the data presented.

5.4 Rating Criteria and Scoring Method

Data from the Sensitivity Level Rating Sheets completed by the inventory team was entered into the VRI database for the inventory area. This information was then processed to create a preliminary sensitivity level rating map. The map displayed each of the sensitivity level units identified by the BLM, along with the associated unit ratings. The preliminary boundaries and rating levels were reviewed by the team and compared with data collected from the agency and community coordination efforts. Final refinements to the SLRUs were then completed, and the information was incorporated into the inventory database and GIS mapping to produce the final SLRU map. Final SLRU rating forms are provided in Appendix B.

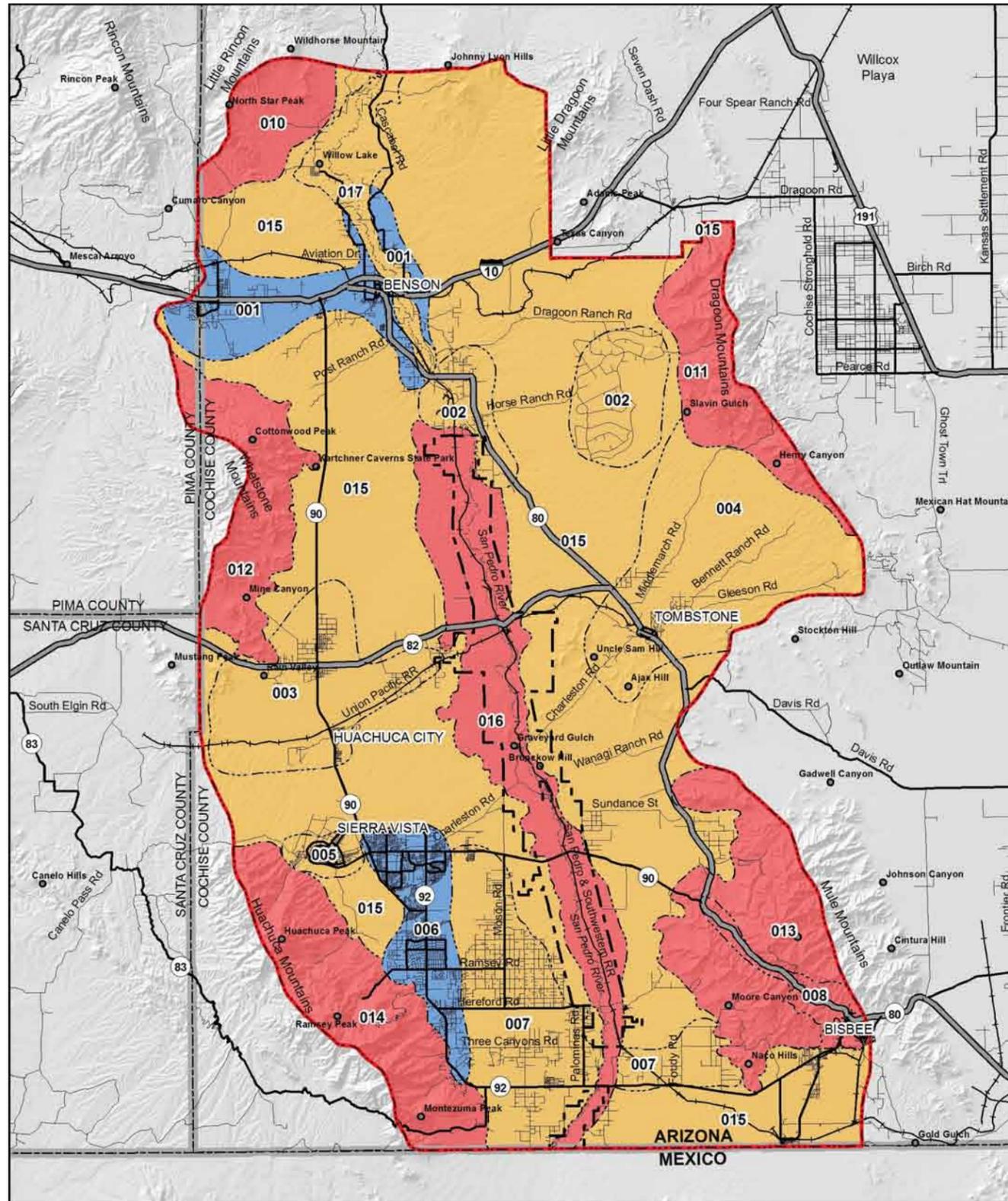
5.5 Sensitivity Level Rating Summary

Sensitivity levels in the inventory area are generally higher in the central portion (San Pedro River area) and along the periphery (notable mountain ranges) of the inventory area. Approximately 27% of the inventory area was rated with high sensitivity. The majority of the inventory area was rated as having moderate levels (67%) of sensitivity, due to the limited variety of topography and vegetation which lends to long expansive views within the inventory area. Varied land uses and isolated development patterns also occur within the moderate sensitivity areas. Two areas, approximately 6% of the inventory area, were given the lowest level of sensitivity due to urbanized development within those units. Table 3 and Figure 15 present the sensitivity level ratings for the inventory area.

Table 3. Total Acres by Sensitivity Level Rating

Sensitivity Level Rating Unit Summary									
Tucson Field Office, December 2012									
Evaluators: Jim Mahoney, Craig Johnson, Chris Bockey									
Unit Number	Type of Use	Amount of Use	Public Interest	Adjacent Land Uses	Special Areas	Other Factors	Overall Rating	Acres	Explanation
001	M	L	L	M	M	L	L	30,516	Minimal public interest within unit; urban development with OHV and agricultural uses
Benson/Mescal									
002	M	M	M	M	M	N/A	M	30,791	Some public interest due to proximity of Dragoon Mountains and Whetstone Mountains.
St. David/Dragoon Mountain Ranch									
003	M	M	L	M	N/A	N/A	M	40,555	Minimal public interest within unit; rural development with OHV and agricultural uses
Huachuca City/Mustang Mountains									
004	L	H	H	M	M	N/A	M	65,845	Tourist and visitor destination with historical significance.
Tombstone									
005	M	M	M	M	M	M	M	5,281	Military installation at base of Huachuca Mountains with various land uses, with transient population with varied sensitivities.
Ft. Huachuca									
006	L	H	L	L	H	N/A	L	22,482	Highest population area within inventory area; multiple interests and users.
Urban Sierra Vista									
007	M	M	M	M	M	M	M	55,289	Dispersed rural subdivisions and agricultural developed area south of Sierra Vista with proximity to Huachuca Mountains and SPRNCA.
Palominas/Hereford									
008	M	M	H	M	H	N/A	H	9,111	Diverse population with multiple users; active, engaged community
Bisbee									
010	M	M	H	H	H	N/A	H	18,936	Eastern foothills of Little Rincon Mountains with user groups that consist of sportsmen and recreationists.
Little Rincon Mountains									
011	H	M	H	H	H	N/A	H	27,475	Western slope of Dragoon Mountains with user groups that consist of sportsmen and recreationists. Landform is unique and visible from large portions of inventory area.
Dragoon Mountains									
012	M	M	M	L	H	N/A	H	31,670	Unit encompasses Whetstone Mountains with user groups that consist of sportsmen and recreationists. Within viewshed of Highway 90.
Whetstone Mountains									
013	M	M	H	H	H	N/A	H	49,397	Unit includes Mule Mountains and encompasses Unit #008. User groups consist of sportsmen and recreationists and well as isolated residential. Unit is within viewshed of Highway 90 and 92.
Mule Mountains									
014	H	H	H	M	H	N/A	H	46,729	Unit includes the Huachuca Mountains. User groups consist of sportsmen and recreationists. Landform is significant within inventory area and is within Highway 90 and 92 viewshed.
Huachuca Mountains									
015	M	M	L	M	H	N/A	M	403,249	Open, expansive unit consisting of relatively flat bajada with varied user groups with differing concerns. Numerous roadways bisect unit.
San Pedro Bajada									
016	H	H	H	M	H	N/A	H	65,284	High public interest and concern related to the San Pedro River/SPRNCA. Users are diverse and all share overall sensitivity to natural setting associated with the San Pedro River.
SPRNCA/San Pedro River									
017	M	L	M	M	M	N/A	M	18,786	Moderate public interest with urbanized and agricultural development. Riparian-like setting.
San Pedro River/Willow Lake									

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Key - Sensitivity Levels

Administrative Boundaries		Acres	% of Total Acres w/ in Inventory Area	% of BLM Acres w/ in Inventory Area	% of SPRNCA Acres w/in Inventory Area
	Inventory Area (IA)*	921394	100%		
	IA Non-BLM Acres	827294	90%		
	IA BLM Acres	94101	10%	100%	100%
Visual Resource Inventory		Acres	% of Total Acres w/ in Inventory Area	% of BLM Acres w/ in Inventory Area	% of SPRNCA Acres
	Total Area Inventoried**	921394	100%	100%	100%
	Sensitivity Level - High	248601	27%	61%	74%
	Sensitivity Level - Moderate	619796	67%	39%	26%
	Sensitivity Level - Low	52997	6%	0%	0%

* The Inventory Area (IA) is only a portion of the Field Office boundary.

** No Wilderness Areas or Wilderness Study Areas are present within the Visual Resource Inventory.

Sensitivity Level Rating Unit, SLRU Name

- 001 - Benson/Mescal
- 002 - St. David/Dragoon Mountain Ranch
- 003 - Huachuca City/Mustang Hills
- 004 - Tombstone
- 005 - Ft. Huachuca
- 006 - Urban Sierra Vista
- 007 - Palominas/Hereford
- 008 - Bisbee
- 010 - Little Rincon Mountains
- 011 - Dragoon Mountains
- 012 - Whetstone Mountains
- 013 - Mule Mountains
- 014 - Huachuca Mountains
- 015 - San Pedro Bajada
- 016 - SPRNCA/San Pedro River
- 017 - San Pedro River/Willow Lake

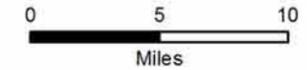


Figure 15. Sensitivity Level Ratings

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6.0 INVENTORY FACTOR 3: VISUAL DISTANCE ZONES

6.1 Overview

The analysis of distance zones in the VRM process considers the distance from which the area is generally viewed but does not take into account every possible viewing location. According to BLM Manual H-8410-1, landscape areas are generally subdivided into three distance zones based on their relative visibility from travel routes or other observation points:

- **Foreground-midground (fm) zone**—Areas that are seen from major highways and other primary travelways, rivers, trails, or other viewing locations that are less than 3 to 5 miles away. Management activities and proposed projects may be viewed in more detail in this zone.
- **Background (bg) zone**—Areas that are seen beyond the fm zone to a distance of about 15 miles away. Activities and changes to the landscape in the bg zone would be generally less visible.
- **Seldom-seen (ss) zone**—Areas that are beyond the bg zone, more than about 15 miles away from the viewing locations. Seldom-seen areas also may not be visible within the fm zone or bg zone or are generally hidden from view from those distances.

Distance zone delineations can provide valuable information during the visual sensitivity level analysis since landscape areas that are more visible (fm zone) to the public are more noticeable and may precipitate the public's concern for visual quality. Boundaries of the distance zones may also assist in defining the boundaries of an area's SLRUs.

Distance zone delineations can also be valuable during the resource management planning process when adjustments to VRM classes are made to resolve resource-allocation conflicts.

6.2 Mapping Methodology

BLM staff participated in a distance zone workshop at the inventory kickoff meeting in November 2012. Prior to commencing with the workshop, BLM's distance zone delineation process was reviewed as described in Manual H-8410-1. During the workshop, BLM and LSD worked in conjunction to determine the roads, trails, or other locations to be used as platforms in the distance zone delineation process. A number of primary travel routes were identified by BLM as being the locations from which the general public would most often view the landscapes within the inventory area. The distance zone platforms are represented on the map in Appendix C.

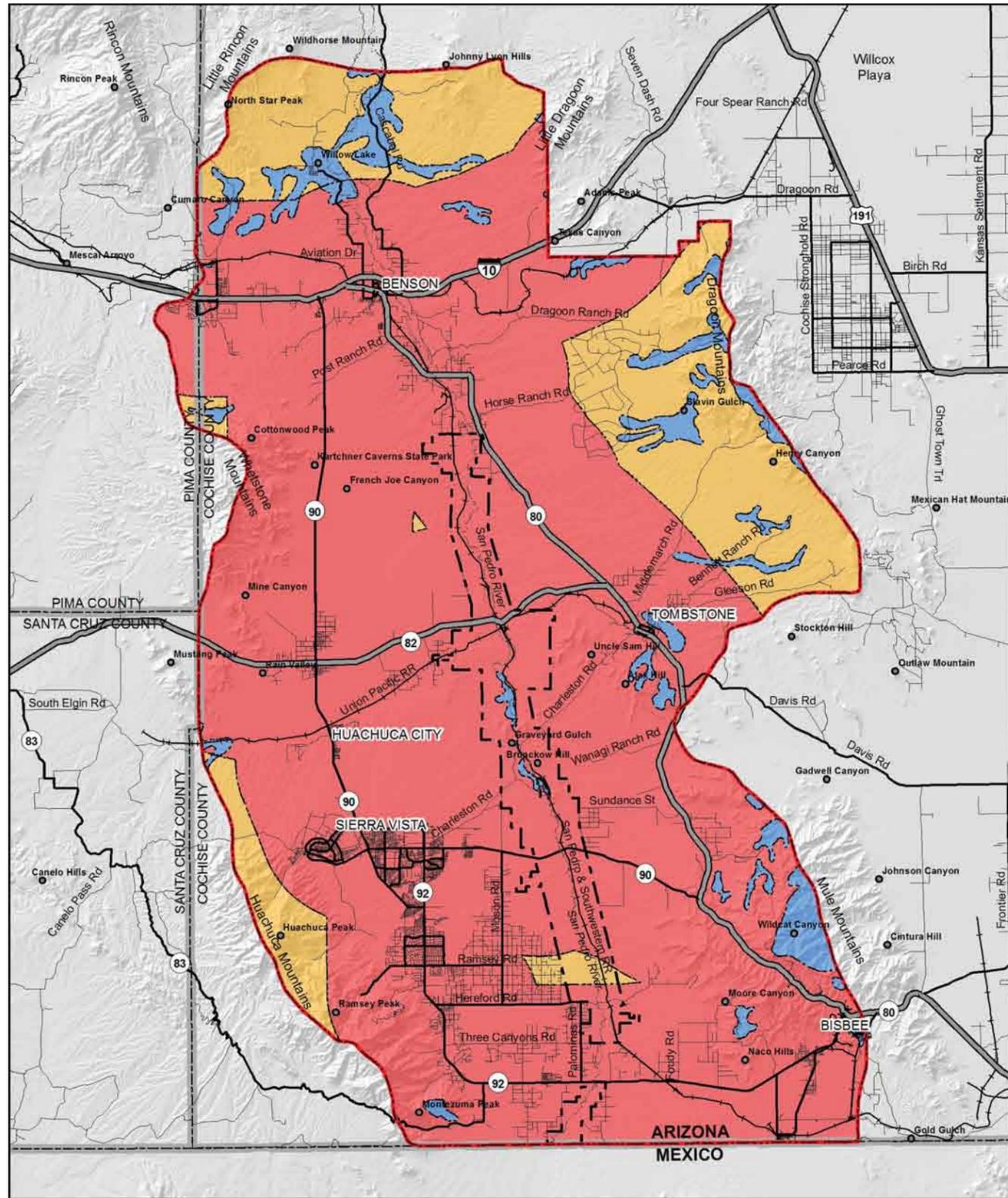
Following the workshop, LSD GIS specialists performed distance zone offsets according to Manual 8410-1 using ArcGIS. The distance zones were offset from the routes with a distance of 5 miles for the fm zone and 15 miles for the bg zone. To supplement the distance zone offset exercise, a viewshed, or visibility analysis, was performed from each of the identified distance zone platforms to identify portions

within each zone would not be visible. The visibility analyses are based on digital elevation models in a GIS and do not therefore reflect vegetation or structures within the planning area. This is otherwise known as an analysis based on a “bald” landscape, and it provides a worst-case scenario analysis. Polygons were then created to represent areas that were not visible. Because the areas within these polygons were not visible from the platforms, they were added to the ss zone.

6.3 Distance Zone Summary

The majority of lands within the inventory area fall within the fm zone (79%) due to the number of transportation corridors chosen for the distance zone analysis (Figure 16). The transportation corridors chosen were based on being the primary access routes to destination areas dispersed throughout the inventory area.

Approximately 5% of the inventory area falls within the ss zone—for example, the Wildcat Canyon area of the Mule Mountains—leaving approximately 16% of the inventory area in the bg zone. Designating areas as ss is a function of the key platforms selected for analysis rather than an indication that the areas are truly seldom seen. Other areas in the ss zone are generally less developed, have far fewer travel routes from which they could be viewed, or are totally inaccessible by vehicles. The bg zone areas are relatively few and are located in the northern, eastern, and southwestern portions of the inventory area.



Key - Distance Zone Calculations

Administrative Boundaries		Acres	% of Total Acres w/ in Inventory Area	% of BLM Acres w/ in Inventory Area	% of SPRNCA Acres w/in Inventory Area
	Inventory Area (IA)*	921394	100%		
	IA Non-BLM Acres	827294	90%		
	IA BLM Acres	94101	10%	100%	100%
Visual Resource Inventory		Acres	% of Total Acres w/ in Inventory Area	% of BLM Acres w/ in Inventory Area	% of SPRNCA Acres
	Total Area Inventoried**	921394	100%	100%	100%
	Foreground/Midground	729914	79%	94%	94%
	Background	148709	16%	3%	4%
	Seldom Seen	42772	5%	3%	2%

* The Inventory Area (IA) is only a portion of the Field Office boundary.

** No Wilderness Areas or Wilderness Study Areas are present within the Visual Resource Inventory.

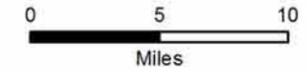


Figure 16. Visual Distance Zone Ratings

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7.0 VISUAL RESOURCE INVENTORY CLASSES

7.1 Overview

The VRM system includes four VRI classes. Class I is assigned to wilderness areas and wild sections of wild and scenic rivers where the current management situation requires maintaining a natural environment that is essentially unaltered by humans. Classes II, III, and IV are assigned according to combinations of scenic quality, sensitivity levels, and distance zones outlined in the BLM’s Visual Resource Inventory Matrix (Figure 17).

The VRI classes were mapped by overlaying scenic quality, sensitivity levels, and distance zones in ArcGIS. Figure 18 depicts the visual resource classes for the field office. Because the GIS mapping process results in overlapping, slivering, and small anomalies, all mapping areas of less than 200 acres in size were modified to fit with surrounding mapping units.

		Visual Sensitivity Levels						
		High			Medium			Low
Special Areas		Class I	Class I	Class I	Class I	Class I	Class I	Class I
Scenic Quality	A	Class II	Class II	Class II	Class II	Class II	Class II	Class II
	B	Class II	Class III	Class III*	Class III	Class IV	Class IV	Class IV
				Class IV*				
C	Class III	Class IV	Class IV	Class IV	Class IV	Class IV	Class IV	Class IV
		f/m	b	s/s	f/m	b	s/s	s/s
		Distance Zones						

Figure Source: BLM Manual H-8410-1, Illustration 11.

Figure Note: f/m = foreground/midground, b = background, s/s = seldom seen.

* If adjacent area is Class III or lower, assign Class III; if higher, assign Class IV.

Figure 17. Visual Resource Inventory Class Matrix

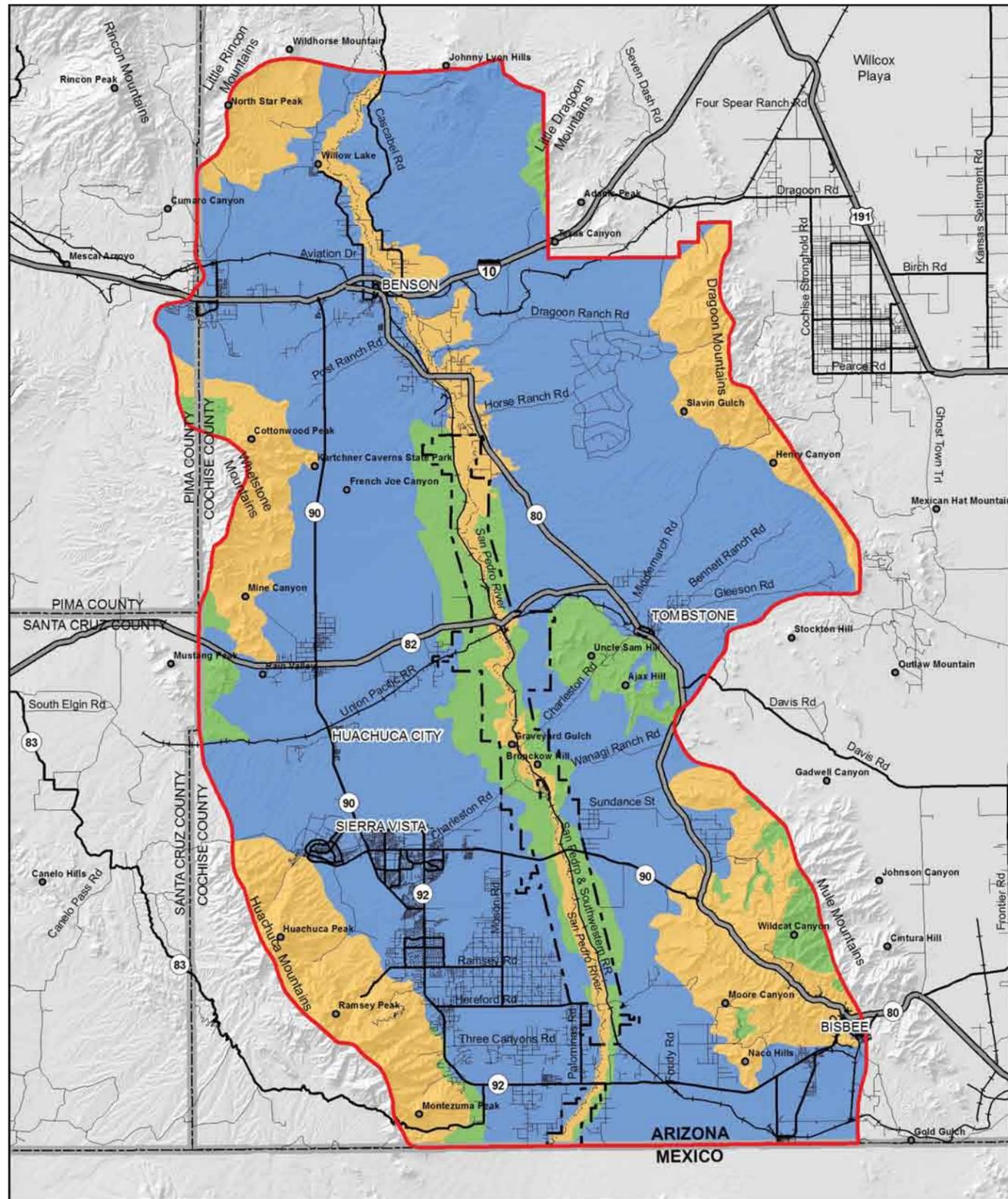
7.2 Visual Resource Inventory Classes

The majority of the inventory area, approximately 68% (628,591 acres), was designated as VRI Class IV, mostly consisting of a scenic quality C and a medium sensitivity level—regardless of distance zone (Figure 18).

VRI Class III areas appear mostly along the upper terrace areas of the San Pedro River corridor, west of the town of Tombstone, in isolated areas in the Mule Mountains, and near Mustang Peak. These areas account for approximately 10% (87,557 acres) and are mix of scenic quality and sensitivity levels.

Approximately 22% (205,246 acres) of the inventory area was designated as Class II and is found along the San Pedro River and mountainous portions of the inventory area. These locations tend to be associated with water that is not common within the region or vertical landforms that consist of scenic quality A or B and a medium or high sensitivity level.

There were no areas of the inventory area designated as VRI Class I.



Key - Visual Resource Inventory Classifications

Administrative Boundaries		Acres	% of Total Acres w/ in Inventory Area	% of BLM Acres w/ in Inventory Area	% of SPRNCA Acres w/in Inventory Area
	Inventory Area (IA)*	921394	100%		
	IA Non-BLM Acres	827294	90%		
	IA BLM Acres	94101	10%	100%	100%
Visual Resource Inventory		Acres	% of Total Acres w/ in Inventory Area	% of BLM Acres w/ in Inventory Area	% of SPRNCA Acres
	Total Area Inventoried	921394	100%	100%	100%
	VRI Class I**	0	0%	0%	0%
	VRI Class II	205246	22%	32%	30%
	VRI Class III	87557	10%	37%	47%
	VRI Class IV	628591	68%	31%	23%

* The Inventory Area (IA) is only a portion of the Field Office boundary.
 ** Wilderness Areas (WA) By Policy, WAs are managed as Visual Resource Management (VRM) Class I in accordance with requirements associated with the Congressional designation for Wilderness. Therefore, these areas are not inventoried for scenic quality and sensitivity level, and are assigned Visual Resource Inventory (VRI) Class I. No Wilderness Areas or Wilderness Study Areas are present within the Visual Resource Inventory.

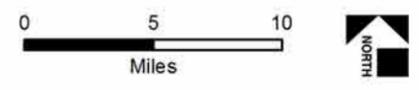


Figure 18. VRI Classifications

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8.0 REFERENCES

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Appendix A Scenic Quality Rating Unit Evaluations

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Disclaimer: This appendix could not be made fully Section 508 compliant. For help with its content, please contact the Bureau of Land Management, Gila District, Tucson Field Office at 520-258-7200. Please reference Appendix A of the August 2013 report, *Visual Resource Inventory: San Pedro Riparian National Conservation Area (SPRNCA)*.

Table of Contents

001, Mule Mountains	1
002, Dragoon / Mule Mountains Bajada	3
003, San Pedro River Corridor	5
004, Huachuca Mountains Bajada	7
005, Huachuca Mountains	9
006, Charleston Hills	11
007, Banning Creek Canyon	13
008, Tombstone Hills	15
009, Whetstone Bajada	17
010, Whetsone / Mustang Mountains - (Multi-part Unit)	19
011, Dragoon Mountains	21
012, Little Dragoon Bajada - (Multi-part Unit)	23
013, Rincon Mountains	25
015, Rincon Bajada	27
016, Little Dragoon / Johnny Lyon Hills - (Multi-part Unit)	29

SQRU Numbers Not Used:

014

Landscape Character *(Feature)*

	LANDFORM/WATER	VEGETATION	STRUCTURE
FORM	Rugged mountains; steep to rolling, rock banding and outcrops; cliff faces; mesas, rounded to pyramidal, moderate in scale.	Indistinct, low, consistent to random and clustered; variable based on elevation	Rectangular, blocks, clustered
LINE	Diagonal slopes and banding, irregular, broken horizon line, contrasting	Indistinct, broken	Horizontal, vertical, angular, hard, distinct
COLOR	Red to rust, buff to gray, green/gray, mostly muted	Yellow-green to dark green, browns, subtle, straw color	White, gray, silver, brown, red
TEXTURE	Coarse; rough, patchy, directional, banding, striated	Fine to medium, patchy, random to clustered, scattered clumps of oak, creosote, ocotillo	Clustered, smooth, individual forms

Narrative

This unit encompasses the Mule Mountains, the south face of Escabrosa Ridge and the Naco Hills which consists of steep mountains to rolling hills with diverse vegetation at higher elevations. The unit is mostly undeveloped.

Colors in landform are more prominent in the southern portion where colors of red to rust are visible. Munsell Soil - 10YR 7/1-7/2; Munsell Vegetation - 7.5YR - 2.5 YR.

Photos

IOP #1



Scenic Quality Rating Score

	RATING	EXPLANATION OR RATIONALE	Scenic Quality Classification A = 19 or more B = 12-18 C = 11 or less
LANDFORM	3	Mountain forms of moderate scale with interesting rock outcrops	
VEGETATION	3.5	Some variety, but less in low areas	
WATER	0	None visible	
COLOR	2.5	Varies in different locations. Exposed red rock and soils on southern end of unit increases score	
ADJACENT SCENERY	2.5	Long views of San Pedro Valley and Huachuca Mountains	
SCARCITY	1.5	Fairly common in province	
CULTURAL MODIFICATION	0	Modifications add little or no visual variety	
TOTAL	13	SCENIC QUALITY RATING = B	

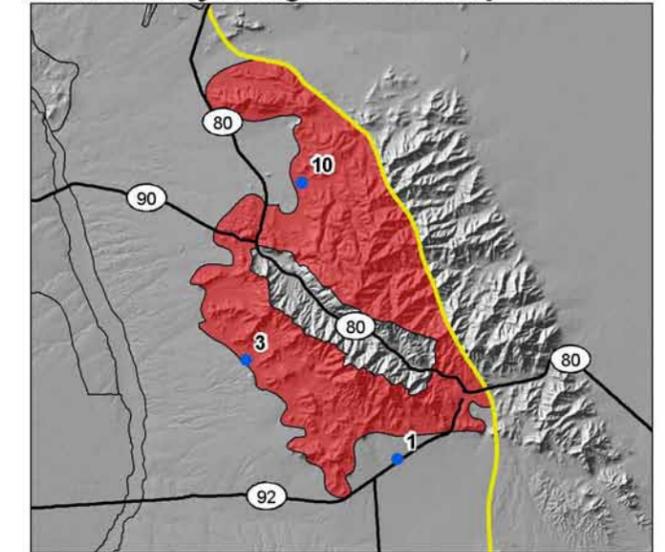
Scenic Quality Rating Unit #001 Mule Mountains

Date: 12/10/2012

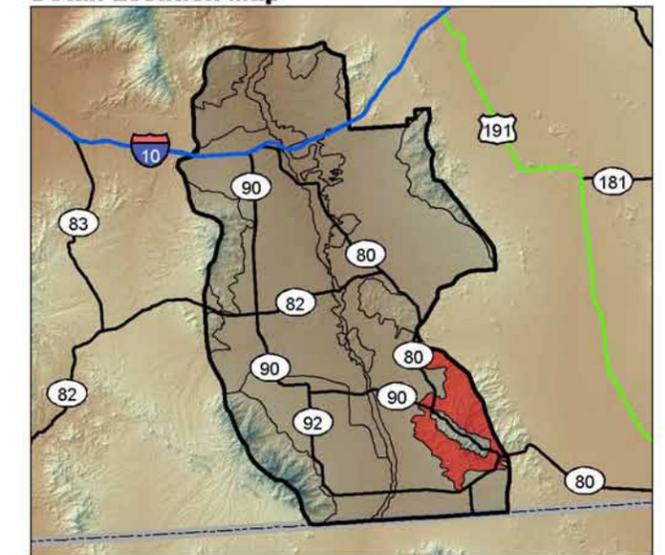
Field Office: Tucson/SPRNCA

Evaluators: Craig Johnson, Chris Bockey, Karla Rogers, Jim Mahoney

Scenic Quality Rating Unit Detail Map SQRU # 001



Detail Location Map



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SCENIC QUALITY FIELD INVENTORY

Photos

IOP #3



IOP #10



Landscape Character *(Feature)*

	LANDFORM/WATER	VEGETATION	STRUCTURE
FORM	Flat to slightly undulating, long sloping	Low to moderate in height, dense, contrast of grasses and mesquite	Rectangular, blocks, clustered
LINE	Horizontal to weak, diagonal	Horizontal, rounded, broken	Horizontal, vertical, angular, hard, distinct
COLOR	Light tan, gray, silver/gray of limestone; light reds	Yellow-green, olive, straw of grasses, gray/green of trunks/stems	White, gray, silver, brown, red
TEXTURE	Smooth, uniform	Fine to medium, clustered	Clustered, smooth, individual forms

Narrative

This unit encompasses the Dragoon / Mule Mountains Bajada along the eastern portion of the San Pedro River. The landform is flat and slopes to the west providing expansive views to the west. Vegetation varies in height and consists of creosote, mequite and grasses.

Colors are generally muted and have slight contrast between soils and vegetation. Munsell Soil - 5YR 6/1-3; Munsell Vegetation - 2.5Y 8/2-4, 2.5GY 6/4-6, 5/2-4.

Photos

IOP #2



Scenic Quality Rating Score

	RATING	EXPLANATION OR RATIONALE	Scenic Quality Classification A = 19 or more B = 12-18 C = 11 or less
LANDFORM	1.5	Flat with some undulations; slopes from east to west; expansive and far reaching	
VEGETATION	2.5	Variety in heights and form	
WATER	0	Not visible	
COLOR	2	Some variety; primarily in vegetation; some seasonal variation	
ADJACENT SCENERY	4	Surrounding views of Mule Mountains and Dragoon Mountains with distant, expansive views of Huachuca Mountains.	
SCARCITY	1	Bajada is fairly common for the area and province	
CULTURAL MODIFICATION	-1	Some development across entire unit	
TOTAL	10	SCENIC QUALITY RATING = C	

Form 8400-1

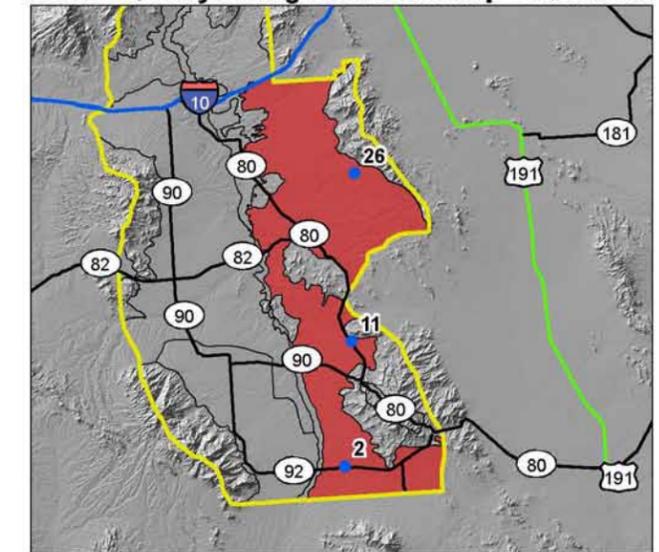
Scenic Quality Rating Unit #002 Dragoon / Mule Mountains Bajada

Date: 12/10/2012

Field Office: Tucson/SPRNCA

Evaluators: Craig Johnson, Chris Bockey, Karla Rogers, Jim Mahoney

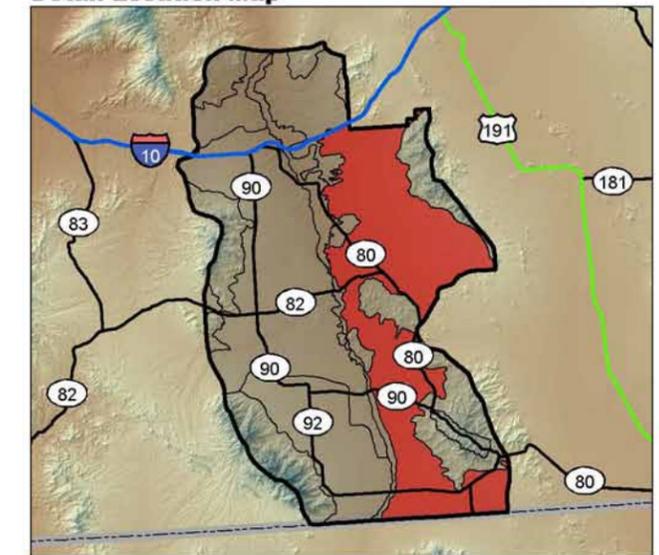
Scenic Quality Rating Unit Detail Map SQRU # 002



VRI Boundary Rating Unit



Detail Location Map



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SCENIC QUALITY FIELD INVENTORY

Photos

IOP #11



IOP #26



Landscape Character *(Feature)*

	LANDFORM/WATER	VEGETATION	STRUCTURE
FORM	Flat to rolling, vertical side banks, narrow, simple, sinuous, terraces along edges	Complex, columnar, rounded, vertical, transparent (winter), dense, low grasslands, diverse heights, contrasting, canopied	Vertical, linear, flat, undulating, narrow, geometric
LINE	Curvilinear, continuous, parallel, converging	Bold, angular, complex, vertical, horizontal, sinuous, curving, vertical/arching (trunks)	Horizontal, continuous, converging, vertical, curving
COLOR	Tan, gray, light to dark brown, silver, clay red, subtle	Bright green, golden, silver (seasonal), grays, browns, white, dull bark, glossy leaves, vivid	Black to vivid, earth tones, rust, white/gray
TEXTURE	Fine, smooth, directional, glossy (water), matte (landforms)	Rough, furrowed, clumped, soft, dense, harmonious, fine, course	Clustered to scattered, random, directional

Narrative

This unit encompasses the San Pedro River and the San Pedro Riparian National Conservation Area. The unit is linear and sinuous with dense riparian canopy and open agricultural areas. Vegetation is diverse with water visible from select locations.

The unit includes the town of St. David and historic ranches along the river. The northern portion of the unit is influenced by agricultural uses and development. Munsell Soil 5YR 8/1, 7/1 - ; Munsell Vegetation - 5Y 8/2-4, 6/2-6.

Photos

IOP #13



Scenic Quality Rating Score

	RATING	EXPLANATION OR RATIONALE	Scenic Quality Classification A = 19 or more B = 12-18 C = 11 or less
LANDFORM	2	Flat to slightly rolling. River corridor	
VEGETATION	4	Diversity in form and height. Diverse amount of riparian vegetation	
WATER	3	Areas of river have water flowing although not a dominant element within the unit	
COLOR	4	Variety in color and contrast. Seasonal variety becomes dominant and gives visual delineation of unit	
ADJACENT SCENERY	3	Adjacent scenery enhances unit when not obscured by dense canopy along river	
SCARCITY	5	Diversity within unit and uniqueness of river system make this unit rare within the region	
CULTURAL MODIFICATION	0	Minimal modification. Modifications add little visual variety and have minimal discordant elements	
TOTAL	21	SCENIC QUALITY RATING = A	

Form 8400-1

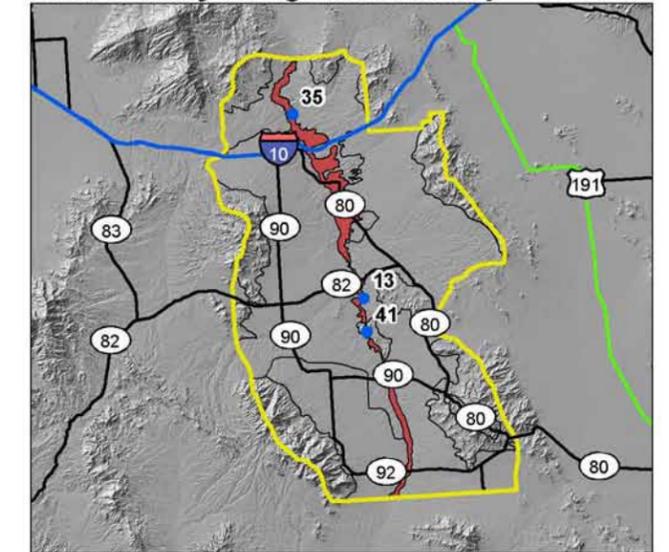
Scenic Quality Rating Unit #003 San Pedro River Corridor

Date: 12/10/2012

Field Office: Tucson/SPRNCA

Evaluators: Craig Johnson, Chris Bockey, Karla Rogers, Jim Mahoney

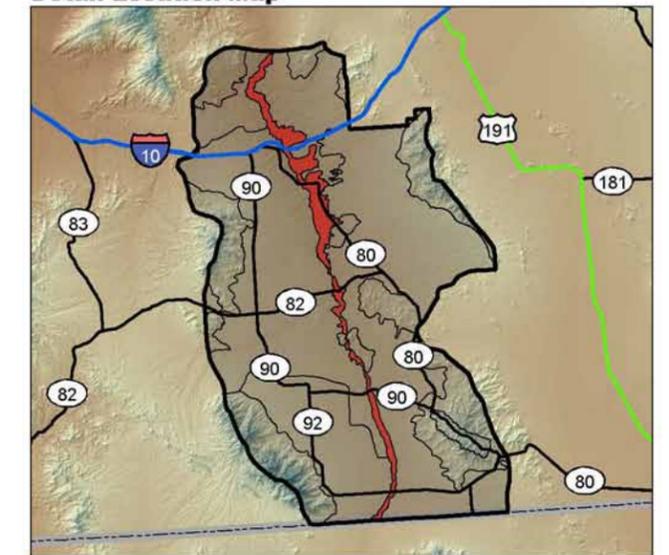
Scenic Quality Rating Unit Detail Map SQRU # 003



VRI Boundary Rating Unit



Detail Location Map



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SCENIC QUALITY FIELD INVENTORY

Photos

IOP #35



IOP #41



Landscape Character *(Feature)*

	LANDFORM/WATER	VEGETATION	STRUCTURE
FORM	Flat and moderately sloping; subtle undulations	Indistinct, broken, wide variety in form; varying heights	Rectangular, geometric, clustered, vertical
LINE	Horizontal to slightly diagonal; continuous	Complex, broken, indistinct, irregular	Horizontal, vertical
COLOR	Mostly not visible; light tan to buff, gray	Green, drak green, straw, brown/black, gray of stems; vivid grasslands to south	White, gray, silver, brown, contrasting
TEXTURE	Smooth, even, continuous	Coarse, random; contrasting	Clustered in urban areas; dispursed and scattered in rural areas

Narrative

This unit encompasses the Huachuca Mountain Bajada. The landform is flat and slopes to the east providing expansive views to the east. There is less native vegetation, with dense grasses and large shrubs being dominant.

This unit encompasses Sierra Vista and Fort Huachuca as well as scattered ranchettes. Munsell Soil - 7.5YR 8/1, 7/1; Munsell Vegetation - 2.5y 8/2-4; 2.5GY 6/4-6, 5/2-4.

Photos

IOP #4



Scenic Quality Rating Score

	RATING	EXPLANATION OR RATIONALE	Scenic Quality Classification A = 19 or more B = 12-18 C = 11 or less
LANDFORM	1.5	Flat with some undulations	
VEGETATION	3	Wide variety in height and form	
WATER	0	Not visible	
COLOR	2.5	Some variety; mostly in vegetation	
ADJACENT SCENERY	4	Surrounding mountain views add to unit	
SCARCITY	1	Bajada and urban environment are common in province	
CULTURAL MODIFICATION	-2	Urban development contrasts with landscape	
TOTAL	10	SCENIC QUALITY RATING = C	

Form 8400-1

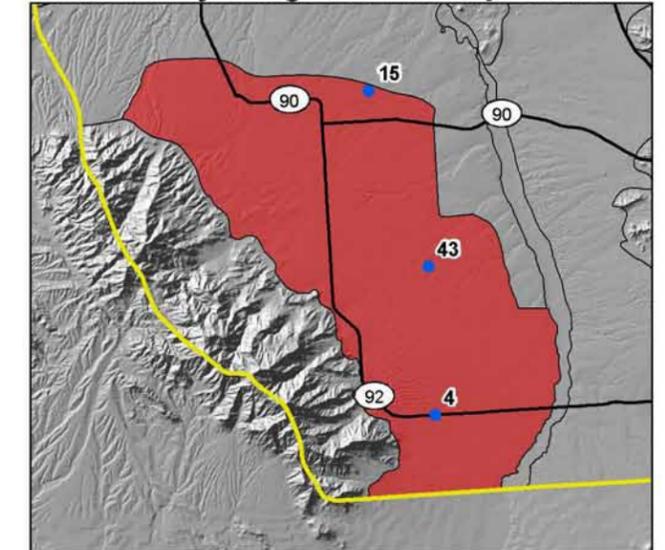
Scenic Quality Rating Unit #004 Huachuca Mountains Bajada

Date: 12/10/2012

Field Office: Tucson/SPRNCA

Evaluators: Craig Johnson, Chris Bockey, Karla Rogers, Jim Mahoney

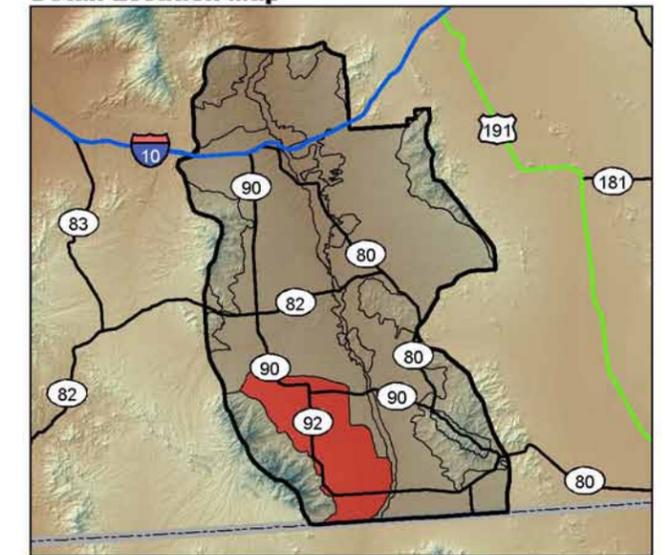
Scenic Quality Rating Unit Detail Map SQRU # 004



VRI Boundary Rating Unit



Detail Location Map



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SCENIC QUALITY FIELD INVENTORY

Photos

IOP #15



IOP #43



Landscape Character *(Feature)*

	LANDFORM/WATER	VEGETATION	STRUCTURE
FORM	Rolling hills to steep mountains; rock outcrops and cliff faces	Rounded form individually, indistinct masses, vegetation diffuses in foothills	Rectangular, ordered, clustered
LINE	Undulating, discontinuous, diagonal, rounded	Intinct, broken between grasses and trees	Horizontal, vertical, diagonal, repetitive
COLOR	Beige, gray, brown, some cool gray	Medium to dark green, seasonal, bright greens and yellows; harmonious, straw yellow	White, beige, muted, browns, gray (houses/roads)
TEXTURE	Rough	Gradational; dense to patchy with stippling; random; smooth grass cover	Smooth form, clustered, random to ordered houses; continuous roads cover

Narrative

This unit encompasses steep, rugged, high elevation mountains adjacent to the city of Sierra Vista. The unit consists of exposed rock outcrops, pockets of ponderosa pine at higher elevations and regrowth of oak and mequite as a result of fire activity.

Exposed soils and rock provide contrast with existing stippled vegetation. There is minimal cultural development within the unit. Munsell Soil - 10YR 8/1-5; Munsell Vegetation - 2.5GY 7/2-6, 6/2-4.

Photos

IOP #5



Scenic Quality Rating Score

	RATING	EXPLANATION OR RATIONALE	Scenic Quality Classification A = 19 or more B = 12-18 C = 11 or less
LANDFORM	3.5	Large mountains with rock outcrops and cliffs	
VEGETATION	4.5	Wide variety; grasses, shrubs, trees, riparian, evergreens	
WATER	1	Perennial but not visible from most locations (creeks)	
COLOR	4	Color contrast between grasses, dark green vegetation and rock outcrops	
ADJACENT SCENERY	2.5	Long views of San Pedro Valley and mountains; Sierra Vista	
SCARCITY	3	Distinctive vegetation on mountain range	
CULTURAL MODIFICATION	0	Visible fire breaks along ridgelines	
TOTAL	18.5	SCENIC QUALITY RATING = A	

Form 8400-1

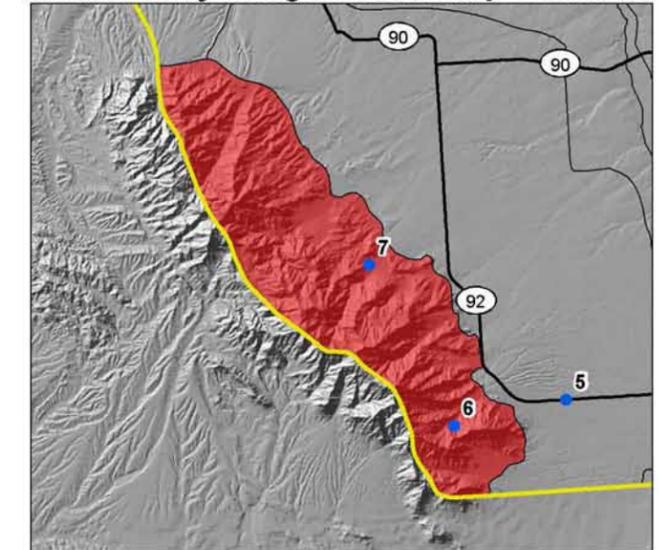
Scenic Quality Rating Unit #005 Huachuca Mountains

Date: 12/10/2012

Field Office: Tucson/SPRNCA

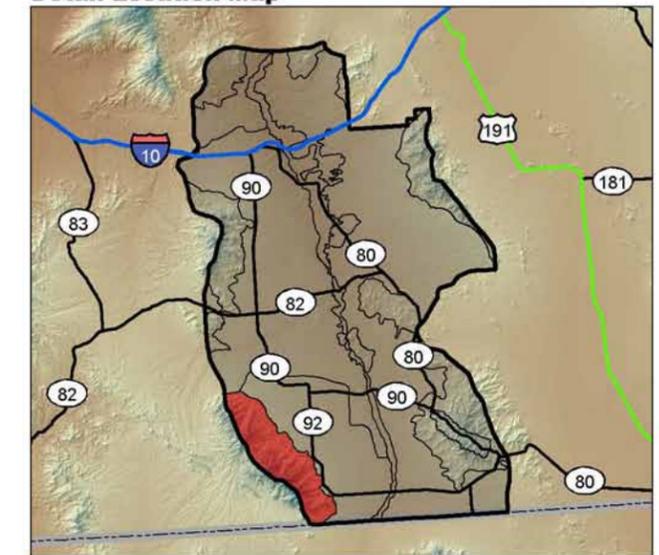
Evaluators: Craig Johnson, Chris Bockey, Karla Rogers, Jim Mahoney

Scenic Quality Rating Unit Detail Map SQRU # 005



VRI Boundary Rating Unit
0 2.75 5.5
Miles

Detail Location Map



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SCENIC QUALITY FIELD INVENTORY

Photos

IOP #6



IOP #7



Landscape Character *(Feature)*

	LANDFORM/WATER	VEGETATION	STRUCTURE
FORM	Low, rounded, conical, hills	Small, low, indistinct; low rounded; scrubby	Columnar transmission line poles, flat terraces of mining, horizontal transmission lines
LINE	Rolling, angular, undulating, flowing, continuous	Indistinct	Curvilinear road, broken, horizontal, vertical
COLOR	Light to medium brown/redish brown, gray/white, golden, subtle	Gray green, bright green, golden, tan	Buff/tan, gray, rust, dark brown transmission line poles; medium gray stone walls
TEXTURE	Medium, matte, small to medium boulders; courser on higher hills	Rough, dotted, smooth, stippled, patchy	Rough, smooth road, widely spaced transmission lines/poles; ordered

Narrative

This unit encompasses the Charelston Hills, a distinctive, medium height hill unit within the Mule Mountain Bajada. Historic and current land uses are evident within the area and contrast minimally with the natural surroundings.

Vegetation in low in stature with muted colors and forms. Munsell Soil - 10YR 8/1-5; Munsell Vegetation -2.5GY 7/2-6, 6/2-4.

Photos

IOP #16



Scenic Quality Rating Score

	RATING	EXPLANATION OR RATIONALE	Scenic Quality Classification A = 19 or more B = 12-18 C = 11 or less
LANDFORM	3	Isolated, rounded, conical hills with sloping slopes which provide interest within setting	
VEGETATION	2	Vegetation is minimal and consists of mesquite and shrubs/grasses	
WATER	0	Not visible	
COLOR	2	Subtle color variations between soils and vegetation. Isolated locations where exposed soils contrast add variety	
ADJACENT SCENERY	3.5	Views to adjacent mountain units and expansive bajada units add interest and variety	
SCARCITY	1	Fairly common within region	
CULTURAL MODIFICATION	0.5	Historic land uses add some variety	
TOTAL	12	SCENIC QUALITY RATING = B	

Form 8400-1

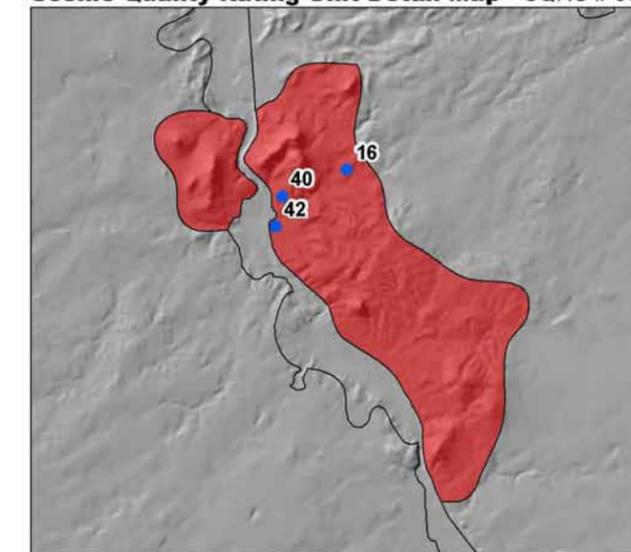
Scenic Quality Rating Unit #006 Charleston Hills

Date: 11/28/2012

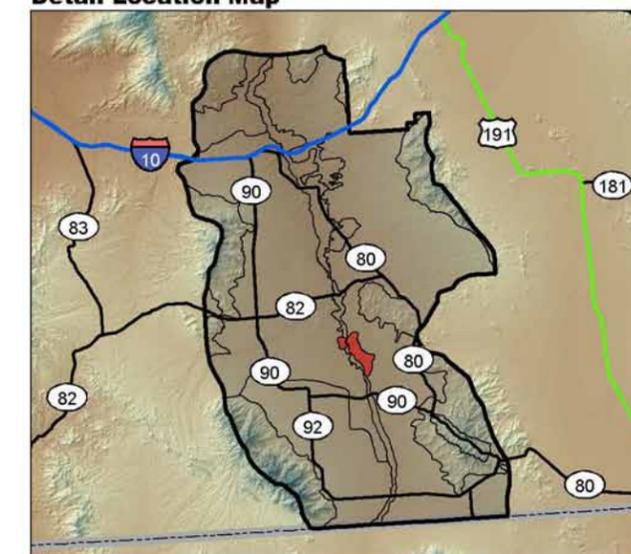
Field Office: Tucson/SPRNCA

Evaluators: Craig Johnson, Karla Rogers, Jim Mahoney, Laura Olais, Claire Crow, Francisco Mendoza, Susan Bernal, Eric Baker, Don Applegate

Scenic Quality Rating Unit Detail Map SQRU # 006



Detail Location Map



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SCENIC QUALITY FIELD INVENTORY

Photos

IOP #40



IOP #42



Landscape Character *(Feature)*

	LANDFORM/WATER	VEGETATION	STRUCTURE
FORM	Angular, rugged, steep, vase-shaped, canyon, blocky, rock forms and cliffs	Bold, rounded oak, diverse	Rectangular, geometric, clustered, vertical
LINE	Bold, angular, vertical, converging	Irregular to indistinct, broken, complex	Horizontal, vertical, angular, hard, distinct
COLOR	Tan, brown, gray, rose/tan	Dark green, gray/brown, reddish manzanita, seasonal green and gold of cottonwoods	White, gray, silver, brown, red
TEXTURE	Rough, contrasting rock and diagonal slopes	Clustered, dotted, contrasting, dense to sparse	Clustered, smooth, individual forms

Narrative

This unit encompasses Banning Creek Canyon and State Route 80 which bisects the canyon. Numerous cultural modifications are visible and includes the historic town of Bisbee, Mule Pass Tunnel and communication towers.

Vegetation is clustered and random being more dispersed at lower elevations. Species include oak, ironwood, pinyon and grasses with some cottonwood along drainages. Munsell Soil - 7.5YR 7/1-6, 5/1-2; Munsell Vegetation - 5Y 8/2-6, 7/2-6, 6/2-6, 5/2-4.

Photos

IOP #8



Scenic Quality Rating Score

	RATING	EXPLANATION OR RATIONALE	Scenic Quality Classification A = 19 or more B = 12-18 C = 11 or less
LANDFORM	4	Strong vertical relief, exposed rock faces, variety in form and size	
VEGETATION	3.5	Variety of vegetation that is representative of Sky Islands; variation in density and types add interest	
WATER	1.5	Perennial stream with side slope water falls during monsoons	
COLOR	3	Contrast in color between vegetation and exposed rock outcrops; density of vegetation add variety and interest	
ADJACENT SCENERY	0	Enclosed canyon with limited views towards adjacent units	
SCARCITY	3.5	Canyon is distinctive though somewhat similar to others found in region; vegetation and setting add value	
CULTURAL MODIFICATION	0.5	Numerous modifications, the town of Bisbee within the setting adds visual variety and interest	
TOTAL	16	SCENIC QUALITY RATING = B	

Form 8400-1

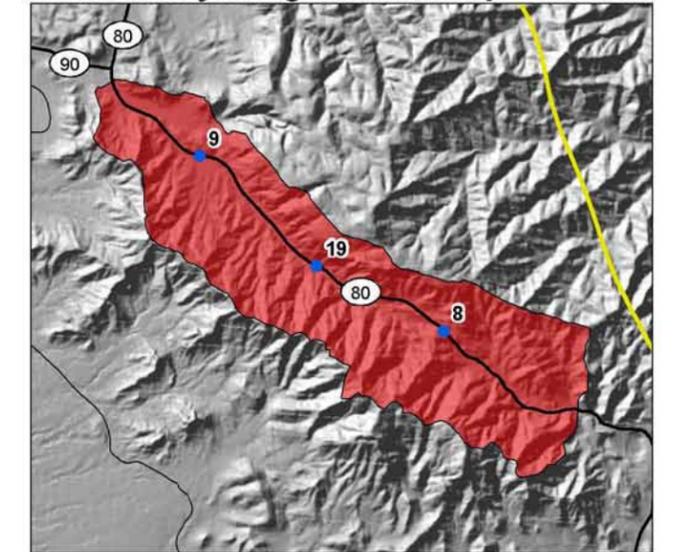
Scenic Quality Rating Unit #007 Banning Creek Canyon

Date: 12/11/2012

Field Office: Tucson/SPRNCA

Evaluators: Craig Johnson, Chris Bockey, Karla Rogers, Jim Mahoney

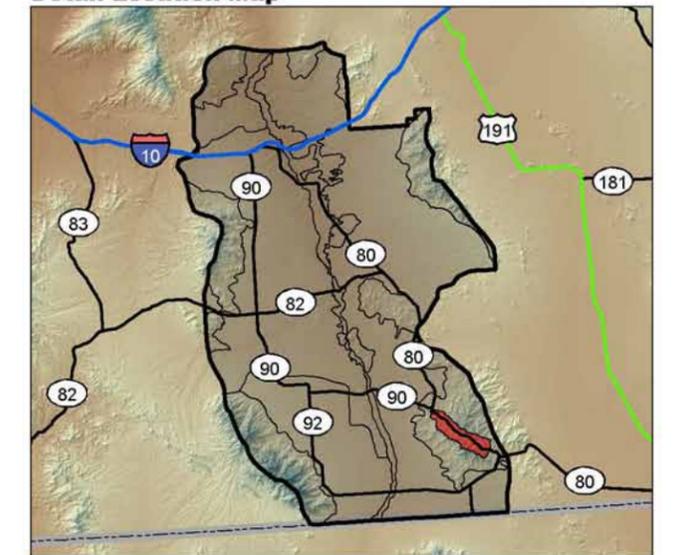
Scenic Quality Rating Unit Detail Map SQRU # 007



VRI Boundary Rating Unit



Detail Location Map



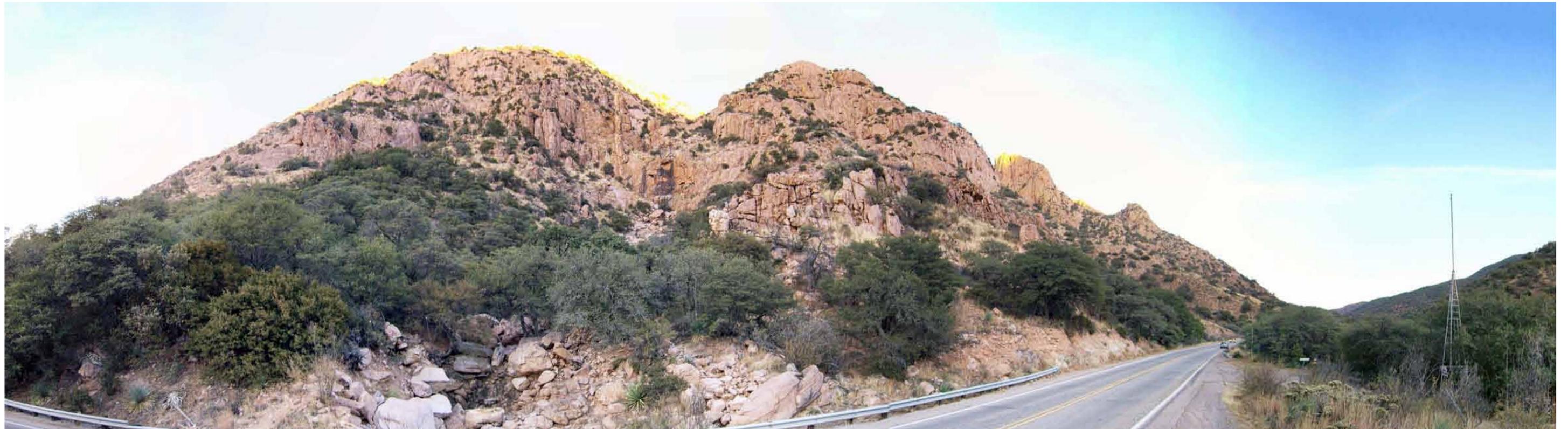
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SCENIC QUALITY FIELD INVENTORY

Photos

IOP #9



IOP #19



Landscape Character *(Feature)*

	LANDFORM/WATER	VEGETATION	STRUCTURE
FORM	Rolling to rounded pyramidal hills; rock banding	Indistinct, low, individually rounded, amorphous plant groupings	Rectangular, geometric, clustered, vertical
LINE	Striations; banding; undulating, irregular; continuous, curving, flowing	Weak, indistinct	Horizontal, vertical, angular, hard, distinct, repetitive
COLOR	Gray/green, yellow, muted, beige	Green, gray/green, straw, muted	White, gray, silver, brown, red; contrasting
TEXTURE	Medium to coarse	Somewhat gradational, even to patchy, bristly	Clustered, smooth, individual forms

Narrative

Unit encompasses rolling, rounded, pyramidal hills with exposed rock face and banding that is unique in form and line contrasting with surrounding vegetation. Vegetation consists of creosote, blackbrush, yucca and ocotillo.

Historic mining is dispersed through the unit resulting in exposed soils that contrast. Munsell Soil - 10YR 7/1-3, 6/1-2, 5/1; Munsell Vegetation - 2.5YR 5/4, 6/2-6, 7/2-6.

Photos

IOP #12



Scenic Quality Rating Score

	RATING	EXPLANATION OR RATIONALE	Scenic Quality Classification A = 19 or more B = 12-18 C = 11 or less
LANDFORM	2.5	Low rolling hills with some exposed rock formations. Pattern of rock banding adds interest	
VEGETATION	2.5	Vegetation lacks diversity in height and form. Stature is low and dense	
WATER	0	Not visible	
COLOR	2.5	Subtle, muted color variations, with some contrast between vegetation and exposed rock	
ADJACENT SCENERY	3	Distant views of Huachuca and Dragoon Mountains enhance overall quality	
SCARCITY	2.5	Hills of this form and size are fairly common for this region	
CULTURAL MODIFICATION	-0.5	Scattered residential development; historic mining evidence	
TOTAL	12.5	SCENIC QUALITY RATING = B	

Form 8400-1

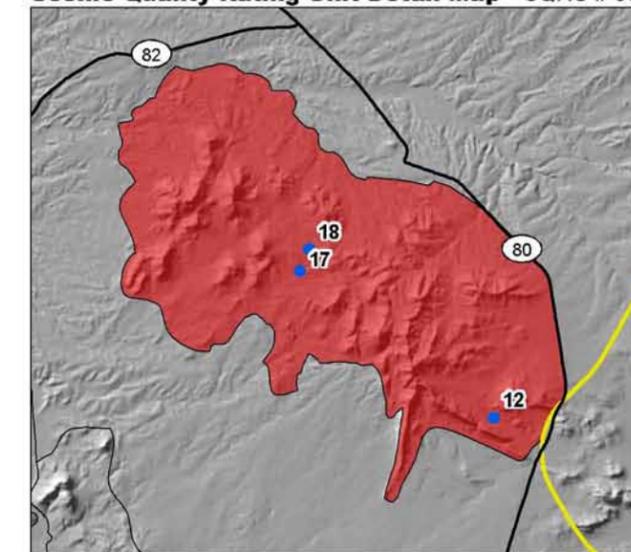
Scenic Quality Rating Unit #008 Tombstone Hills

Date: 12/11/2012

Field Office: Tucson/SPRNCA

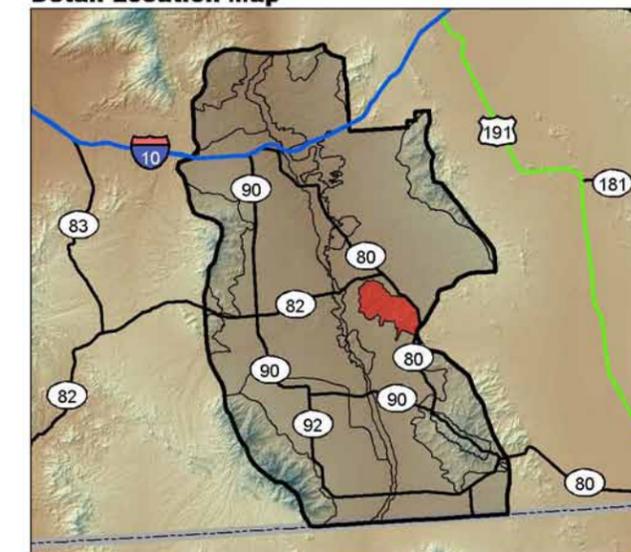
Evaluators: Craig Johnson, Chris Bockey, Karla Rogers, Jim Mahoney

Scenic Quality Rating Unit Detail Map SQRU # 008



VRI Boundary Rating Unit
0 1.25 2.5 Miles

Detail Location Map



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SCENIC QUALITY FIELD INVENTORY

Photos

IOP #17



IOP #18



Landscape Character *(Feature)*

	LANDFORM/WATER	VEGETATION	STRUCTURE
FORM	Flat and gently sloping ; some low rounded hills	Individually rounded, indistinct; continuous shrub cover with some areas of grass; sinuous riparian	Rectangular, geometric, clustered, vertical
LINE	Horizontal, continuous	Individually round, indistinct to continuous, broken where plant types change	Horizontal, vertical, angular, hard, distinct
COLOR	Mostly not visible; light tan to buff and gray	Dark green mesquite, brown to black, gray, bright green and yellow seasonally; buff/straw grasses	White, gray, silver, brown, red; contrasting
TEXTURE	Smooth, even, continuous	Even to patchy where plant types change	Clustered, smooth, individual forms; scattered residential; clusters at ranches or in urban areas

Narrative

Unit encompasses the Whetstone Bajada north of Sierra Vista to Interstate 10. The unit has flat to rolling landforms with isolated hills. Vegetation consists of dense creosote, mesquite with some riparian along drainages.

Unit has scattered residential associated with the towns of Benson, Huachuca City and Whetstone. Munsell Soil - 7.5YR 8/1, 7/1; Munsell Vegetation - 2.5Y 8/2-4; 2.5GY 6/4-6, 5/2-4.

Photos

IOP #14



Scenic Quality Rating Score

	RATING	EXPLANATION OR RATIONALE	Scenic Quality Classification A = 19 or more B = 12-18 C = 11 or less
LANDFORM	1	Flat, sloped landform	
VEGETATION	2.5	Mostly creosote, mesquite and grasses	
WATER	1	Babocomari River has water occasionally	
COLOR	2	Subtle; mostly green	
ADJACENT SCENERY	4	Surrounding mountain ranges add to unit	
SCARCITY	1	Bajada is common in province	
CULTURAL MODIFICATION	-1	Some negative modifications; City of Huachuca; powerlines	
TOTAL	10.5	SCENIC QUALITY RATING = C	

Form 8400-1

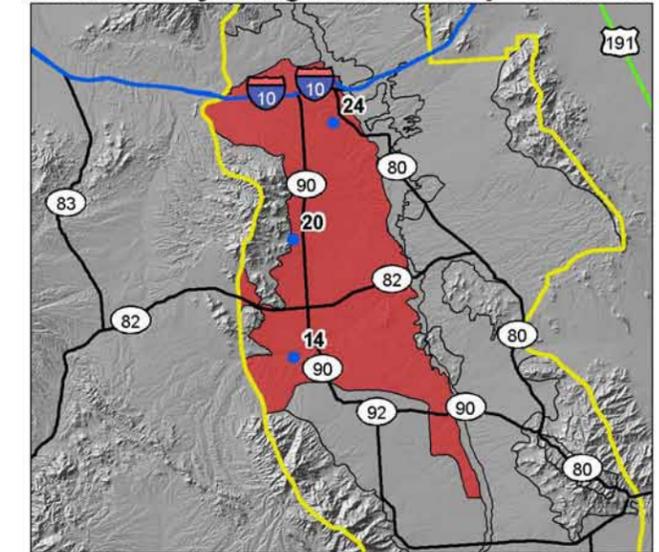
Scenic Quality Rating Unit #009
Whetstone Bajada

Date: 12/11/2012

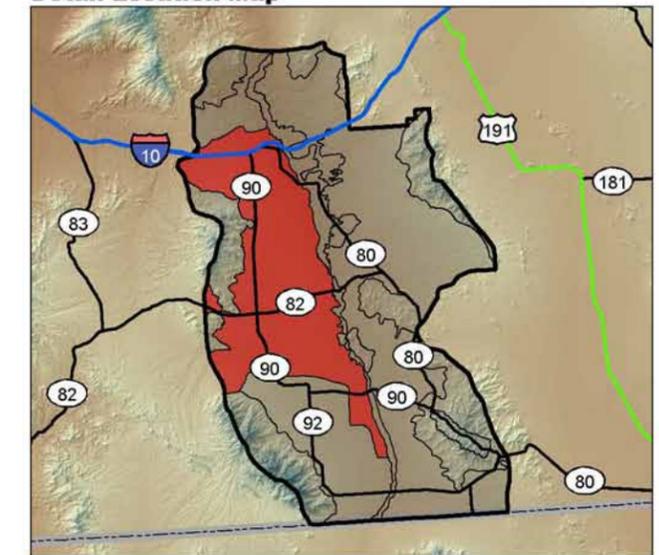
Field Office: Tucson/SPRNCA

Evaluators: Craig Johnson, Chris Bockey, Karla Rogers, Jim Mahoney

Scenic Quality Rating Unit Detail Map SQRU # 009



Detail Location Map



UNITED STATES
DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT
SCENIC QUALITY FIELD INVENTORY

Photos

IOP #20



IOP #24



Landscape Character *(Feature)*

	LANDFORM/WATER	VEGETATION	STRUCTURE
FORM	Bold, rugged, angular, to rounded, steep to moderate, cliffs and rock outcrops, uplifted with buttes, rounded conical	Rounded to basal individually; indistinct to vertically directional	Rectangular, vertical, columnar water tanks
LINE	Horizontal to angular/striations; rock banding; layered, broken undulating	Indistinct to vertical along drainages; patchy to clustered following aspect; variable banding; dense, even areas of grass	Horizontal, vertical, angular, repeating
COLOR	Grays, buff, red to subtle pink and purple	Olive to dark green, straw, tan/buff	Whites, grays, contrasting browns, silver
TEXTURE	Rough, coarse, striated, rugged, directional uplifts; smooth surfaces at foothills; random	Stippled to scattered with clumped oak and junipers; smooth grass cover	Scattered, clustered at ranches

Narrative

This unit encompasses the Whetstone and Mustang Mountains which have distinctive visual variety of exposed cliff faces, large buttes and rock banding. Vegetation is scattered with densities increasing along drainages.

Exposed rock textures contrast with simple forms and color of vegetation. Munsell Soil - 7.5YR 7/1-2, 6/1-2, 5/1; Munsell Vegetation - 5Y 8/2-6, 7/2-6.

Photos

IOP #21



Scenic Quality Rating Score

	RATING	EXPLANATION OR RATIONALE	Scenic Quality Classification A = 19 or more B = 12-18 C = 11 or less
LANDFORM	4	Exposed rock cliff, banding, erosional patterns	
VEGETATION	4	Variety of vegetation in form and height	
WATER	0	Not visible	
COLOR	3.5	Contrast of exposed rock with vegetaion. Large areas of grasses contrast with dark green of mesquite	
ADJACENT SCENERY	3	Moderately enhances visual quality	
SCARCITY	3	Lack of cultural modifications increases scarcity	
CULTURAL MODIFICATION	0	Modifications within unit add little visual variety or discordant elements	
TOTAL	17.5	SCENIC QUALITY RATING = B	

Form 8400-1

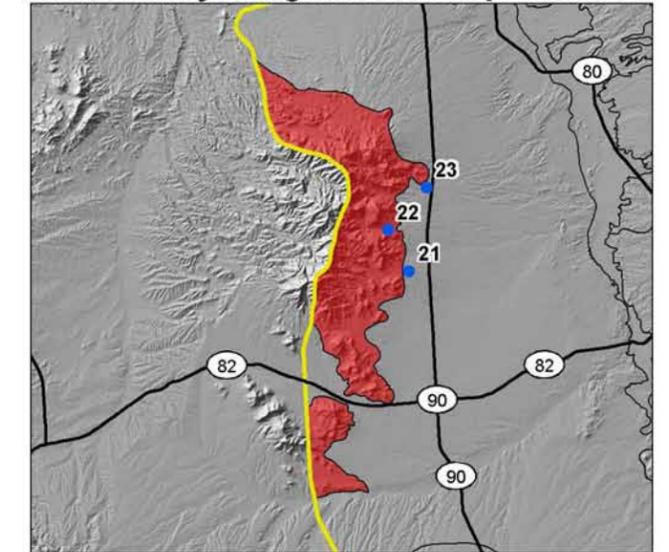
Scenic Quality Rating Unit #010 Whetstone/Mustang Mountains

Date: 12/11/2012

Field Office: Tucson/SPRNCA

Evaluators: Craig Johnson, Chris Bockey, Karla Rogers, Jim Mahoney

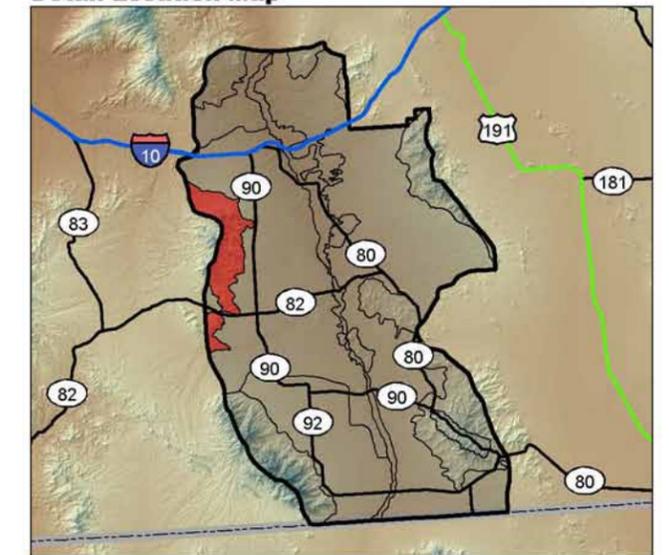
Scenic Quality Rating Unit Detail Map SQRU # 010



VRI Boundary Rating Unit



Detail Location Map



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BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT
SCENIC QUALITY FIELD INVENTORY

Photos

IOP #22



IOP #23



Landscape Character *(Feature)*

	LANDFORM/WATER	VEGETATION	STRUCTURE
FORM	Dramatic, prominent, bold, rugged, rounded, pyramidal; rounded blocky forms	Rounded individually; vertical trunks of large trees, clustered	Rectangular, geometric, clustered, vertical
LINE	Complex, irregular, rounded, angled, converging, vertical, broken	Irregular, indistinct, rounded, converging, undulating, broken	Horizontal, vertical, angular, hard, distinct
COLOR	Buff to light rust, luminous, gray	Yellow-green of lichen, olive green to dark green of mesquite and juniper; seasonal yellow and bright green	White, gray, silver, brown, red
TEXTURE	Matte, course to moderate, contrasting; clumped, rounded rock forms; dense rock outcrops	Dotted, directional, smooth grasses, clumped, scattered	Clustered, smooth, individual forms

Narrative

This unit encompasses the Dragoon Mountains. The landform has dramatic, layered landforms with large distinctive rock formations that rise above the bajada floor making this unit visible from many locations within the project area.

Minimal cultural modifications are visible and consist mostly of recreation areas and scattered ranches. Vegetation and rock formations contrast in color and form. Munsell Soil - 10YR 7/2, 6/2-4, 8/2-3; Munsell Vegetation -2.5GY 7/2-6, 6/2-4; 5Y 8/4.

Photos

IOP #27



Scenic Quality Rating Score

	RATING	EXPLANATION OR RATIONALE	Scenic Quality Classification A = 19 or more B = 12-18 C = 11 or less
LANDFORM	4.5	Prominent, rounded rock forms	
VEGETATION	4.5	Wide variety; grasses, deciduous trees, shrubs, riparian	
WATER	1.5	Perennial clear water	
COLOR	4	Strong contrast in rock and vegetation	
ADJACENT SCENERY	3	Savannah-like views of bajada to the east	
SCARCITY	3	Distinctive though similar to others in province	
CULTURAL MODIFICATION	0	Modifications within unit add little visual variety or discordant elements	
TOTAL	20.5	SCENIC QUALITY RATING = A	

Form 8400-1

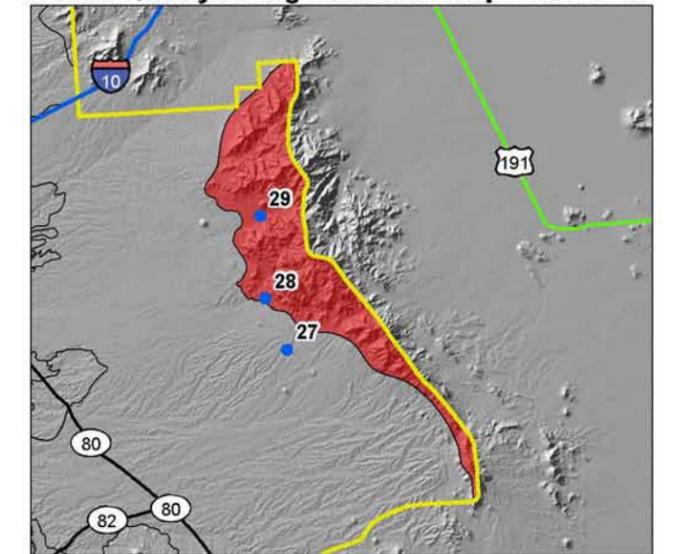
Scenic Quality Rating Unit #011 Dragoon Mountains

Date: 12/12/2012

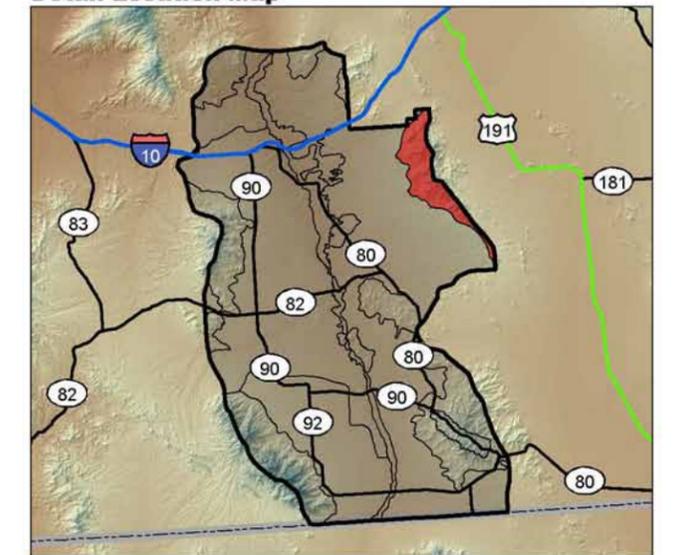
Field Office: Tucson/SPRNCA

Evaluators: Craig Johnson, Chris Bockey, Karla Rogers, Jim Mahoney, Catie Fenn, Eric Baker

Scenic Quality Rating Unit Detail Map SQRU # 011



Detail Location Map



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DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT
SCENIC QUALITY FIELD INVENTORY

Photos

IOP #28



IOP #29



Landscape Character *(Feature)*

	LANDFORM/WATER	VEGETATION	STRUCTURE
FORM	Flat to rolling, sloping, erosional fingers on west end	Low to moderate in height; dense, contrasting grasses and mesquite	Rectangular, geometric, clustered, vertical
LINE	Horizontal, flowing, smooth to angular	Horizontal, rounded, broken, rolling	Horizontal, vertical, angular, hard, distinct
COLOR	Beige to gray; subtle, muted	Yellow-green, olive green, straw, dark gray and brown trunks of mesquite	White, gray, silver, brown, red
TEXTURE	Smooth to moderate	Fine to medium, clustered	Clustered, smooth, individual forms

Narrative

This unit encompasses the bajada area adjacent to the Little Dragoon and Jonny Lyon Hills. The unit is expansive with small buttes and badland formations. Vegetation is mixed with acacia, creosote and grasses.

The unit contains a portion of the I-10 corridor and isolated communication sites. Munsell Soil -5YR 6/1-3; Munsell Vegetation - 2.5Y 8/2-4, 2.5GY 6/4-6, 5/2-4.

Photos

IOP #25



Scenic Quality Rating Score

	RATING	EXPLANATION OR RATIONALE	Scenic Quality Classification A = 19 or more B = 12-18 C = 11 or less
LANDFORM	2	Flat to rolling with badland-like formations at western end near San Pedro River	
VEGETATION	2.5	Vegetation lacks diversity in height and form. Stature is low and dense	
WATER	0	Not visible	
COLOR	2	Subtle, muted color variations, with some contrast between vegetation and exposed soils of badland formations	
ADJACENT SCENERY	3.5	Views to adjacent mountain units and expansive bajada units add interest and variety	
SCARCITY	1	Bajada is common in province	
CULTURAL MODIFICATION	0	Modifications within unit add little visual variety or discordant elements	
TOTAL	11	SCENIC QUALITY RATING = C	

Form 8400-1

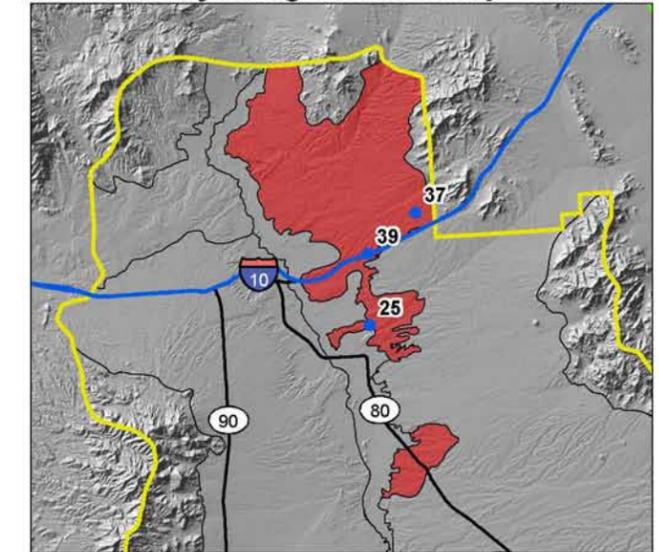
Scenic Quality Rating Unit #012 Little Dragoon Bajada

Date: 12/12/2012

Field Office: Tucson/SPRNCA

Evaluators: Craig Johnson, Chris Bockey, Karla Rogers, Jim Mahoney, Catie Fenn, Eric Baker

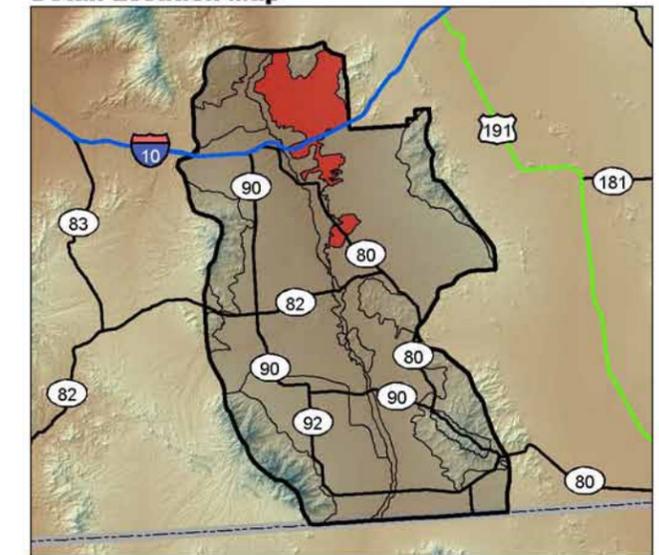
Scenic Quality Rating Unit Detail Map SQRU # 012



VRI Boundary Rating Unit



Detail Location Map



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SCENIC QUALITY FIELD INVENTORY

Photos

IOP #37



IOP #39



Landscape Character *(Feature)*

	LANDFORM/WATER	VEGETATION	STRUCTURE
FORM	Dramatic, steep with rounded blocky forms, complex, rounded, conical/pyramidal	Individually rounded, weakly amorphous, indistinct, diverse	Rectangular, geometric, clustered, vertical; transmission lines
LINE	Complex, irregular, hard undulating, diagonal, rounded, trapezoidal	Indistinct, directional	Horizontal, vertical, angular, hard, distinct
COLOR	Buff, tan, clay red, gray	Olive green, grease wood green, yellow-green, pale green, straw color	White, gray, silver, brown, red
TEXTURE	Coarse, rough, gradational	Clustered based on aspect, diverse, coarse	Clustered, smooth, individual forms

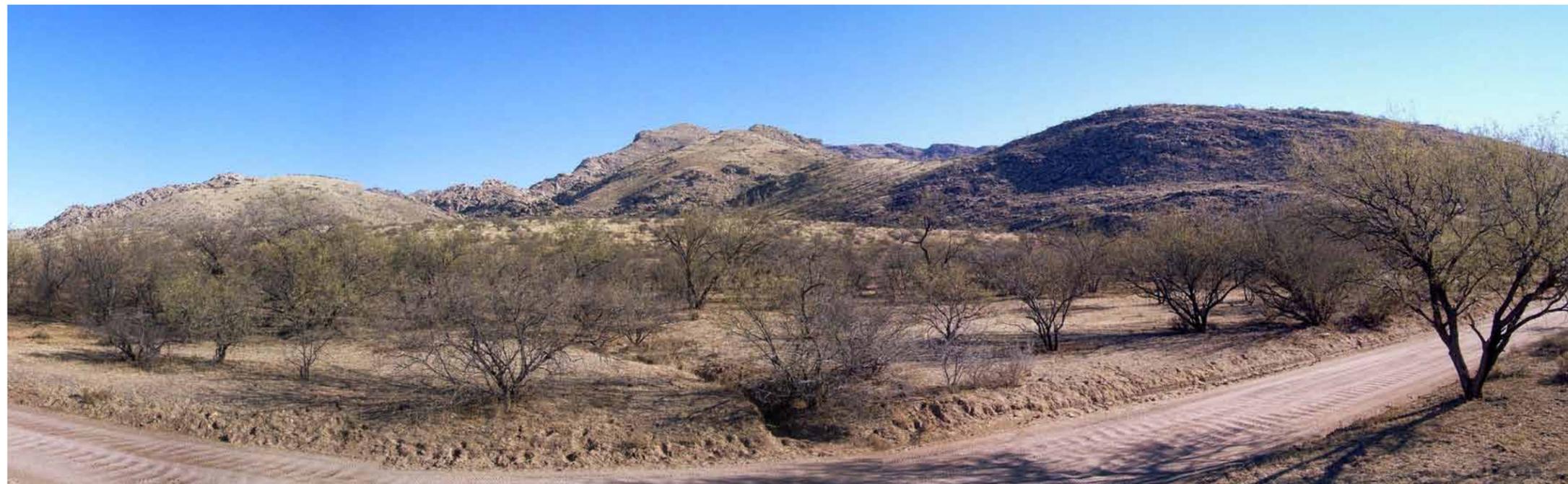
Narrative

This unit encompasses the Rincon Mountains which is a dramatic, layered mountain range with distinctive large scale rock formations. Development is scattered with isolated ranches and transmission lines.

Vegetation is diverse and ranges from mesquite and juniper to riparian with sycamore. Munsell Soil - 7.5R 7/2, 5/8; Munsell Vegetation - 2.5GY 7/4, 7/6,6/6,7/8; 5Y 8/4-6.

Photos

IOP #32



Scenic Quality Rating Score

	RATING	EXPLANATION OR RATIONALE	Scenic Quality Classification A = 19 or more B = 12-18 C = 11 or less
LANDFORM	4	Dramatic layered mountain landform. Scale of rock formations are distinctive and contrast with surrounding vegetation	
VEGETATION	4	Diverse vegetation that included riparian with varying heights and forms	
WATER	1.5	Perennial streams	
COLOR	3.5	Contrast between rocks/soils and vegetation	
ADJACENT SCENERY	2.5	Views to adjacent mountain units and expansive bajada units	
SCARCITY	3.5	Distinctive though somewhat similar to others found in region	
CULTURAL MODIFICATION	-0.5	Transmission lines and scattered development begin to detract	
TOTAL	18.5	SCENIC QUALITY RATING = A	

Form 8400-1

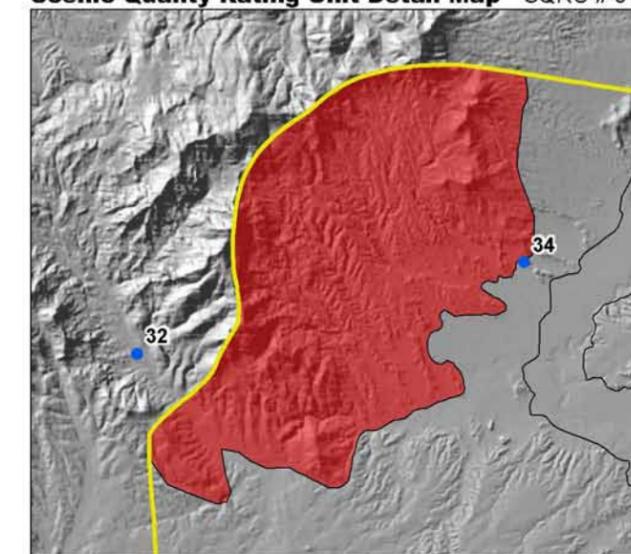
Scenic Quality Rating Unit #013 Rincon Mountains

Date: 12/13/2012

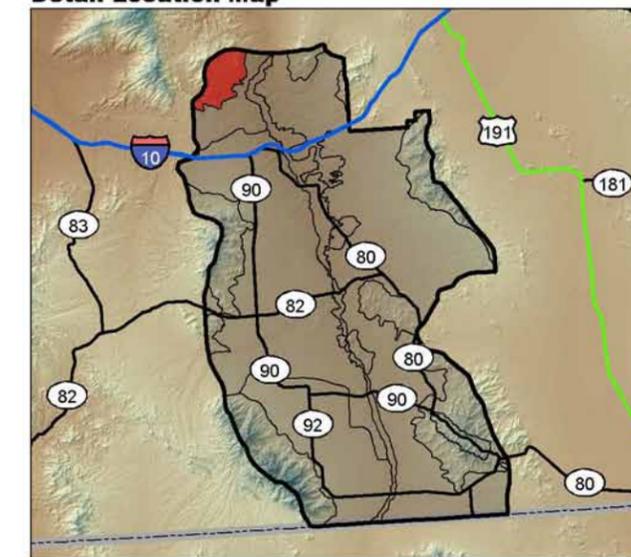
Field Office: Tucson/SPRNCA

Evaluators: Craig Johnson, Chris Bockey, Karla Rogers, Jim Mahoney, Catie Fenn, Eric Baker

Scenic Quality Rating Unit Detail Map SQRU # 013



Detail Location Map



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SCENIC QUALITY FIELD INVENTORY

Photos

IOP #34



Landscape Character *(Feature)*

	LANDFORM/WATER	VEGETATION	STRUCTURE
FORM	Flat to rolling and sloping, erosional fingers, diverse	Low to moderate height, dense, contrasting grasses and mesquite	Rectangular, geometric, clustered, vertical
LINE	Diagonal, sloping, horizontal, flowing, smooth to angular	Horizontal, rounded, broken, rolling	Horizontal, vertical, angular, hard, distinct
COLOR	Beige, gray, clay red/ light red	Yellow-green, olive green, straw, dark gray /brown of mesquite trunks	White, gray, silver, brown, red
TEXTURE	Smooth to moderate	Fine to medium, clustered	Clustered, smooth, individual forms

Narrative

This unit encompasses a large rolling bajada south of the Rincon Mountains. Vegetation is low in stature and consists primarily of mesquite, creosote and grasses. Scattered residential development as well as a recreated old west town used in movies.

Munsell Soil - 7.5R 7 /1-2, 5/8; Munsell Vegetation -2.5GY 7/4, 7/6, 6/6, 7/8; 5Y 8/4-6.

Photos

IOP #30



Scenic Quality Rating Score

	RATING	EXPLANATION OR RATIONALE	Scenic Quality Classification A = 19 or more B = 12-18 C = 11 or less
LANDFORM	2	Flat to rolling expansive bajada	
VEGETATION	2.5	Vegetation is minimal and consists of mesquite and shrubs/grasses	
WATER	0	Not visible	
COLOR	2.5	Colors are generally muted, some contrast between grasses and shrubs/trees	
ADJACENT SCENERY	3.5	Views to adjacent mountain units and expansive bajada units add interest and variety	
SCARCITY	1	Fairly common within region	
CULTURAL MODIFICATION	-1	Scattered residential development and transmission lines	
TOTAL	10.5	SCENIC QUALITY RATING = C	

Form 8400-1

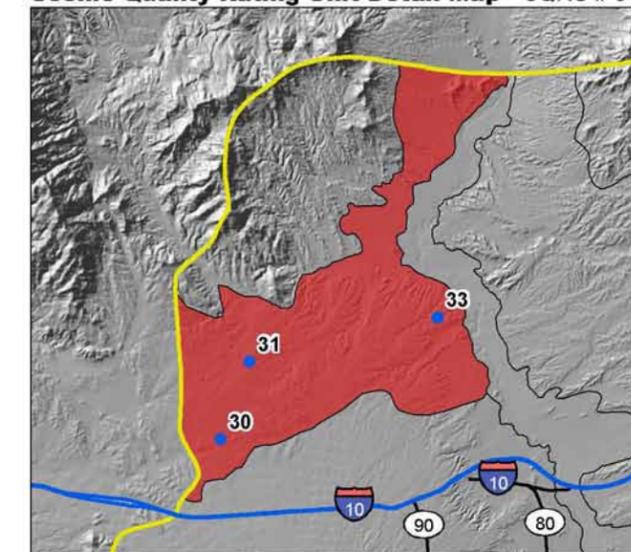
Scenic Quality Rating Unit #015 Rincon Bajada

Date: 12/13/2012

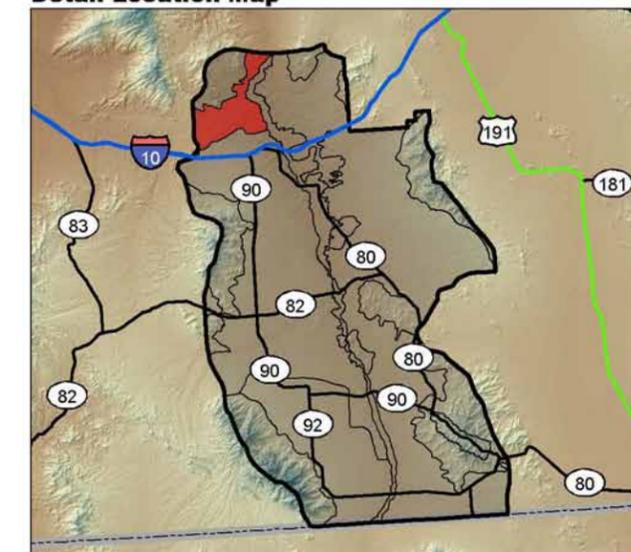
Field Office: Tucson/SPRNCA

Evaluators: Craig Johnson, Chris Bockey, Karla Rogers, Jim Mahoney, Catie Fenn, Eric Baker

Scenic Quality Rating Unit Detail Map SQRU # 015



Detail Location Map




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Photos

IOP #31



IOP #33



Landscape Character *(Feature)*

	LANDFORM/WATER	VEGETATION	STRUCTURE
FORM	Rounded, pyramidal; blocky rough, irregular	Indistinct, rounded, irregular	Prominent, vertical, bold, communication tower, geometric, narrow, clustered
LINE	Undulating, complex, diagonal, broken	Indistinct, rounded, some diagonal	Horizontal, vertical, angular, hard, distinct
COLOR	Gray, buff, faint clay color boulders	Dark green to olive green, gray/black trunks of mesquite, straw grasses, contrasting	White, gray, silver, brown
TEXTURE	Medium to rough; rugged, scattered, random	Stippled, random, clumped based on aspect	Clustered, smooth, individual forms

Narrative

This unit encompasses the Little Dragoon Mountains as well as the Johnny Lyon Hills. Landform within the unit is diverse with bold mountain features and distinctive rock formation outcrops.

Soil and rock colors are light and contrast with the surrounding vegetation which consists mainly of mesquite, oaks, grasses and ocotillo. Munsell Soil - 10YR 7/2, 6/2-4, 8/2-3; Munsell Vegetation - 2.5GY 7/2-6, 6/2-4; 5Y 8/4.

Photos

IOP #36



Scenic Quality Rating Score

	RATING	EXPLANATION OR RATIONALE	Scenic Quality Classification A = 19 or more B = 12-18 C = 11 or less
LANDFORM	3.5	High mountain forms; rounded, blocky forms	
VEGETATION	3.5	Variety of vegetation; variation in density and types add interest	
WATER	0	Not visible	
COLOR	3	Contrast between soil and rock formations	
ADJACENT SCENERY	3	Moderately enhances visual quality	
SCARCITY	2.5	Hills of this form and size are fairly common for this region	
CULTURAL MODIFICATION	-0.5	Some development to include Interstate 10 and communication towers	
TOTAL	15	SCENIC QUALITY RATING = B	

Form 8400-1

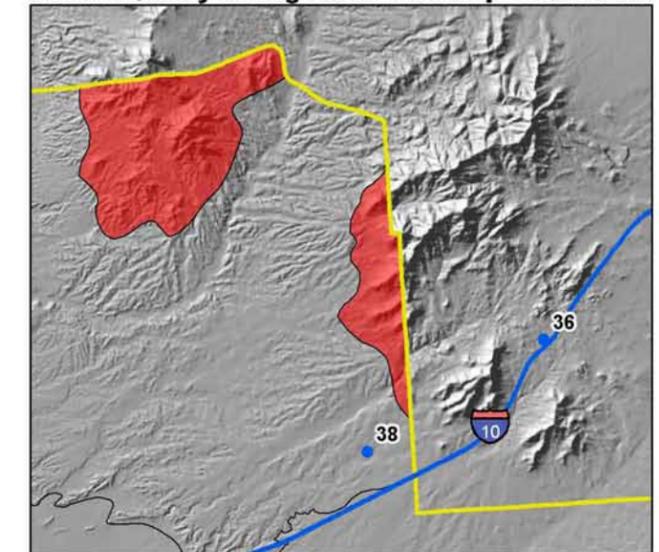
Scenic Quality Rating Unit #016
Little Dragoon/Johnny Lyon Hills

Date: 12/13/2012

Field Office: Tucson/SPRNCA

Evaluators: Craig Johnson, Chris Bockey, Jim Mahoney

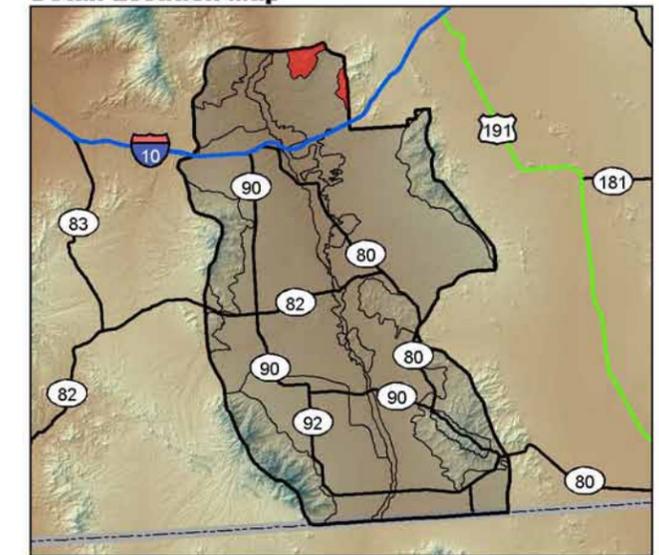
Scenic Quality Rating Unit Detail Map SQRU # 016



Legend: VRI Boundary (yellow line), Rating Unit (red area)



Detail Location Map



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SCENIC QUALITY FIELD INVENTORY

Photos

IOP #38



Appendix B Sensitivity Level Rating Unit Evaluations

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Field Office: **Name:** Benson/Mescal
TFO/SPRNCA **Evaluation Date:** 1/17/2013

SLRU Number
001

Evaluators: Jim Mahoney, Craig Johnson, Chris Bockey

		Explanation Text
Use Type Rating	M	Urban and rural subdivisions; OHV use, equestrian, grazing and agricultural
Amount of Use Rating	L	Urbanized area with local and transient populations
Public Interest Rating	L	Maintenance of visual quality is a minor public issue due to development and landuses
Adjacent Lands Rating	M	As relates to traditional uses; agricultural, OHV, grazing, open spaces; Tucson and Sierra Vista commuters
Special Areas Rating:	M	In proximity of National forest, SPRNCA and Kartchner Caverns
Other Factors Rating	L	Interstate 10 / Union Pacific railroad
Overall Unit Rating	L	Minimal public interest within unit; urban development with OHV and agricultural uses
Unit Narrative:		This unit, located in the northwestern portion of the inventory area, is primarily a developed, urbanized area associated with areas of Benson and Mescal along the Interstate 10 corridor with dispersed residential subdivisions along the periphery.

Field Office: **Name:** St. David/Dragoon Mountain Ranch

SLRU Number

TFO/SPRNCA **Evaluation Date:** 1/17/2013

002

Evaluators: Jim Mahoney, Craig Johnson, Chris Bockey

Explanation Text

Use Type Rating	M	Rural subdivisions; OHV use, equestrian, grazing, agricultural uses
Amount of Use Rating	M	Urbanized and rural subdivision area with local populations
Public Interest Rating	M	More sensitivity to surrounding vistas
Adjacent Lands Rating	M	As relates to traditional uses - agricultural/ranching
Special Areas Rating:	M	Dragoon Mountains/ Whetstone Mountains
Other Factors Rating	N/A	
Overall Unit Rating	M	Some public interest due to proximity of Dragoon Mountains and Whetstone Mountains.
Unit Narrative:		This unit, is a split unit and is located in the central portion of the inventory area consisting of the town of Saint David and the residential/rural subdivision of Dragoon Mountain Ranch. Uses include OHV, equestrian, grazing and agricultural.

Field Office: **Name:** Huachuca City/Mustang Mountains

SLRU Number

TFO/SPRNCA **Evaluation Date:** 1/17/2013

003

Evaluators: Jim Mahoney, Craig Johnson, Chris Bockey

Explanation Text

Use Type Rating	M	Rural subdivisions; OHV use, equestrian, grazing, Sierra Vista commuters
Amount of Use Rating	M	Transportation cooridor between Tucson and Sierra Vista; seasonal
Public Interest Rating	L	Less sensitive than many other areas
Adjacent Lands Rating	M	As it relates to adjacent land uses
Special Areas Rating:	N/A	N/A
Other Factors Rating	N/A	
Overall Unit Rating	M	Minimal public interest within unit; rural development with OHV and agricultural uses
Unit Narrative:		This unit, located in the westcentral portion of the inventory area, is primarily a rural community bisected by SR 82 and 90 which provides access to Sierra Vista. Uses consist of OHV, equestrian, grazing and Sierra Vista commuters.

Field Office: Name: Tombstone

SLRU Number

TFO/SPRNCA **Evaluation Date:** 1/17/2013

004

Evaluators: Jim Mahoney, Craig Johnson, Chris Bockey

		Explanation Text
Use Type Rating	L	Urban and rural subdivisions; OHV use, equestrian, grazing, historical
Amount of Use Rating	H	Tombstone has high visitation
Public Interest Rating	H	As Tombstone fits in with wide, open vistas and vice versa
Adjacent Lands Rating	M	As it relates to Tombstone economy
Special Areas Rating:	M	Dragoon Mountains and Tombstone Hills
Other Factors Rating	N/A	
Overall Unit Rating	M	Tourist and visitor destination with historical significance.
Unit Narrative:		This unit, located in the east central portion of the inventory area, has historical significance and is a destination for tourists. Views towards the Dragoon Mountains are prominent. Urbanized development on periphery.

Field Office: **Name:** Ft. Huachuca
TFO/SPRNCA **Evaluation Date:** 1/25/2013

SLRU Number

005

Evaluators: Jim Mahoney, Craig Johnson, Chris Bockey

		Explanation Text
Use Type Rating	M	Fairly active with urban influence and development; jogging, OHV
Amount of Use Rating	M	High, with transient population related to military personnel
Public Interest Rating	M	Varied due to land use and mission of fort
Adjacent Lands Rating	M	Bordered by Coronado National Forest and SPRNCA
Special Areas Rating:	M	Surrounding National Forest and SPRNCA
Other Factors Rating	M	N/A
Overall Unit Rating	M	Military installation at base of Huachuca Mountains with various land uses, with transient population with varied sensitivities.
Unit Narrative:		Military installation at base of Huachuca Mountains with various land uses, with transient population with varied sensitivities.

Field Office: Name: Urban Sierra Vista

SLRU Number

TFO/SPRNCA Evaluation Date: 1/17/2013

006

Evaluators: Jmi Mahoney, Craig Johnson, Chris Bockey

		Explanation Text
Use Type Rating	L	Passive immediate use. High use of surrounding areas
Amount of Use Rating	H	Population density; permanently highest in county; urban uses
Public Interest Rating	L	Various user groups with diverse interests and sensitivities; open to change within city limits
Adjacent Lands Rating	L	Population utilizes and disperses to special areas
Special Areas Rating:	H	Coronado National Forest; SPRNCA; Kartchner Caverns; Coronado National Monument
Other Factors Rating	N/A	N/A
Overall Unit Rating	L	Highest population area within inventory area; multiple interests and users.
Unit Narrative:		This unit, located in the southeast portion of the inventory area, is a highly developed urbanized area with a diverse population and user groups. Adjacent units have frequent use which include Coronado National Forest and SPRNCA.

Field Office: Name: Palominas/Hereford
TFO/SPRNCA **Evaluation Date:** 4/22/2013

SLRU Number

007

Evaluators: Jim Mahoney, Craig Johnson, Chris Bockey

		Explanation Text
Use Type Rating	M	Rual subdivisions; OHV; hunting, equestrian, hiking, birding
Amount of Use Rating	M	Seasonal influence; localized interests and activities
Public Interest Rating	M	More sensitivity to surrounding areas
Adjacent Lands Rating	M	As it relates to traditional uses
Special Areas Rating:	M	Proximity of Huachuca Mountains and SPRNCA
Other Factors Rating	M	N/A
Overall Unit Rating	M	Dispursed rural subdivisions and agricultural developed area south of Sierra Vista with proximity to Huachuca Mountains and SPRNCA.
Unit Narrative:		Dispursed rural subdivisions and agricultural developed area south of Sierra Vista with proximity to Huachuca Mountains and SPRNCA.

Field Office: **Name:** Bisbee

SLRU Number

TFO/SPRNCA **Evaluation Date:** 1/17/2013

008

Evaluators: Jim Mahoney, Craig Johnson, Chris Bockey

		Explanation Text
Use Type Rating	M	Passive to active; hiking, visiting other areas
Amount of Use Rating	M	Fairly active community
Public Interest Rating	H	Eco-community
Adjacent Lands Rating	M	Higher use in National Forest and BLM
Special Areas Rating:	H	National Forests and SPRNCA
Other Factors Rating	N/A	N/A
Overall Unit Rating	H	Diverse population with multiple users; active, engaged community
Unit Narrative:		This unit, located in the southeastern portion of the inventory area, is within the Mule Mountains. The population is diverse with dispersed uses of adjacent lands. The unit has historical and modern development.

Field Office: **Name:** Little Rincon Mountains

SLRU Number

TFO/SPRNCA **Evaluation Date:** 1/22/2013

010

Evaluators: Jim Mahoney, Craig Johnson, Chris Bockey

		Explanation Text
Use Type Rating	M	Rual subdivisions; dude ranch/resort with visiting population; backpacking; Interstate 10 traffic
Amount of Use Rating	M	Seasonal; with varied user groups
Public Interest Rating	H	High dramatic visial relief; recreation destination
Adjacent Lands Rating	H	High dramatic visual relief much appreciated by locals and non locals
Special Areas Rating:	H	Rincon Mountain Wilderness
Other Factors Rating	N/A	N/a
Overall Unit Rating	H	Eastern foothills of Little Rincon Mountains with user groups that consist of sportsmen and recreationists.
Unit Narrative:		This unit, located in the northwest portion of the inventory area encompasses the eastern foothills of the Little Rincon Mountains. User groups consist mainly of sportmen and recreationists.

Field Office: **Name:** Dragoon Mountains

SLRU Number

TFO/SPRNCA **Evaluation Date:** 1/22/2013

011

Evaluators: Jim Mahoney, Craig Johnson, Chris Bockey

		Explanation Text
Use Type Rating	H	Rural subdivisions (high end); local and worldwide tourists
Amount of Use Rating	M	Remote
Public Interest Rating	H	Wide open, dramatic views and iversity
Adjacent Lands Rating	H	Wide open; hunting, camping, climbing
Special Areas Rating:	H	Dragoon Mountains
Other Factors Rating	N/A	N/A
Overall Unit Rating	H	Western slope of Dragoon Mountains with user groups that consist of sportsmen and recreationists. Landform is unique and visible from large
Unit Narrative:		This unit, located in the northwest portion of the inventory area encompasses the western slope of the Dragoon Mountains. User groups consist mainly of sportmen and recreationists. Landform is unique and visible form large portions of inventory area.

Field Office: **Name:** Whetstone Mountains

SLRU Number

TFO/SPRNCA **Evaluation Date:** 1/22/2013

012

Evaluators: Jim Mahoney, Craig Johnson, Chris Bockey

		Explanation Text
Use Type Rating	M	Local recreation and ranching; Kartchner Caverns visitors
Amount of Use Rating	M	Highway travel and state park visitation
Public Interest Rating	M	Kartchner caverns state park
Adjacent Lands Rating	L	Little visitation/ Highway 90 corridor
Special Areas Rating:	H	State Park
Other Factors Rating	N/A	N/A
Overall Unit Rating	H	Unit encompasses Whetstone Mountains with user groups that consist of sportsmen and recreationists. Within viewshed of Highway 90.
Unit Narrative:		This unit, located along the western portion of the inventory area encompasses the Whetstone Mountains. User groups consist of sportmen and recreationists. Landform is within Highway 90 viewshed.

Field Office: **Name:** Mule Mountains

SLRU Number

TFO/SPRNCA **Evaluation Date:** 1/22/2013

013

Evaluators: Jim Mahoney, Craig Johnson, Chris Bockey

		Explanation Text
Use Type Rating	M	Rural subdivisions (high end); locals and worldwide tourists
Amount of Use Rating	M	Active communities
Public Interest Rating	H	Tourism; eco-community
Adjacent Lands Rating	H	Dramatic, undeveloped, BLM lands are dispersed
Special Areas Rating:	H	The own of Bisbee in general; the focus of tourists
Other Factors Rating	N/A	N/A
Overall Unit Rating	H	Unit includes Mule Mountains and encompasses Unit #008. User groups consist of sportsmen and recreationists and well as isolated residential. Unit
Unit Narrative:		This unit, located in the southeastern portion of the inventory area includes Mule Mountains and encompasses Unit #008. User groups consist of sportmen and recreationists as well as isolated residential. Landform is within Highway 90 and 92 viewshed.

Field Office: **Name:** Huachuca Mountains
TFO/SPRNCA **Evaluation Date:** 1/22/2013

SLRU Number
014

Evaluators: Jim Mahoney, Craig Johnson, Chris Bockey

		Explanation Text
Use Type Rating	H	Rural subdivisions; local and worldwide tourism
Amount of Use Rating	H	Visitation is diverse and significant
Public Interest Rating	H	Watershed
Adjacent Lands Rating	M	Recreation; hunting; birding; low density
Special Areas Rating:	H	Wilderness; NPS unit
Other Factors Rating	N/A	N/A
Overall Unit Rating	H	Unit includes the Huachuca Mountains. User groups consist of sportsmen and recreationists. Landform is significant within inventory area and is within
Unit Narrative:		This unit, located in the southwest portion of the inventory area encompasses the Huachuca Mountains. User groups consist of sportmen and recreationists. Landform is visual significant within the inventory area and is within Highway 90 and 92 watershed.

Field Office: **Name:** San Pedro Bajada

SLRU Number

TFO/SPRNCA **Evaluation Date:** 1/22/2013

015

Evaluators: Jim Mahoney, Craig Johnson, Chris Bockey

		Explanation Text
Use Type Rating	M	Rural subdivisions
Amount of Use Rating	M	Local uses
Public Interest Rating	L	Only by the residents
Adjacent Lands Rating	M	Transitions to special areas
Special Areas Rating:	H	National Forest and SPRNCA
Other Factors Rating	N/A	N/A
Overall Unit Rating	M	Open, expansive unit consisting of relatively flat bajada with varied user groups with differing concerns. Numerous roadways bisect unit.
Unit Narrative:		This unit encompasses a significant portion of the inventory area consisting of open flat bajada areas that adjoin mountain ranges and the San Pedro River. User groups and land uses are varied with roadways bisecting Unit.

Field Office: **Name:** SPRNCA/San Pedro River

SLRU Number

TFO/SPRNCA **Evaluation Date:** 1/22/2013

016

Evaluators: Jim Mahoney, Craig Johnson, Chris Bockey

		Explanation Text
Use Type Rating	H	Local, national and international visitation
Amount of Use Rating	H	100,000+ annually
Public Interest Rating	H	Watershed and biodiversity
Adjacent Lands Rating	M	Rural subdivisions
Special Areas Rating:	H	Many special sites within the SPRNCA
Other Factors Rating	N/A	N/A
Overall Unit Rating	H	High public interest and concern related to the San Pedro River/SPRNCA. Users are diverse and all share overall sensitivity to natural setting associated
Unit Narrative:		This unit, located in the central portion of the inventory area, is an ecologically significant river/riaparian area with user groups that are highly concerned with the overall condition and influences on the San Pedro River/SPRNCA.

Field Office: Name: San Pedro River/Willow Lake

SLRU Number

TFO/SPRNCA Evaluation Date: 1/25/2013

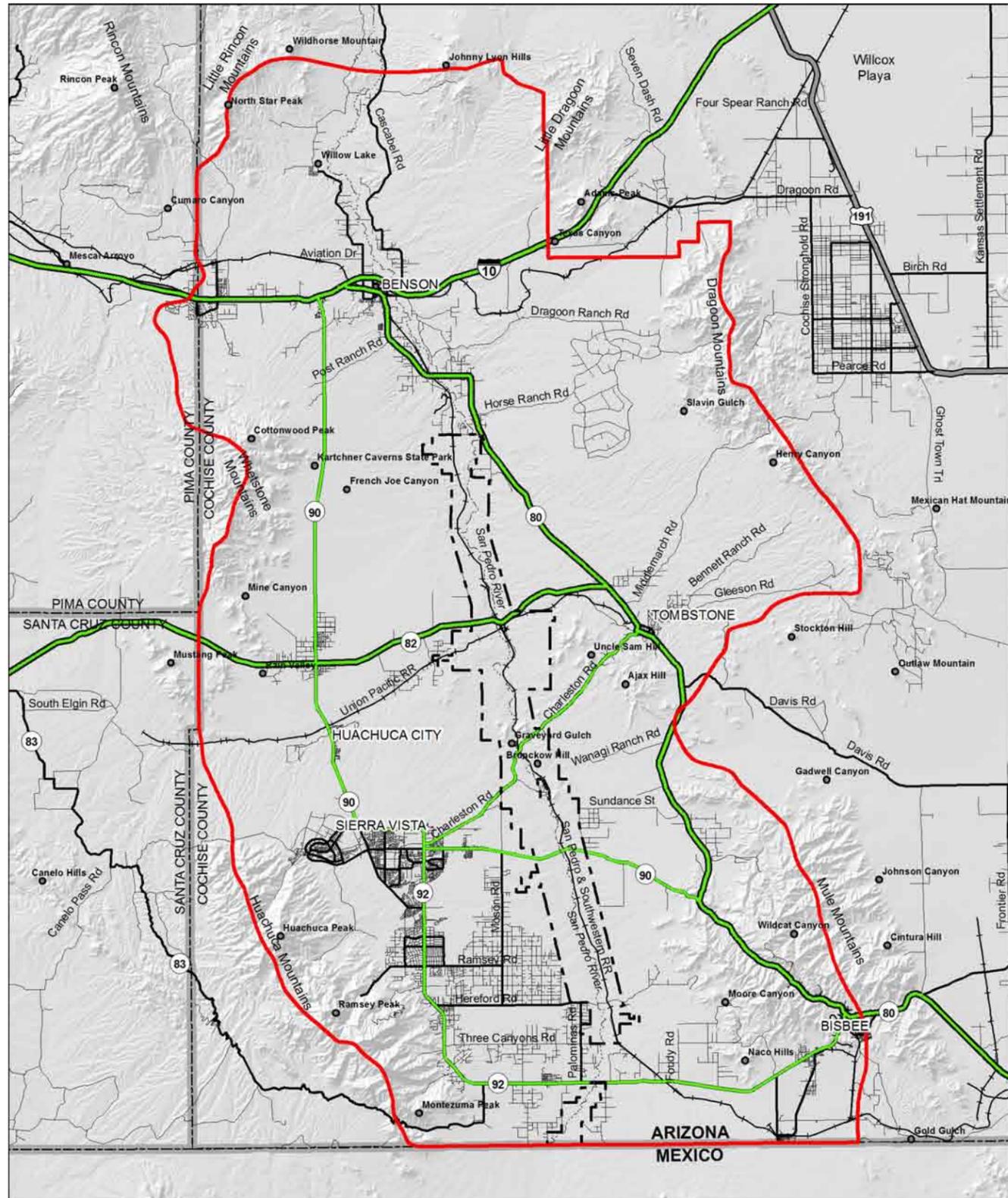
017

Evaluators: Jim Mahoney, Craig Johnson, Chris Bockey

		Explanation Text
Use Type Rating	M	Localized residential population; recreation, OHV, hunting
Amount of Use Rating	L	Seasonal recreation and localized population
Public Interest Rating	M	Localized interest due to proximity of Rincon Mountains and San Pedro River
Adjacent Lands Rating	M	Dispersed roadway network; proximity to Interstate 10
Special Areas Rating:	M	Rincon Mountains
Other Factors Rating	N/A	N/A
Overall Unit Rating	M	Moderate public interest with urbanized and agricultural development. Riparian-like setting.
Unit Narrative:		This unit, located in the northwest portion of the inventory area, has partial urbanized development as well as agricultural uses along the flood plane of the San Pedro River. Proximity of Tres Alamos Wash and Benson influence overall rating.

Appendix C Distance Zone Input

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Key

- SPRNCA VRI Boundary
- SPRNCA Boundary
- Visual Distance Zone Platforms

0 5 10
Miles

NORTH

Visual Distance Zone Platforms

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Appendix D Photo Log

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SQRU _ID	IOP _ID	IOP_POP	Photo Folder on DVD	First Photo Number (first in series)	End Photo Number (last in series)	Direction of First Photo	IOP Location- Map Reference
001	001	IOP	12/10/2012	R0019641	R0019653	N	
001	003	IOP	12/10/2012	R0019666	R0019676	N	
001	010	IOP	12/11/2012	R0019829	R0019839	N	
001	N/A	POP	krogers	Mule_Mt_1	Mule_Mt_2		
001	N/A	POP	krogers	Mule_Mt_3	Mule_Mt_4		
001	N/A	POP	12/11/2012	R0019993	R0020004	N	
001	N/A	POP	12/11/2012	R0020005	R0020016	N	
001	N/A	POP	krogers	VRI_89	VRI_89		
001	N/A	POP	Non-Geotagged jmahoney	CC 340	CC 347	N	003
001	N/A	POP	Non-Geotagged jmahoney	CC 458	CC 465	N	010
002	002	IOP	12/10/2012	R0019654	R0019665	N	
002	011	IOP	12/11/2012	R0019840	R0019852	N	
002	026	IOP	12/12/2012	R0020138	R0020145	N	
002	N/A	POP	12/10/2012	R0019677	R0019682	SW	
002	N/A	POP	12/10/2012	R0019683	R0019695	N	
002	N/A	POP	12/11/2012	R0019818	R0019828	N	
002	N/A	POP	12/11/2012	R0019864	R0019876	N	
002	N/A	POP	12/12/2012	R0020101	R0020110	N	
002	N/A	POP	krogers	VRI_100	VRI_100		
002	N/A	POP	krogers	VRI_110	VRI_111		
002	N/A	POP	krogers	VRI_114	VRI_115		
002	N/A	POP	krogers	VRI_44	VRI_45		
002	N/A	POP	krogers	VRI_49	VRI_59		
002	N/A	POP	krogers	VRI_60	VRI_63		
002	N/A	POP	krogers	VRI_90	VRI_90		
002	N/A	POP	krogers	VRI_99	VRI_99		
002	N/A	POP	Non-Geotagged jmahoney	CC 324	CC 331	N	001
002	N/A	POP	Non-Geotagged jmahoney	CC 332	CC 339	E	002
002	N/A	POP	Non-Geotagged jmahoney	CC 467	CC 476	N	011
002	N/A	POP	Non-Geotagged jmahoney	CC 477	CC 484	N	012
002	N/A	POP	Non-Geotagged jmahoney	CC 485	CC 492	N	AZ 82 E of Fairbank
002	N/A	POP	Non-Geotagged jmahoney	CC 604	CC 610	N	West of AZ 80/90
002	N/A	POP	Non-Geotagged jmahoney	CC 611	CC 619	N	Shooting Range Rd
002	N/A	POP	Non-Geotagged jmahoney	CC 664	CC 671	N	025

SQRU IOP		Photo Folder on		First Photo	End Photo Number	Direction of	IOP Location-
ID	ID	IOP	DVD	Number	(last in series)	First Photo	Map
		POP		(first in series)			Reference
002	N/A	POP	Non-Geotagged jmahoney	CC 672	CC 679	N	East of AZ 80/Curtiss
002	N/A	POP	Non-Geotagged jmahoney	CC 698	CC 705, 707	N	026
002	N/A	POP	Non-Geotagged jmahoney	CC 740	CC 749	N	027
003	013	IOP	12/11/2012	R0019889	R0019900	N	
003	035	IOP	12/13/2012	R0020251	R0020261	N	
003	041	IOP	11/27/2012	R0019620	R0019630	S	
003	N/A	POP	Non-Geotagged krogers	Huachuca_1	Huachuca_1		
003	N/A	POP	krogers	Huachuca_2	Huachuca_2		
003	N/A	POP	krogers	Huachuca_3	Huachuca_3		
003	N/A	POP	krogers	Mexico_USA_W all_1	Mexico_USA_Wall_ 4		
003	N/A	POP	12/10/2012	R0019772	R0019783	N	
003	N/A	POP	12/10/2012	R0019784	R0019794	N	
003	N/A	POP	12/11/2012	R0019877	R0019888	N	
003	N/A	POP	12/12/2012	R0020064	R0020075	N	
003	N/A	POP	12/12/2012	R0020122	R0020133	N	
003	N/A	POP	krogers	VRI_32	VRI_34		
003	N/A	POP	krogers	VRI_35	VRI_35		
003	N/A	POP	krogers	VRI_36	VRI_41		
003	N/A	POP	krogers	VRI_5926	VRI_5926		
003	N/A	POP	krogers	VRI_64	VRI_79		
003	N/A	POP	krogers	VRI_80	VRI_85		
003	N/A	POP	Non-Geotagged jmahoney	CC 348	CC 355	N	Palominas Unit
003	N/A	POP	Non-Geotagged jmahoney	CC 404	CC 411	N	Del Valle Rd
003	N/A	POP	Non-Geotagged jmahoney	CC 414, 419, 430, 432, 433, 435, 437		W	SPRiver & Ramsey Wash
003	N/A	POP	Non-Geotagged jmahoney	CC 493, 498 - 505, 507, 514, 517, 518		W	013
003	N/A	POP	Non-Geotagged jmahoney	CC 519	CC 531	N	013
003	N/A	POP	Non-Geotagged jmahoney	CC 566	CC 574	N	Escapule Wash
003	N/A	POP	Non-Geotagged jmahoney	CC 576	CC 586	N	016
003	N/A	POP	Non-Geotagged jmahoney	CC 655	CC 663	N	St. David Cienega
004	004	IOP	12/10/2012	R0019696	R0019708	N	
004	43	IOP	12/10/2012	R0019733	R0019737	N	
004	N/A	POP	12/10/2012	R0019732	R0019744	N	
004	N/A	POP	12/10/2012	R0019759	R0019771	N	

SQRU		IOP		Photo Folder on DVD	First Photo	End Photo Number	Direction of First Photo	IOP Location-Map
ID	ID	IOP	POP		(first in series)	(last in series)		Reference
004	N/A	POP		krogers	VRI_25	VRI_25		
004	N/A	POP		Non-Geotagged jmahoney	CC 356	CC 362	N	005
004	N/A	POP		Non-Geotagged jmahoney	CC 380	CC 387	N	Ramsey & Moson
004	N/A	POP		Non-Geotagged jmahoney	CC 388	CC 395	N	Ft. Huachuca
004	N/A	POP		Non-Geotagged jmahoney	CC 558	CC 565	N	015
005	005	IOP		12/10/2012	R0019696	R0019708	N	
005	006	IOP		12/10/2012	R0019709	R0019720	N	
005	007	IOP		12/10/2012	R0019721	R0019731	N	
005	N/A	POP		12/10/2012	R0019745	R0019758	N	
005	N/A	POP		krogers	VRI_26	VRI_28		
005	N/A	POP		Non-Geotagged jmahoney	CC 363	CC 370	E	006
005	N/A	POP		Non-Geotagged jmahoney	CC 371	CC 379	N	007
006	016	IOP		12/11/2012	R0019961	R0019971	N	
006	040	IOP		11/27/2012	R0019617	R0019619	N	
006	042	IOP		11/27/2012	R0019631	R0019640	N	
006	N/A	POP		krogers	VRI_87	VRI_88		
007	008	IOP		12/11/2012	R0019795	R0019805	N	
007	009	IOP		12/11/2012	R0019806	R0019817	N	
007	019	IOP		12/11/2012	R0020017	R0020028	N	
007	N/A	POP		krogers	Bisbee_from_Eld oradolnn	Bisbee_from_Eldora dolnn		
007	N/A	POP		krogers	VRI_42	VRI_43		
007	N/A	POP		Non-Geotagged jmahoney	CC 439	CC 449	E	008
007	N/A	POP		Non-Geotagged jmahoney	CC 450	CC 457	W	009
008	012	IOP		12/11/2012	R0019853	R0019863	N	
008	017	IOP		12/11/2012	R0019972	R0019982	N	
008	018	IOP		12/11/2012	R0019983	R0019992	N	
008	N/A	POP		Non-Geotagged jmahoney	CC 587	CC 594	N	017
008	N/A	POP		Non-Geotagged jmahoney	CC 595	CC 603	N	018
009	014	IOP		12/11/2012	R0019926	R0019938	N	
009	015	IOP		12/11/2012	R0019939	R0019949	N	
009	020	IOP		12/12/2012	VRI_6032	VRI_6037		
009	024	IOP		12/12/2012	R0020052	R0020063	N	
009	N/A	POP		krogers	123	135		
009	N/A	POP		12/11/2012	R0019901	R0019913	N	
009	N/A	POP		12/11/2012	R0019950	R0019960	N	
009	N/A	POP		krogers	VRI_30	VRI_31		

SQRU		IOP	Photo Folder on	First Photo	End Photo Number	Direction of	IOP Location-
ID	ID	IOP_POP	DVD	Number	(last in series)	First Photo	Map
				(first in series)			Reference
009	N/A	POP	krogers	VRI_92	VRI_93		
009	N/A	POP	krogers	VRI_95	VRI_97		
009	N/A	POP	Non-Geotagged jmahoney	CC 396	CC 403	N	AZ90 West of SPHouse
009	N/A	POP	Non-Geotagged jmahoney	CC 532	CC 540	N	AZ 82 W of Fairbank
009	N/A	POP	Non-Geotagged jmahoney	CC 541	CC 548	N	AZ 82 Rain Valley
009	N/A	POP	Non-Geotagged jmahoney	CC 549	CC 557	N	014
009	N/A	POP	Non-Geotagged jmahoney	CC 620	CC 628	N	020
009	N/A	POP	Non-Geotagged jmahoney	CC 629	CC 636	N	021
009	N/A	POP	Non-Geotagged jmahoney	CC 645	CC 654	N	024
010	021	IOP	12/12/2012	VRI_6038	VRI_6043		
010	022	IOP	12/12/2012	R0020029	R0020040	N	
010	023	IOP	12/12/2012	R0020041	R0020051	N	
010	N/A	POP	12/11/2012	R0019914	R0019925	N	
010	N/A	POP	Mahoney	CC 637	CC 644	N	022
011	027	IOP	12/12/2012	R0020134	R0020138	N	
011	028	IOP	12/12/2012	R0020146	R0020155	N	
011	029	IOP	12/12/2012	R0020156	R0020167	N	
011	N/A	POP	krogers	VRI_101	VRI_109		
011	N/A	POP	krogers	VRI_112	VRI_113		
011	N/A	POP	Non-Geotagged jmahoney	CC 710	CC 718	N	028
011	N/A	POP	Non-Geotagged jmahoney	CC 725	CC 733	N	029
012	025	IOP	12/12/2012	R0020088	R0020100	N	
012	037	IOP	12/13/2012	R0020273	R0020283	N	
012	038	IOP	12/13/2012	R0020273	R0020283	N	
012	039	IOP	12/13/2012	R0020284	R0020295	N	
012	N/A	POP	12/12/2012	R0020076	R0020087	N	
012	N/A	POP	12/12/2012	R0020111	R0020121	N	
012	N/A	POP	12/13/2012	R0020240	R0020250	N	
012	N/A	POP	Non-Geotagged jmahoney	CC 802	CC 810	N	Tres Alamos Wash
012	N/A	POP	Non-Geotagged jmahoney	CC 811	CC 819	N	037
013	032	IOP	12/13/2012	R0020208	R0020218	N	
013	034	IOP	12/13/2012	R0020229	R0020239	N	
013	N/A	POP	Non-Geotagged krogers	Rinconc_Powerli nes_5	Rinconc_Powerlines _5		
013	N/A	POP	Non-Geotagged jmahoney	CC 772	CC 782	N	032

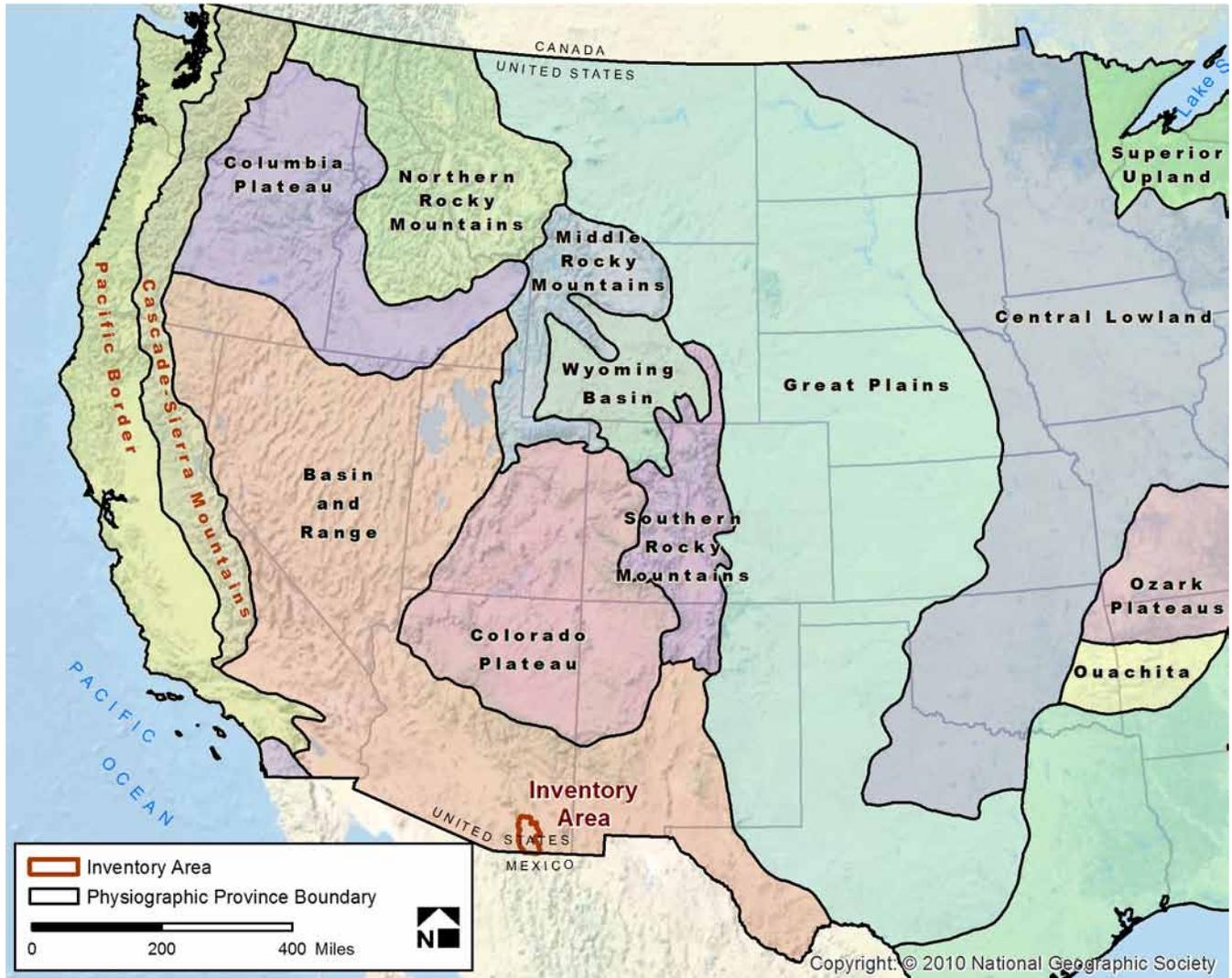
SQRU ID	IOP ID	IOP POP	Photo Folder on DVD	First Photo Number (first in series)	End Photo Number (last in series)	Direction of First Photo	IOP Location-Map Reference
014	N/A	POP	12/12/2012	R0020168	R0020174	N	
015	030	IOP	12/13/2012	R0020175	R0020184	N	
015	031	IOP	12/13/2012	R0020198	R0020207	N	
015	033	IOP	12/13/2012	R0020219	R0020228	N	
015	N/A	POP	12/13/2012	R0020185	R0020197	N	
015	N/A	POP	krogers	Rincon_Bajada_MovieSet_1	Rincon_Bajada_MovieSet_2		
015	N/A	POP	krogers	Rincone_Powerlines_1	Rincon_Powerlines_4		
015	N/A	POP	Non-Geotagged jmahoney	CC 754	CC 761	N	030
015	N/A	POP	Non-Geotagged jmahoney	CC 762	CC 769	N	031
015	N/A	POP	Non-Geotagged jmahoney	CC 793	CC 801	N	034
015	N/A	POP	Non-Geotagged jmahoney	CC 783	CC 791	N	033
016	036	IOP	12/13/2012	R0020262	R0020272	N	
016	038	IOP	12/13/2012	R0020274	R0020275	N	
016	N/A	POP	krogers	Little_Dragoon_	Little_dragoon_5		

Appendix E Physiographic Province Inventory Area

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Physiographic Province Map

Basin and Range Province, Mexican Highland Section



Project-Area Photographs for Calibration of Scenic Quality Elements

Landform



Location: Whetstone Bajada Unit (#09)
Score: 1.0



Location: Dragoon Mountains Unit (#11)
Score: 4.5

Vegetation



Location: Charleston Hills Unit (#06)
Score: 2.0



Location: Huachuca Mountains Unit (#05)
Score: 4.5

Water



Location: Tombstone Hills Unit (#08)
Score: 0



Location: San Pedro Corridor Unit (#03)
Score: 3.0

Color



Location: Little Dragoon Bajada Unit #012
Score: 2.0



Location: Dragoon Mountains Unit #011
Score: 4.0

Influence of Adjacent Scenery



Location: Huachuca Mountains Unit #005
Score: 2.5



Location: Dragoon /Mule Mountains Bajada #002
Score: 4.0

Scarcity



Location: Huachuca Mountains Bajada Unit #004
Score: 1.0



Location: San Pedro River Corridor Unit #003
Score: 5.0

Cultural Modifications



Location: Huachuca Mountains Bajada Unit (# 04)
Score: -2.0



Location: Charleston Hills Unit (# 06)
Score: .5

Appendix F Agency and Community Coordination

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Overview

As part of the sensitivity analysis, a literature search and a series of outreach calls were conducted. LSD performed the literature search to identify any specific policies, guidelines, goals, and/or strategies that local, regional, and state agencies and communities had for protecting scenic views and places. This search included review of agency and community websites and plans—identifying visions, goals, destination locations, tourism information, etc. that would assist in determining visually important areas within the inventory area.

In a general sense, the governing agencies and communities all share the same common the desire to create a high quality of life for their constituents. With a strong tie to the historical roots of the area, the cities want to preserve these ties to the land and protect it for future generations. Many of the communities are also keenly aware of the economic benefits that come along with tourism related to the SPRNCA, Kartchner Caverns, and historic sites and towns within the San Pedro Valley. Many of the concerns within the area are currently focused on water rights and wildlife viewing, which are invariably tied together and have obvious ties to visual quality and visual sensitivities in the area.

The outreach calls involved a general outreach letter and map that BLM sent to a group of contacts. LSD staff subsequently called these contacts to discuss their visual sensitivities within the inventory area. LSD staff took detailed notes during each call and also drew polygons around areas on a blank map to represent various areas of sensitivity that the respondents mentioned. Based on the conversation, each of the polygons was assigned a high, moderate, or low sensitivity level to reflect the respondents' opinions.

The polygons were then mapped to represent the contact's high, moderate, and low visual sensitivities. Together, BLM and LSD reviewed the findings of the literature search and outreach calls in relation to the preliminary units that had been developed, and revised the SLRUs based on the additional information.

A more detailed explanation of the agency and community coordination is provided in the Process Record in Appendix G.

The following information includes the results of the literature search, a copy of the outreach letter and map, the list of phone contact responses, and copies of the maps representing the phone contact's high, moderate, and low visual sensitivities.

Results of Literature Search

Note: Information related to visual resources identified during the literature search is indicated in bold below.

Cochise County

Planning Documents: County Comprehensive Plan

The purpose of the Cochise County Comprehensive Plan is to “promote the future growth of Cochise County such that it proceeds in an orderly, well-planned manner. A balance is sought among urban, rural and public land uses, which will enhance the customs, culture, economy and the qualities of the places where people choose to live.”

The plan identifies within the Land Use Activity Policies section that “the protection of significant resource areas, which may include: wildlife corridors; hydrologic recharge areas; floodplains; geologic features; historic, archaeological or cultural resources; among others, shall be taken into consideration by landowners and the County when developing new regulations, community plans or updates to the Comprehensive Plan. Protections by property owners may take the form of increased setbacks, private deed restrictions, and voluntary conservation easements, among others.”

Additional goals for land use are light pollution codes which are “for the purposes of preserving, protecting and enhancing the lawful nighttime use and enjoyment of all property; for protecting access to the dark night skies and for encouraging the conservation of energy and resources, outdoor lighting requirements shall be adopted that require reasonable measures to **minimize adverse man-made light pollution such as sky-glow, glare and light trespass.**”

The Cochise County plan specifically identifies the SPRNCA and goals relating to the SPRNCA will be to “coordinate efforts with other organizations and jurisdictions, including the Bureau of Land Management, to protect the SPRNCA, as well as the economic and social well-being of Cochise County residents...” as well “Cochise County recognizes both the historic and current value of the SPRNCA as a national riparian wildlife habitat, migratory bird corridor, recreational and agricultural resource, and critical habitat for an endangered species...the economic, social and cultural character of Cochise County would change unacceptably were we to fail to preserve the SPRNCA and thereby protect the Fort from environmental sanctions.”

City of Sierra Vista

Planning Documents: Comprehensive Plan, City of Sierra Vista, 2020

The City of Sierra Vista Comprehensive Plan identifies that “appropriate land use planning is essential for responsible growth and development within the City.” Specific goals that relate to land use are to “minimize conflicts between land uses using appropriate performance standards and design guidelines,” a strategy of this goal is to “**preserve mountain views** by placing limits on structure

heights.” An additional goal associated with land use includes, “designating private open space areas in high-density land use plans.”

The open space section of the plan identifies open space in two categories Developed Open Space and Undeveloped Open Space. Developed Open Spaces are categorized as formally established places such as golf courses and parks. Undeveloped Open Space (UDOS) include washes, drainage easements and undeveloped parks. “UDOS areas can preserve natural resources such as plant and animal habitats and areas for outdoor recreation such as trails that serve as links between parks and larger open space.” Some strategies for open space planning are to “consider environmental impacts when developing and maintaining public and private open space;” “use open space system as a means to preserve natural resources” and “coordinate with other jurisdictions to establish a network of open space and trails connecting the Huachuca Mountains and San Pedro River.”

The Parks and Recreation section of the comprehensive plan identifies that “parks and recreation resources enhance the quality of life for community residents. Additionally, needs of the community are met beyond municipal boundaries in the U.S. Forest Service’s Coronado National Forest and the U.S. Bureau of Land Management’s (BLM) San Pedro Riparian National Conservation Area (SPRNCA).” A specific goal of this portion of the plan is to “coordinate with the BLM in preserving and maintaining the SPRNCA.”

Within the Urban Design portion of the plan goals and strategies are incorporated to “develop a City **distinguished by its orderly and aesthetic character and its harmony with the environment by encouraging architectural and site design that complement the topography, views and other natural features**” and to “**require lighting that does not pollute the night sky.**”

City of Bisbee

Planning Documents: General Plan Update, City of Bisbee, 2003

According to the City of Bisbee, “The City’s General Plan is designed to be flexible and serves as the backbone for the preparation and refinement of implementation tools such as the Bisbee Zoning Ordinance, land development regulations, Historic Development Guidelines, streets and routes guidelines, development standards and design guidelines, capital improvement plans, recreation and natural resource preservation plans, transportation plans, airport plans, and flood control and stormwater management ordinances.”

Additional planning goals include, “work with the County and BLM to **develop scenic trails** for hiking in the Old Bisbee planning area,” and to “**develop Scenic Corridor policies** with ADOT for Highway 80 and Highway 92.”

The City of Bisbee website states that “Bisbee is unique, possessing an Old World, turn-of-the-century charm and the romance of Western mining camps making this town nestled in the Mule Mountains an American original.”

Tombstone

The Tombstone website describes the setting of Tombstone, “one of the most notorious streets in the old west is alive and well in Tombstone. Throughout the past 140 years it has survived two major fires, the loss of the mining industry, and countless violent encounters. Each year many thousands of visitors walk where old west heroes and villains lived, worked and fought.”

The City Code for Tombstone under Chapter 21 Light Pollution Code state the purpose as “this code is intended **to restrict the permitted use of outdoor artificial illuminating devices emitting undesirable rays into the night sky** which have a detrimental effect on astronomical observations.”

Tombstone does not have a comprehensive plan established.

Ft. Huachuca

Under the Recreation Activities section of the Fort’s website two facilities are listed that mention views. The Apache Flats RV Resort notes that the “resort is located at the base of the Huachuca Mountains offering **beautiful views** and a paradise for bird lovers and hikers.” Also, the Mountain View Golf Course which is also open to the public “**offers 18 scenic holes.**”

City of Benson

Planning Documents: General Development Plan, City of Benson, 2002 (currently in revision)

The City of Benson’s General Development Plan (2002 and 2011 Draft) recognizes and outlines steps to **incorporate and preserve the surrounding visual landscape** as the city continues to grow. The plan describes Benson’s physical setting as, “Benson’s physical situation in the San Pedro Valley is **visually stunning to the traveler from all directions**, as the gradual slope downward provides **spectacular views of the Dragoon and Whetstone Mountains and the wide, sweeping San Pedro Basin**. The transition from the open rural areas into the City of Benson proper should **maintain this aesthetic appeal.**”

The plan identifies within the Land Use Policies section as an objective to “**maintain the view-sheds and dynamic visual appeal** of the City’s surrounding environment.

Within the Economic Development section the Plan identifies Benson’s distinctive assets relating to natural environment advantages as “wide open spaces, **beautiful views, night-sky viewing**; maintains high-level of environmental quality; the San Pedro Riparian area and the Whetstone Mountains” which are key features that will aid in economic growth and development. Growth area goals and objectives are to “build on San Pedro River Corridor, Kartchner Caverns and Whetstone Mountains as key natural assets, and **to establish these local scenic areas as tourist attractions.**”

The plan identifies within the Open Space section that “Benson’s tradition of outdoor enjoyment depends on **recreational facilities made available to the public and on scenic, natural areas**

surrounding the developed community. The General Development Plan addresses both of these assets.”

A robust environmental planning section within the plan identifies “**Visual Features**” as a key component and that “the City of Benson rests in the San Pedro Valley affording it with numerous **panoramic views**. The City is surrounded by the Dragoon and Little Dragoon Mountains to the east and Whetstone Mountains to the west, **providing residents and visitors with a spectacular landscape**. Within the planning area there are numerous bluffs and elevated areas with **excellent views of the surrounding region**. The amenities of open space, **panoramic vistas** and low density development provide the region with **its visual and aesthetic characteristics** for residents, tourists and those just passing through the area.” Recommendations for environmental planning relating to visual and scenic features states that “a key factor in maintaining Benson’s character is **retaining a high-level of visual quality of the region**. New developments should have **careful attention paid to their potential impact on their viewshed area or potential to block views and scenic features.**”

The City of Benson’s current vision statement, as presented on its website, is as follows: “The City of Benson’s Vision for the year 2025 and beyond is based on a strong, self-sufficient community that is diverse in economic and employment opportunities, is attractive to new employers and businesses and faithful to its historic and natural assets. We desire to achieve a sense of community pride through progressive cooperative among residents, businesses and government. We strive to construct a variety of modern community facilities to serve the needs of residents and visitors. Our vision includes an **attractive, well-maintained community** that is family oriented and friendly, which offers a wide range of goods and services and an array of recreational and cultural activities.”

St. David

Cochise County Planning Department - St. David Area Plan

The St. David Area Plan consists of the Vision Statement, Policies and a Land Use Map. A component of the Vision Statement within the document states that “In the year 2020...the St. David community will reflect a friendly, neighborly, rural character that **protects panoramic vistas of the surrounding mountains, the ‘green’ vegetation, and the dark night skies.**”

Southern San Pedro Valley

Southern San Pedro Valley Area Plan - Hereford/ Palominas area

The Southern San Pedro Valley Area Plan provides direction on how the community chooses to direct residential and business development in order **to respect and maintain the existing scenic quality, rural character and natural resources of the plan area.**

Community Coordination Information

BLM Outreach Letter and Accompanying Map



United States Department of the Interior

BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT
Tucson Field Office
3201 East Universal Way
Tucson, Arizona 85756
www.blm.gov/az/



In Reply Refer To:
2800 (G0220)

Dear ,

The Bureau of Land Management, (BLM), Tucson Field Office, requests your support in a current inventory effort. Over the past several decades, the western states have experienced rapid population growth and development, and public lands are increasingly being used for outdoor recreation and tourism. Many rural communities rely on tourism to supplement or sustain their economies. As a result, managing the scenic values of public lands has become a more important aspect of natural, cultural and social resources management to the Bureau. While the BLM manages public lands for a diverse range of uses, it has been charged with responsibility under the Federal Land Policy and Management Act of 1976 to identify visual values on BLM lands.

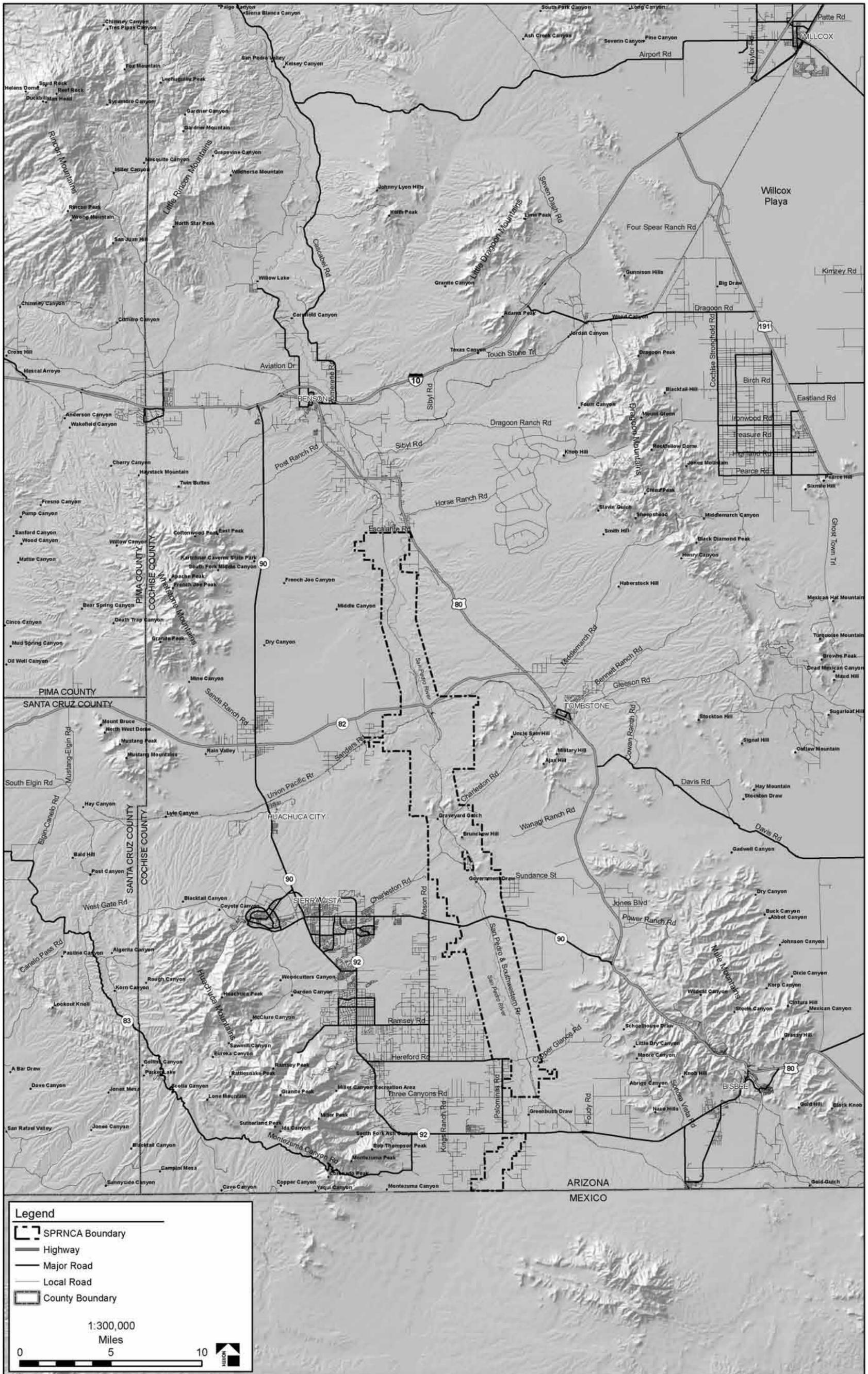
In conjunction with Logan Simpson Design, Inc. of Tempe, Arizona, the BLM is conducting a visual resource inventory (VRI) on the lands it administers within the upper San Pedro River basin in Cochise County. For the purposes this inventory, the BLM would like to discuss with you, or the most appropriate individual(s), a "sensitivity" level for visual resources. This discussion will include the level of concern for retaining existing landscape character, interest in potential visual change, and resilience to change of a tract of land. A significant component of the sensitivity level analysis will include information gained from exploratory discussions with individuals interested and engaged in the upper San Pedro River basin. A map of the area is included with this letter.

A representative from Logan Simpson Design, Inc. will be contacting you soon. If you have any questions regarding this visual inventory effort, please feel free to contact, Jim Mahoney, BLM - Outdoor Recreation Planner at (520) 439-6402. Your contribution to this conversation will be greatly appreciated.

Sincerely,

SIGNED

Brian B. Bellew
Tucson Field Manager



BLM Outreach Map

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Phone Responses

1. Contact has been familiar with the inventory area for approximately 7.5 years.

Contact feels that the landscape is changing for the worse in the Sierra Vista and Hereford areas due to an increase in development. He/she discussed the use of the Huachuca Mountains as a location where views show the development he/she is concerned with. He/she stated it is not so much a visual issue and understands development, but the ecological impact on the San Pedro River is having a significant effect. He/she did convey that the density of development is apparent during the night time when the local area is illuminated. Contact also referenced Hwy 90 and 80 as location where he/she views the inventory area and reflects the changes within the landscape.

Contact felt that some of the most visually significant areas and areas that he/she seeks out are within the SPRNCA due to the riparian habitat and seasonal color changes, specifically the Hereford Trailhead and the Charleston Hills area. The overall views of the Sky Islands, routes in and around the inventory area and the ability to see the color diversity in desert vegetation were other areas the contact felt were significant.

Some areas that the contact doesn't use but is still concerned about are areas in and around the St. David area due to grazing on the River, water diversion and lack of riparian habitat.

Areas of least importance to the contact are areas near the U.S. / Mexico Border as well areas north of the SPRNCA (I-10). Contact stated that if he/she had anything more to add they would call back.

2. Contact is concerned about visual changes associated with new subdivision sprawl development in the inventory area, and is particularly concerned with illegal, or 'wildcat' development. He/she felt that these types of developments are changing the inventory area for the worse from a visual perspective. Contact understands that development and housing are needed, but wants them to be done responsibly and legally. This contact is not concerned with visual changes that are brought on by legitimate needs of the country (i.e., grazing, mining). Contact did stress, however, that he/she believes visual changes need to be planned and mitigated effectively, and that all changes should be as environmentally sensitive as possible/practical. The contact is highly concerned with potential visual changes to the valley, including the panoramic views of the mountains and the valley bottom. Contact has lived in this area for his/her entire life, and had great grandparents that settled in the valley long ago. Contact feels he/she has seen more than enough development in the inventory area and wishes it would stop. The contact is particularly concerned with the Babocomari and other water/wetland areas. Contact is also concerned about the existing landfill, and garbage that blows out of it and ends up spread throughout the landscape. He/she mentioned this is a particularly bad impact to scenic resources due to plastic bags being spread throughout the area downwind of the landfill. In general, he/she understands that we as a country need to use our natural resources, but strongly believes that it should be done in an environmentally responsible way.

3. Contact has been associated with the area since 1988 and lives in the Sierra Vista area.

Contact is concerned with visual change in open space areas as a result of development. The areas around Sierra Vista, Hereford, Huachuca City and east of HWY 90 near the Whetstone's are of concern. Contact also mentioned building density in the Benson area with proposed solar facility and data center facility. He/she understands that development needs to occur but feels that density in this area is too dense and should be more dispersed to match the landscape for visual and water resource purposes. Contact used Sonoita as an example of good density. Contact referred to Hwy 90 during conversation numerous times as a reference location. Contact mentioned SunZia transmission line and concern over size and scale of project.

Contact is an avid hiker and belongs to a local hiking group that frequent many locations in the inventory area. Named locations include Huachuca's, Whetstone's, Dragoon's, Mule's, SPRNCA and Canelo's west of Huachuca's.

Contact seeks out locations such as the San Pedro because it is undeveloped corridor and a "green ribbon" that he/she uses to explore and hike. he/she mentioned that possible Rail-to-Trail program may be implemented using abandoned rail bed.

Contact also mentioned the Whetstones specifically, because areas within are unlike other areas; wilderness-like qualities.

Contact feels that majority of areas are important and it is hard for he/she to single out any specific area that is not important. Contact likes open space and how views can be over 100 miles on a clear day.

Contact enjoyed discussing and offered to have follow-up conversation if needed.

4. Contact has been acquainted with the inventory area for over 10 years.

Contact is concerned with visual change in areas associated with urban and rural development. The density of areas around Sierra Vista and Hereford were discussed specifically as well as satellite communities from Hereford to the US/Mexico Border. Contact felt that the SPRNCA was a significant visual portion of the inventory area and is concerned that water use associated with urbanized development will affect the vegetation within the SPRNCA thus altering the visual character of the area.

Contact discussed areas associated with the Mule and Huachuca Mountains as elevated viewing opportunities where the general public can view the SPRNCA from a different perspective. He/she also state that these mountains are also visible from certain sections of the SPRCA.

Contact discussed areas he/she doesn't use but was still concerned about and those areas are related to drainages that convey water and wildlife as a linkage. Contact felt that if those connections were not protected that wildlife would not be able to access the SPRNCA where many people go to view wildlife and experience the scenic qualities.

Contact did not share much concern for cities, developed areas and areas of incorporated development. He/she felt those settings were not of importance visually.

5. Contact has been acquainted with the inventory area for approximately seven years. He/she has been disappointed to see that many of the pastures are being developed with suburban sprawl type development. Contact uses SPRNCA for recreation, and is highly concerned with any potential visual changes that would negatively affect his/her experiences there. He/she is concerned with protecting the San Pedro River and surrounding flood plain areas from visual and biological changes. Contact is also concerned with preserving the historic integrity of the inventory area. He/she does not want to see visual changes that would negatively affect the integrity of the historic ranching and mining developments that exist along the San Pedro River in particular. Contact is highly concerned about potential visual changes to the mountainous areas within the inventory area. He/she does not generally use any of these areas, but she knows that they are an important contributor to the local economy due to their use by visitors. Contact wanted to commend BLM for doing a great job managing the lands/resources that they are responsible for in the inventory area. Contact mentioned that the economy depends on minimizing visual changes since the area attracts numerous nature and outdoor enthusiasts. He/she said "People don't come here because there's a Six Flags." Contact is concerned that visual changes to in the area could detract from the "rugged beauty" of the area, which currently draws tourists. He/she believes that if visual changes do need to occur, they should occur within the city limits of Sierra Vista. He/she is highly concerned about developments on the west side of Sierra Vista such as the "Tribute" development, and thinks these developments negatively affect the scenery.

6. Contact has been acquainted with inventory area for approximately 18 years. He/she believes that the subdivision sprawl has been a negative visual change in the area. Contact also thought that the Highway 90 widening project was a negative visual change for the area because it changed the rural character of the area. He/she understood that the highway widening improved safety, but thought it was at the cost of scenic and rural character. Contact has also noticed changes in the plant density along the San Pedro River since he/she first came to the area. He/she noticed that the vegetation along the River is much more dense and green that it was in the past, and appreciates this change. Contact wants to preserve those areas that provide "visual quietness" (i.e., areas that are devoid of visual contrast from development). The area that the contact is least visually sensitive to is the city limits of Sierra Vista. He/she is also less concerned about potential visual changes in the undeveloped bajada area that is east of Highway 90, North of Highway 82, south of French Joe Canyon, and west of the SPRNCA. Contact mentioned that although this area is currently undeveloped, the vegetation is not interesting and he/she would be less concerned with this area from a visual perspective.

7. Contact as been acquainted with the area for approximately 15 years both professionally and personally and feels that areas associated with Sierra Vista, Hereford and the Border fence infrastructure have changed the visual setting for the worse. He/she feels that the residential and commercial growth associated Sierra Vista and surrounding communities is the largest influence on the visual setting. Contact stated that the infrastructure associated with the Border fence and the night time lighting affects the visual quality in the southern portion of the analysis area. He/she feels that views that are of concern are towards the south/Border area; the views from Sierra Vista area of the Huachuca Mountains and development near the Mule Mountains which are all connected to hard infrastructure on the landscape creating fragmentation. Contact uses areas most often in professional

capacity to preserve and rehabilitate the landscape. He/she feels that that San Pedro River and the associated "Ribbon of Green" which can be affected by water is visually significant from superior viewing areas. Contact also stated that the grassland habitat or bajada areas area also visually significant.

Contact specifically uses the San Pedro House associated with the SPRNCA for work activities as well as campground/recreation facilities within the SPRNCA. He/she works frequently near and adjacent to the Border as well.

Contact feels that the entire basin is of concern and importance in maintaining the integrity of the ecosystem and directly related components such as visual quality.

8. Contact has been associated with the area since 1972 and feels that changes in the visual landscape have been associated with development in the areas of Sierra Vista, Moson Road and urban sprawl. He/she also mentioned the changes in vegetation from lack of cattle grazing and is concerned about the potential of fire near the SPRNCA as a result.

Contact mentioned the Dragoon Mountains and Huachuca Mountains as visually significant.

He/she mentioned doing work in Cochise Stronghold and Ramsey Canyon but did not have specific areas that were sought out.

Contact is concerned with the San Pedro River although he/she does not use it and the concern is related to water levels and water quality and how it affects the appearance of the San Pedro.

Contact stated that he has lived in the area a long time and appreciates it all.

9. Contact has been familiar with and lived in the area for the last 16 years. He believes that the inventory area has changed for the worse in those 16 years due to suburban sprawl. He/she believes the most significant visual change due to sprawl is within the area from Highway 90 south to the Border, and from the base of the Huachuca's to the western edge of the SPRNCA. Contact felt that these changes detracted from the natural landscape scenery that attracts people to the area. Contact is specifically concerned about views of the San Pedro River corridor and views to the surrounding mountain. He/she understood that all the views overlap and relate to one another, but stated that he is generally least concerned about potential visual change in areas that are already developed and in the "creosote/mesquite flat" bajada areas. Contact feels the most significant views are those of the River from within five miles of the corridor, and of the mountains from adjacent travel corridors. Contact is also concerned about views from the travel corridors to the developed areas during the day and even more so at night. This concern is based on his/her perception that the suburban views detract from the natural and rural views/character of the area. Contact seeks out the SPRNCA and also the Huachuca's for hiking that is directly related to the views available in those areas. Contact also mentioned high concern for the views of and from within the numerous washes that lead to the San Pedro River.

10. Contact has been familiar with inventory area approximately 24 years. He/she feels that the landscape has changed during the last 24 years, but that growth has been well balanced. He/she values the visual aspects of the wide open spaces and natural beauty within the area. Contact is least concerned about the areas in and around Benson and Sierra Vista. He/she uses and enjoys the views within the SPRNCA area, and along Moson and Charleston roads. Highest areas of concern that the contact referred to included the area from US-89 west to the Whetstones and Huachuca's, and from the US/Mexico Border north to the Benson growth limits. Contact paradoxically stated that he/she enjoys the open, natural views and is at the same time accepting of nearly all potential development and visual changes in the area.

11. Contact has been familiar with the inventory area for approximately 33 years. Contact was upset with what he/she called an "attack on developers" in the inventory area. He/she claimed that views in the area are fine just as they have always been, and that development was not affecting scenery negatively. Contact did mention that the area in and around Sierra Vista should be considered to have the lowest sensitivity.

12. Contact has been associated with the area for approximately 15 years. Contact described the Apache Power Plant, new homes in the area of Hwy 90 / San Pedro River and minor sprawl development and density of areas such as Benson as having negative effects and a change in the visual setting of the landscape.

He/she feels that views of the mountains in the valley along Hwy 90 and Charleston Road as well as the SPRNCA between Charleston Hills and Fairbank are significant. Contact also mentioned the Huachuca Mountains. He/she mentioned that there is some growth east of the San Pedro River north of Hereford.

Contact sometimes hikes the San Pedro River area and likes the setting. Contact does not seek out other areas. Contact is concerned about any area that is undeveloped and that someone wants to develop. He/she also mentioned Dagoon's and Whetstone's as well as Redfield Canyon/Hot Springs.

Contact is not concerned about views associated with mine waste and associated components near Tombstone. Contact is not concerned with Bisbee proper or the Palominas /Border area due to development and aesthetics of development.

13. Contact has been familiar with the area for approximately 10 years. Familiarity is predominately along SR90 as he/she travels to Sierra Vista frequently. Contact feels that there are changes occurring visually within the landscape and those changes seem to be occurring as a result of development and urbanized growth in the areas of Sierra Vista, and along SR90 south of Benson east of the Whetstone Mountains. Contact feels that there are views from vistas along SR90 prior to SR82 that are of concern.

Contact mentioned that the views of the Dagoon Mountains and uninterrupted valley views are some of the more significant views that he/she is familiar with as a result of their travel route along SR90. He/she occasionally visits the San Pedro house with out of town visitors to show them the San Pedro

River and its setting. Contact noted areas that he/she does not use but is still concerned with. The areas associated with Palominas, Babocomari River and the Sierra Vista Recharge area east of Sierra Vista and west of the San Pedro are more of a professional concern than personal. Contact identified the areas around Sierra Vista and Huachuca City as settings that are not important or have visual importance.

14. Contact has been familiar with the area professionally for 13 years and personally for 15. He/she feels that the area is changing visually in different ways. He/she feels that the area southeast of Sierra Vista has the most negative visual change due to growth and development. Along the San Pedro River he/she feels that there has been a positive change in the visual setting due to the growth and maturity of the tree species along the River which can be striking. Contact also mentioned visual changes due to fire activity within the Huachuca Mountains and SPRNCA. He/she did not feel this was a negative change but one that is part of the natural cycle, but is noticeable and does affect the visual setting.

Contact stated that areas of visual significance are associated with SR90 and the seasonal views of the Huachuca Mountains as you travel south. During the winter the snow on the mountains is dominant and creates a visually striking setting, the same is true during the summer when storm clouds surround the tops to the mountain. Contact mentioned the San Pedro River area with the abundance of trees and wildlife and that visually many people go there to view these elements. Carr Canyon Loop and Brown Canyon within the Huachuca Mountains is considered significant by the contact and he/she uses this area for recreational activities. Contact considers the Border area as a “nightmare” due to the structural dominance of the wall, the lights used during the night, the development around the Naco area and in earlier years the amount of trash and waste left behind by Border crossers.

The contact seeks out specific areas near the Huachuca Mountains and travels SR83 occasionally to appreciate the views and unique character of that area. He/she also seeks out areas within the SPRNCA north of SR90 in the area of “Horse Thief Spring” due to its unique setting. Contact noted that the Rincon’s and Little Rincon’s are a “special place” for he/she and it is a destination for recreational activities.

Contact has not explored the Mule Mountains and feels that is an area that he/she does not use, but is still concerned at a “low level” due to its lack of development. He/she mentioned some concern relating to the Little Rincon’s and possible transmission lines in that area.

Contact feels that all the views within the basin all have some form of visual interest and are important.

15. Contact has been familiar with the area for approximately 15 years. He /she feels that the areas of Hereford, the western edge of the San Pedro River, Palominas, St. David and Tombstone have had the most significant changes in the visual setting due to increased development relating to housing, roads and fence lines. Contact feels that all of these changes have a negative effect and the “open” feeling of these areas has changed. He/she uses the surrounding mountains and referenced the view of the San Pedro River and visibility of the cottonwood trees and is central to views within the viewshed.

He/she described the San Pedro River and associated riparian vegetation as well as the Dragoon Mountains/Cochise Stronghold, The Huachuca Mountains/Miller Peak, the broad expansive plain looking towards the Dragoon Mountains as areas that are visually significant because of their distinct characteristics.

He/she feels that areas associated with the Border fence/wall (“distinct eyesore”), the Meadowlark Lemon Estates development northwest of the Mule Mountains are also negative impacts on the visual setting. He/she does feel that the development and maturity of the riparian vegetation along the SPRNCA has been a positive change because it adds to the beauty of the area.

Contact hikes in the SPRNCA and likes to seek out areas associated with cottonwood galleries and sections of the free flowing River. Contact also likes to hike in surrounding mountains to have a “superior” view of River valley.

Contact does not use all areas but still has concern for areas of the San Pedro River close to the Border because of the ecological impacts, and doesn't use the area due to the development and he feeling that you are being watched constantly. He/she also discussed the Babocomari area and the need to preserve the grasslands, contact does not use area due to lack of access. The San Pedro River north of I-10 is of concern as well due to lack of flows and development.

He/she described areas near Sierra Vista, Benson and the Apache Powder mine as areas of low importance due to disturbed landscape.

Additional comments: Contact wanted to add that the BLM should do a better job on the lands they do manage and set the example for vegetation management and overall landscape health rather than being the agency that everyone points a finger at as an example of what not to do.

16. Contact has been associated with the area for approximately 15 years and feels that Sierra Vista, Benson, areas north of Hwy 90, agricultural lands adjacent to the SPRNCA and vegetation changes as a result of the Monument Fire all have contributed to the change in the visual landscape. Contact feels that these changes are for the worse, although much of the change has been a slow progression related to development it is still a visual change.

He/she feels that the Huachuca Mountains are dominant and are visually significant (“the most beautiful views”) in the area. He/she mentioned that Ft. Huachuca has done a good job in protecting the views of the mountains. Contact also mentioned the San Pedro River corridor as visually significant.

Contact hikes in the Huachuca Mountains for its views of water, diverse vegetation and wildlife. He/she also enjoys the drive to Bisbee along the Hwy 90 corridor and often takes out of town guests to see the beauty of the area. Contact recreates in the Dragoon Mountains/Cochise Stronghold because the area is different and still in a natural state.

He/she is concerned about the area near the Border but does not go there anymore. Also concerned with overall viewshed.

Views that are of least importance to the contact are areas associated with Sierra Vista and Benson because of growth and development as well as the footprint of the urbanized area. Feels that more infill should be done rather than expansion outwards.

17. Contact has been familiar with the inventory area for approximately one year and does not believe the inventory area has changed significantly in that short amount of time. He/she does not live in the area. Contact stated that he/she is very much focused on his/her job while in the area, and therefore does not have any concerns regarding scenery. Contact is primarily concerned with illegal activities and with having as much access as possible in the inventory area. He/she is specifically not concerned with potential impacts associated with the addition of two-track and other small roads to provide better access to remote areas.

18. Contacted 04.02.13 Contact has been associated with the area for 5 years and feels that the area is fairly stable visually. He/she stated that there has been some discussion of the proposed SunZia transmission line project but hasn't heard much over the past year and proposed projects would be the only potential change. Contact has not heard much discussion within the community regarding visual change or scenic quality in the area of Benson, north to Cascabel.

Contact identified the mountain ranges associated with the Rincon's, the grasslands as well as the San Pedro River with areas of tree cover as significant to those within the community and also the Cascabel community.

Contact noted two locations that he/she seeks out for recreation purposes, primarily hiking and picnicking. The Happy Valley area in the Rincon / Little Rincon area and the Mule Creek area. He/she felt that though the Happy Valley area is used more frequently due to proximity the Mule Creek area is of higher visual quality "prettier." Contact mentioned that hunters use these areas frequently, but was unsure if the visual setting was of importance.

Contact does not use the majority of the area and has little concern relating to visual quality. He/she has more concern with the ecological component which is linked to the visual component indirectly. Areas where you can't see the riparian vegetation or water are areas that would have lesser importance specifically from roadways where the majority of viewers would be observing. He/she referred to areas within Benson where roads cross the San Pedro River for only a short time.

19. Contact has been associated with the area for approximately 7.5 years and feels that Sierra Vista, Benson, areas north of Hwy 90, Hereford and Palominas all have contributed to the change in the visual landscape as a result of development and lot splitting or "Wildcat" development. Contact feels that these changes are for the worse, although much of the change has been a slow progression related to development, it is still a visual change.

He/she feels that the Huachuca Mountains are dominant and are visually significant (“the visual center piece”) in the area. He/she travels the road networks often in the area and described the uninterrupted views from Hwy 90 and 92 of the Huachuca Mountains also the Dragoon Mountains/Sheep’s Head from Hwy80.

Contact hikes, is a birder and does photography. Often uses the Huachuca Mountains and Mule Mountains for their scenery. Contact often takes out-of-town guests to the Huachuca Mountains to show the Sky Islands.

He/she is concerned about “UDA camps” in the Huachuca Mountains, the San Pedro River corridor and the “Green Ribbon” that signifies the health of the River. Contact appreciates areas that have lack of development and support uninterrupted views.

Views that are of least importance to the contact are areas associated with Sierra Vista and Benson because of growth and development as well as the footprint of the urbanized area.

20. Contact has been associated with the area since 1994 and feels the landscape changing visually, but the landscape is constantly changing, it’s not better or worse since the change will always occur, “the only constant in nature is that it changes.” Views that are of specific concern that are associated with visual changes are related to the SPRNCA and contact feels that the SPRNCA as a whole is of visual concern.

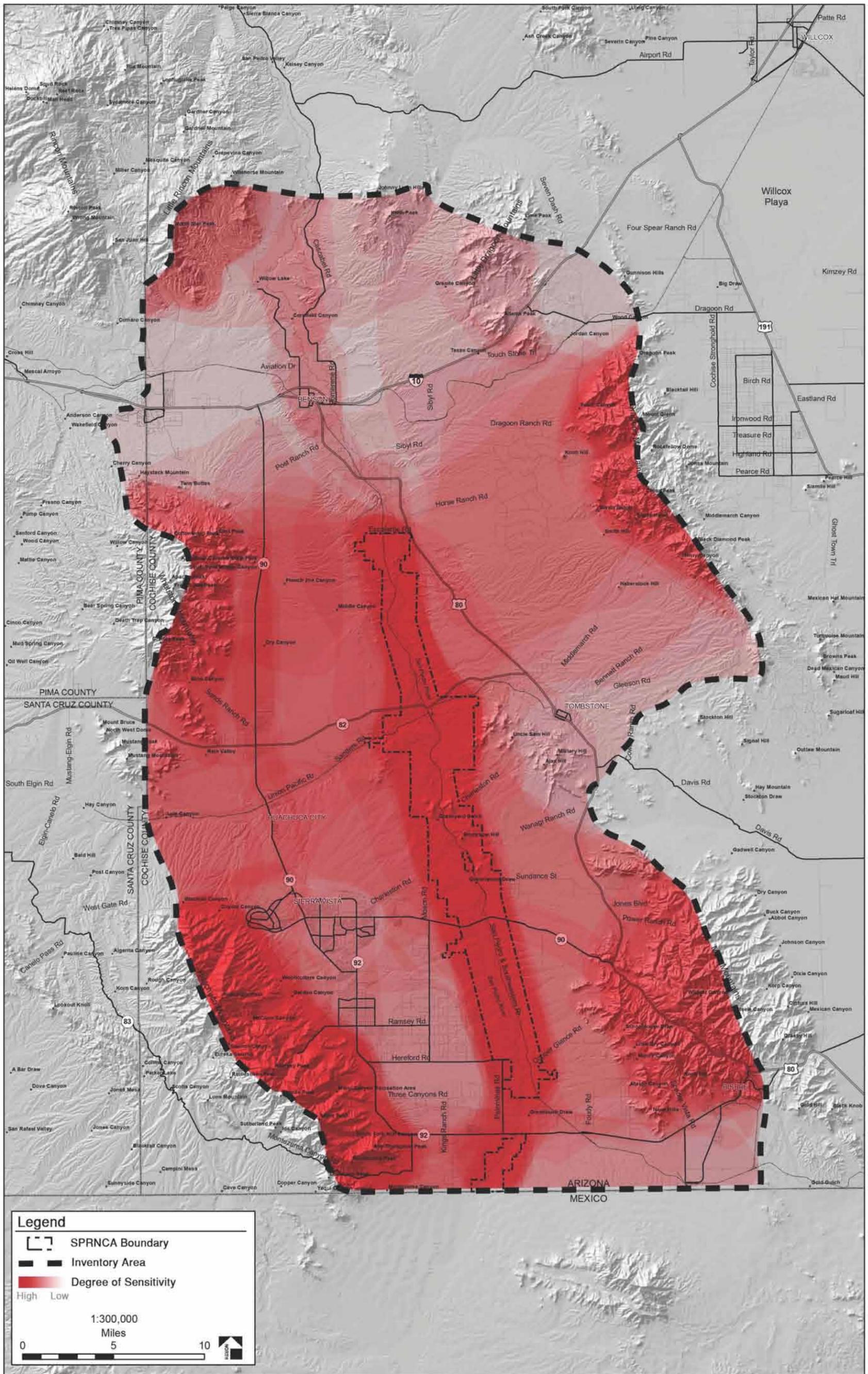
He/she feels that areas and views that are visually significant are tied directly to vegetation changes and topography. Contact stated that the views from the SPRNCA to the mountains, view from mountains to SPRNCA and views within the SPRNCA are all visually significant.

Contact seeks out perennial flow areas within the SPRNCA as well as the gallery forests for birding, he/she mentioned Hereford Road north to Charleston Road as well as the Huachuca Mountains. Contact occasionally uses the Mule Mountains, Whetstone Mountains and Dragoon Mountains.

Contact is concerned about the environment that surrounds he/she and has no specific areas or views that are of lesser concern.

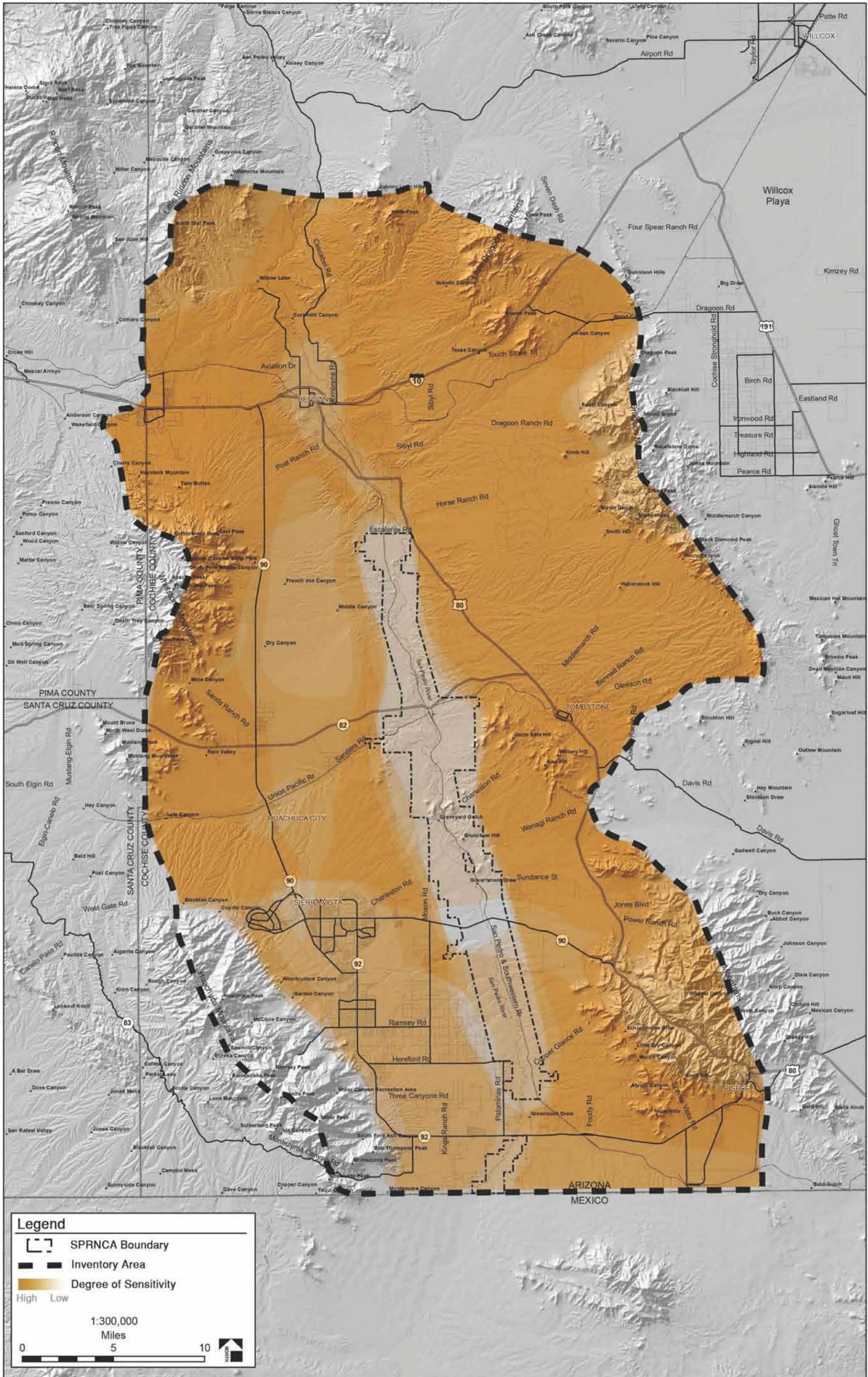
21. Contact has been associated with the area during two different time periods; in the late 1960s and then again starting in 1983. Contact does feel the landscape is changing visually, specifically in areas that have seen significant development (areas mentioned were Sierra Vista and Benson) which contact considers negative. Contact prefers natural environment and feels that development has influenced the amount of surface run off which contributes to erosion problems. Contact stated that the surrounding mountains are visually significant and likes the views in the country.

Contact uses the SPRNCA River bottom because it is quiet, visually interesting and the animal life that he/she likes to watch. He/she does not use the Whetstone Mountains but is still concerned due to proposed uranium mining. He/she feels that views and settings that deal with residential development are of least importance.



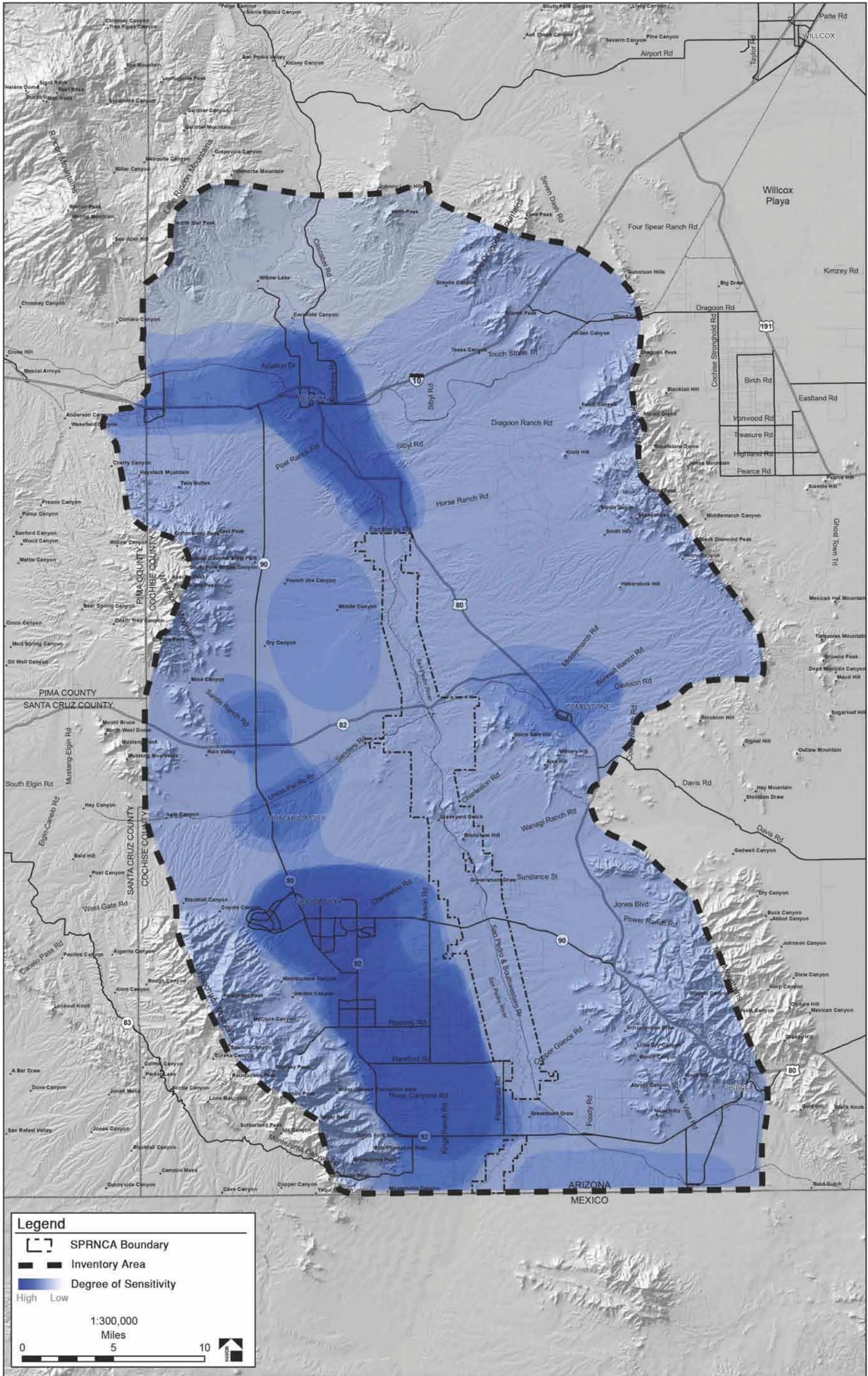
Areas of High Sensitivity Based on Community Response

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Areas of Moderate Sensitivity Based on Community Response

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Areas of Low Sensitivity Based on Community Response

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Appendix G Process Record

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VRI Process Record

The VRI process began with a collaborative effort between staff members from BLM and staff from contractor Logan Simpson Design (LSD). BLM staff gathered all available data, including pertinent GIS files and provided them to LSD for use in preparation of preliminary mapping for the initial kickoff meeting. These maps were later used at the kickoff meeting to refine the preliminary SQRUs, develop SLRUs, and determine platforms for visual distance zones. LSD also developed preliminary SQRUs for the mapping to assist in stimulating discussions regarding the most logical location of the SQRU boundaries. After preliminary SQRUs were refined, the SQRU maps were likewise used to determine potential IOP locations and travel management routing.

To make the most effective use of the geodatabase in the preparation of the VRI, LSD used a central database to act as the single source of information for preparing all mapping, tables, and forms for this report. This single-data-source approach allowed for greater control over maintaining accurate and consistent data. Information was entered into the database once and then reviewed for accuracy. This served the purpose of greatly minimizing the risk of errors in the database and subsequent report output. Eliminating preparation and editing of individual tables and forms in the report also helped to ensure that the report was always consistent with the database. By updating the central database as future changes occur within the inventory area, BLM Field Office staff can easily maintain an accurate and current VRI.

The tables and forms in this report provide the same information as required for the BLM forms, but have a slightly different layout since they are generated directly from the database, and are designed to maximize readability.

Scenic Quality Rating Units

As part of the inventory kickoff meeting in November 2012, BLM staff members from the Tucson Field Office, including staff from the SPRNCA office, took part in a VRI training/SQRU workshop, conducted by National Operation Center VRM lead Karla Rogers, and Craig Johnson and Chris Bockey from LSD. Approximately eleven interdisciplinary staff members from the Tucson Field Office as well as senior technical specialist Don Applegate from the Arizona State Office participated in the training/workshop. The BLM's scenic quality evaluation process was reviewed as described in Manual H-8410-1, prior to commencing with the workshop. During the workshop, BLM and LSD refined the draft SQRU delineations, determined potential IOPs, and planned primary travel routes from which to access IOPs.

In preparation for the workshop, LSD developed working maps using base GIS data provided by the Tucson Field Office and supplementary data from open-sources. Included on these maps were draft SQRUs delineated by LSD based primarily on landform, water, and development patterns. BLM and LSD worked together in the workshop to refine the draft SQRUs based on the BLM staff's knowledge of the visual characteristics of the landscape.

Once the draft SQRUs were refined, BLM and LSD staff collaborated to plan the locations of preliminary IOPs using kickoff meeting maps. Preliminary IOPs were determined based on a variety of factors, including expected locations of characteristic landscape views, accessibility, and logistical viewpoint locations. The preliminary IOPs were marked on the maps to utilize in the field. The following travel management schedule was developed at the kickoff meeting, and further refined after the meeting.

VRI Field Team (Craig J and Chris B)				
				BLM Staff
Sunday 12/9/2012		Karla and LSD travel to Bisbee	Spend night in Bisbee	
Monday 12/10/2012	Start from Bisbee, Meet at Market 8:00 am	Yellow-colored travel route	Spend night in Bisbee	Karla, Jim,
Tuesday 12/11/2012	Start from Bisbee, Meet at Market 8:00 am	Green-colored travel route	Spend night in Bisbee	Karla, Jim
Wednesday 12/12/2012	Start from Bisbee, Meet at Market 8:00 am	Pink-colored travel route	Spend night in Bisbee	Karla, Jim, Eric, Kate
Thursday 12/13/2012	Start from Bisbee, Meet in Benson 8:00 am	Salmon-colored travel route; Karla and LSD travel back home	Spend night in Bisbee	Karla, Jim, Eric, Kate

The scenic quality field inventory was conducted in December 2012, shortly after the VRI workshop. During fieldwork, BLM and LSD staff worked as a single inventory team to cover the inventory area.

SQRU evaluations were completed in context with the Basin and Range physiographic region in which the inventory area lies, though some consideration was given to comparing the inventory area with only that portion of Basin and Range that lies within southern Arizona. The Field Office staff chose to do this because the Basin and Range Physiographic province is so large, and is considerably different from north to south. During field inventory of each SQRU, the team completed modified BLM Scenic Quality Field Inventory (SQFI) rating forms (Form 8400-1, BLM Manual H-8410-1) for each SQRU (see the two-page modified form in Figures 2 and 3). At the request of BLM FO staff, landform/soil and vegetative colors were also recorded on the SQRU forms per Munsell color charts provided by the Field Office.

After fieldwork was completed, the information from the inventory forms was entered into a database and merged with the final boundaries of the SQRUs for use in generating the scenic quality inventory maps and forms for this document.

The information collected on the SQFI forms, along with IOP photos for each unit, are shown on the final SQRU forms in Appendix A. The SQFI information is presented in a layout that varies slightly from the standard form to optimize readability of the forms, and to incorporate the representative photographs of each unit.

Sensitivity Levels

In coordination with the initial kickoff meeting in November 2012, staff from the Tucson Field Office and SPRNCA office took part in a sensitivity level rating workshop conducted by National Operation Center VRM Lead Karla Rogers, and Craig Johnson and Chris Bockey from LSD. The workshop included an overview of sensitivity level evaluation, partial delineation of draft SLRUs, and partial completion of SLRU forms that captured the necessary data. The overview of BLM's sensitivity level evaluation process included a review of the guidelines as described in Manual H-8410-1.

Following the overview, BLM and LSD staff began to delineate preliminary SLRUs on maps to distinguish areas of low, medium, and high visual sensitivity. The preliminary units were defined based on the BLM staff's knowledge of the inventory area, and reflected their perceptions of changes in the public's sensitivity to potential visual change. BLM staff continued work on the preliminary SLRU delineations and forms, completing the information after the kickoff meeting and workshop.

After each of the preliminary SLRU boundaries were identified, BLM staff evaluated each of the units based on the six sensitivity rating factors and assigned an overall rating to each unit. The ratings for each unit were recorded on a Sensitivity Level Rating Sheet (Form 8400-6, BLM Manual H-8410-1), along with a number and name for the unit. Explanations for individual factor ratings, along with the overall unit rating, were also recorded on the forms. Information from the forms was subsequently entered into LSD's inventory database.

A literature search and a series of outreach calls were then conducted in order to augment the BLM's knowledge of public sensitivities in the inventory area. The results of these efforts are provided in Appendix F, and are discussed further below. LSD performed the literature search to identify any specific policies, guidelines, goals, and/or strategies that local, regional, and state agencies and communities had for protecting scenic views and places. The values identified in this effort included concerns for scenery, views, and even night sky viewing.

Internet-based research for websites, posts, articles, blogs, letters to editors, and other web-based content was also conducted as a means of gathering additional data for consideration. Due to the strong focus on the issues of wildlife and water rights within the inventory area, however, these efforts resulted in limited data and had little influence on the final SLRUs.

The outreach calls began with a general outreach letter that BLM sent to a list of 42 contacts representing the wide array of views and opinions held by those who are familiar with the inventory area. The letter informed the contacts of the general visual sensitivity process, and informed them that they had been recommended to provide input regarding their visual sensitivities within the inventory area. A map was also included with the letters to provide the contacts with a representation of the general area in question. LSD staff called each of the contacts a minimum of two times, and was able to gather information from 21 of the contacts.

The phone calls consisted of an exploratory conversation with each contact about their opinions on visual sensitivity within the inventory area. As the contacts spoke, LSD staff took detailed notes and also drew polygons around areas on a blank map to represent various areas of sensitivity that the respondents mentioned. LSD staff asked clarifying questions of the respondents in order to assure that each polygon accurately represented the areas that they were envisioning. Based on the conversation, each of the polygons was assigned a high, moderate, or low sensitivity level to reflect the respondents' opinions, and provide a direct correlation to the SLRU process.

The polygons were subsequently digitized and presented in three separate maps—one for each of the values represented (i.e, high, moderate, low). Each of the polygons were then assigned an equal degree of color opacity. As the polygons were added to each of the maps, the color opacities of the polygons often overlaid one another—resulting in deeper shades of color where multiple respondents had identified similar areas. This provided a relative degree of concern within each of the high, moderate, and low visual sensitivity levels for the inventory area. The maps illustrating these relative degrees of concern are provided in Appendix F.

Together, BLM and LSD reviewed the findings of the literature search and outreach calls in relation to the preliminary units that had been developed. These findings were closely examined and considered with regard to consistencies and inconsistencies with the preliminary SLRUs. The data was also considered in terms of its relative weight and importance due to the fact that it represents concerns of only a limited number of people.

The findings of the literature search were primarily focused on developed lands within the inventory area. In general, the inventory team felt that this data supported the notion that residents were concerned with the views and scenery surrounding their communities—and that although they are concerned about the appearance of their communities, they are generally more tolerant of visual changes within their communities. This idea was consistent with the low sensitivity preliminary SLRU that encompasses the Benson and Mescal areas, but was inconsistent with the high sensitivity preliminary SLRU that encompassed the Sierra Vista area. In response to this inconsistency, Sierra Vista and surrounding developed areas were temporarily assigned a sensitivity rating of low.

Prior to making final revisions to the preliminary SLRUs based on the literature search, the inventory team reviewed data from the outreach calls to provide additional perspective. In general terms, this data closely supported the ratings of the preliminary SLRUs. However, three particular inconsistencies arose during comparison of the outreach call data and preliminary SLRUs:

- The first inconsistency identified was the San Pedro River corridor between St. David and Cornfield Canyon. This area was initially identified as having low sensitivity based on the preliminary SLRUs, but generally considered to have moderate sensitivity per the outreach data. Based on the findings of the literature research and outreach data, this area was re-evaluated and assigned a final sensitivity rating of moderate.

- The second inconsistency involved the Willow Lake, Johnny Lyon Hills, and Little Dragoon Mountains areas. These three areas were identified as having high sensitivity per the preliminary SLRUs, but were generally considered to have moderate sensitivity based on the outreach data. Based on the findings of the literature research and outreach data, these areas were re-evaluated and assigned a final sensitivity rating of moderate.
- The third area identified was Sierra Vista and the surrounding areas of development, including Ft. Huachuca and the Palominas/Hereford area. The preliminary SLRUs assigned a high sensitivity rating to urban Sierra Vista, and moderate ratings to both Ft. Huachuca and Palominas/Hereford. Conversely, these three areas were consistently rated as having low sensitivity based on the outreach data. It is important to note again that low sensitivity does not mean “no” sensitivity, but rather more willingness to accept visual changes. Outreach data supported this concept, as a number of respondents noted that visual changes were more acceptable in developed areas because cultural modifications had already occurred in these areas and new modifications would generally be less noticeable than in undisturbed landscapes. Based on the findings of the literature research and outreach data, these areas were re-considered. The final sensitivity level rating of the urban Sierra Vista area was determined to have low sensitivity based on careful consideration of the data collected. However, based on BLM staff familiarity and knowledge with the Ft. Huachuca and Palominas/Hereford areas, the final sensitivity level ratings of these areas were determined to be moderate.

Distance Zones

In coordination with the initial kickoff meeting in November 2012, staff from the Tucson Field Office and SPRNCA office took part in a distance zone workshop conducted by National Operation Center VRM Lead Karla Rogers, and Craig Johnson and Chris Bockey from LSD. The workshop included an overview of distance zone delineation and a review of the guidelines as described in Manual H-8410-1.

Using a field-office base map similar to the SQRU and SLRU base maps, primary travel routes were identified by BLM according to the locations from which the general landscape would most likely be seen. These primary travel routes were used as the visual distance zone platforms. The distance zones were later offset from these platforms by LSD staff, using GIS to delineate a distance of 5 miles for the fm zone, 15 miles for the bg zone, and ss zone for areas beyond 15 miles. To supplement the distance zones, LSD performed visibility analyses from the platforms to identify what portions within each zone would be visible. Based on the results of the visibility analysis, LSD drew polygons (at a minimum size of 100 acres) around all areas that would not be visible from the platforms and added these areas to the ss distance zone to complete the final distance zone delineations.

VRI Classes

VRI classes were developed as explained in the VRI document. This inventory included no visual resource inventory class polygons that were less than 100 acres in size that did not match adjacent inventory classifications, so there was no need to manually absorb VRI class polygons per BLM's geodatabase standards.