



**US Army Corps  
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Portland District



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# **WILLAMETTE VALLEY SYSTEM OPERATIONS AND MAINTENANCE**

## **APPENDIX R: VISUAL RESOURCES INVENTORY**

*Willamette Valley System Operations and Maintenance  
Environmental Impact Statement*

**TABLE OF CONTENTS**

**CHAPTER 1 - Visual Resources Inventory.....2**  
**CHAPTER 2 - References .....8**

## **CHAPTER 1 - VISUAL RESOURCES INVENTORY**

The following is a detailed description of the visual resources inventory for the nine dams that could be impacted substantially from the Proposed Action and alternatives. This includes Lookout Point (LOP), Detroit (DET), Green Peter (GRP), Hills Creek (HCR), Dexter (DEX), Cougar (CGR), Blue River (BLU), Foster (FOS), and Fall Creek (FCR). This assessment was adapted from the BLM Visual Resources Manual (BLM 1986) and applied to each dam using a combination of images from Google Earth, Value to the Nation Fast Facts (USACE 2019a–i), and descriptions of each dam and reservoir location from the USACE Willamette Valley website (USACE No Date a–k).

### **1. DETROIT (DET):**

- a. Scenic Quality Inventory
  - i. Landform: Mostly consists of rolling hills, few or no interesting landscape features. Score = 1.
  - ii. Vegetation: Some variety of vegetation, mostly trees and grasses. Score = 3.
  - iii. Water: Large reservoir filled with clear and clean-appearing water, dominating factor in the landscape. Score = 5.
  - iv. Color: Some variety of color among the water, trees, and vegetation. Score = 3.
  - v. Influence of adjacent scenery: Adjacent scenery has little to no influence. Score = 0.
  - vi. Scarcity: Somewhat common within the region. Score = 1.
  - vii. Cultural modifications: Modifications add little or no visual variety to the area. Score = 0.
  - viii. Overall Score = 13; Grade = B.
- b. Sensitivity Level Analysis
  - i. Amount of Use: Greater than 75,000 visits were recorded in FY 2022. Score = High.
  - ii. Overall Rating: Low – Moderate.
- c. Distance Zone
  - i. Foreground – middle ground: Detroit Dam and Reservoir is visible from travel routes or observation points within 3 to 5 miles.
  - ii. Visual Resource Inventory Class: III

**2. FOSTER (FOS):**

- a. Scenic Quality Inventory
  - i. Landform: Mostly consists of rolling hills, few or no interesting landscape features. Score = 1.
  - ii. Vegetation: Some variety of vegetation, mostly trees and grasses. Score = 3.
  - iii. Water: Large reservoir filled with clear and clean-appearing water, dominating factor in the landscape. Score = 5.
  - iv. Color: Some variety of color among the water, trees, and vegetation. Score = 3.
  - v. Influence of adjacent scenery: Adjacent scenery has little to no influence. Score = 0.
  - vi. Scarcity: Visitors may spot rare species. Score = 3.
  - vii. Cultural modifications: Modifications add little or no visual variety to the area. Score = 0.
  - viii. Overall Score = 15; Grade = B.
- b. Sensitivity Level Analysis
  - i. Amount of Use: Greater than 75,000 visits were recorded in FY 2022. Score = High.
  - ii. Overall Rating: High.
- c. Distance Zone
  - i. Foreground – middle ground: Foster Dam and Reservoir is visible from travel routes or observation points within 3 to 5 miles.
- d. Visual Resource Inventory Class: II

**3. GREEN PETER (GRP):**

- a. Scenic Quality Inventory
  - i. Landform: Mostly consists of rolling hills, few or no interesting landscape features. Score = 1.
  - ii. Vegetation: Some variety of vegetation, mostly trees and grasses. Score = 3.
  - iii. Water: Large reservoir filled with clear and clean-appearing water, dominating factor in the landscape. Score = 5.
  - iv. Color: Some variety of color among the water, trees, and vegetation. Score = 3.
  - v. Influence of adjacent scenery: Adjacent scenery has little to no influence. Score = 0.
  - vi. Scarcity: Visitors may spot rare species. Score = 3.
  - vii. Cultural modifications: Modifications add little or no visual variety to the area. Score = 0.
  - viii. Overall Score = 15; Grade = B.

*Willamette Valley System Operations and Maintenance  
Environmental Impact Statement*

- b. Sensitivity Level Analysis
  - i. Amount of Use: Greater than 75,000 visits were recorded in FY 2022. Score = High.
  - ii. Overall Rating: Moderate – High.
- c. Distance Zone
  - i. Foreground – middle ground: Green Peter Dam and Reservoir is visible from travel routes or observation points within 3 to 5 miles.
- d. Visual Resource Inventory Class: III

**4. COUGAR (CGR):**

- a. Scenic Quality Inventory
  - i. Landform: Mostly consists of rolling hills, few or no interesting landscape features. Score = 1.
  - ii. Vegetation: Some variety of vegetation, mostly trees and grasses. Score = 3.
  - iii. Water: Large reservoir filled with clear and clean-appearing water, dominating factor in the landscape. Score = 5.
  - iv. Color: Some variety of color among the water, trees, and vegetation. Score = 3.
  - v. Influence of adjacent scenery: Adjacent scenery has little to no influence. Score = 0.
  - vi. Scarcity: Visitors may spot rare species. Score = 3.
  - vii. Cultural modifications: Modifications add little or no visual variety to the area. Score = 0.
  - viii. Overall Score = 15; Grade = B.
- b. Sensitivity Level Analysis
  - i. Amount of Use: Less than 50,000 visits were recorded in FY 2022. Score = Low.
  - ii. Overall Rating: Low.
- c. Distance Zone
  - i. Foreground – middle ground: Cougar Dam and Reservoir is visible from travel routes or observation points within 3 to 5 miles.
- d. Visual Resource Inventory Class: IV

**5. BLUE RIVER (BLU):**

- a. Scenic Quality Inventory
  - i. Landform: Mostly consists of rolling hills, few or no interesting landscape features. Score = 1.
  - ii. Vegetation: Some variety of vegetation, mostly trees and grasses. Score = 3.
  - iii. Water: Large reservoir filled with clear and clean-appearing water, dominating factor in the landscape. Score = 5.
  - iv. Color: Some variety of color among the water, trees, and vegetation. Score = 3.

*Willamette Valley System Operations and Maintenance  
Environmental Impact Statement*

- v. Influence of adjacent scenery: Adjacent scenery has little to no influence. Score = 0.
- vi. Scarcity: Somewhat common within region. Score = 0.
- vii. Cultural modifications: Modifications add little or no visual variety to the area. Score = 0.
- viii. Overall Score = 13; Grade = B.
- b. Sensitivity Level Analysis
  - i. Amount of Use: Less than 50,000 visits were recorded in FY 2022. Score = Low.
  - ii. Overall Rating: Low.
- c. Distance Zone
  - i. Foreground – middle ground: Blue River Dam and Reservoir is visible from travel routes or observation points within 3 to 5 miles.
- d. Visual Resource Inventory Class: IV

**6. LOOKOUT POINT (LOP):**

- a. Scenic Quality Inventory
  - i. Landform: Mostly consists of rolling hills, few or no interesting landscape features. Score = 1.
  - ii. Vegetation: Some variety of vegetation, mostly trees and grasses. Score = 3.
  - iii. Water: Large reservoir filled with clear and clean-appearing water, dominating factor in the landscape. Score = 5.
  - iv. Color: Some variety of color among the water, trees, and vegetation. Score = 3.
  - v. Influence of adjacent scenery: Adjacent scenery of mountains in the distance and the Lowell Covered Bridge moderately enhances overall visual quality. Score = 3.
  - vi. Scarcity: Visitors may spot rare species. Score = 3.
  - vii. Cultural modifications: Modifications add little or no visual variety to the area. Score = 0.
  - viii. Overall Score = 18; Grade = B.
- b. Sensitivity Level Analysis
  - i. Amount of Use: Between 50,000 – 75,000 visits were recorded in FY 2022. Score = Moderate.
  - ii. Overall Rating: Low – Moderate.
- c. Distance Zone
  - i. Foreground – middle ground: Lookout Point Dam and Reservoir is visible from travel routes or observation points within 3 to 5 miles.
- d. Visual Resource Inventory Class: IV

**7. HILLS CREEK (HCR):**

- a. Scenic Quality Inventory
  - i. Landform: Mostly consists of rolling hills, few or no interesting landscape features. Score = 1.
  - ii. Vegetation: Some variety of vegetation, mostly trees and grasses. Score = 3.
  - iii. Water: Large reservoir filled with clear and clean-appearing water, dominating factor in the landscape. Score = 5.
  - iv. Color: Some variety of color among the water, trees, and vegetation. Score = 3.
  - v. Influence of adjacent scenery: Adjacent scenery has little to no influence. Score = 0.
  - vi. Scarcity: Somewhat common within region. Score = 1.
  - vii. Cultural modifications: Modifications add little or no visual variety to the area. Score = 0.
  - viii. Overall Score = 13; Grade = B.
- b. Sensitivity Level Analysis
  - i. Amount of Use: Greater than 75,000 visits were recorded in FY 2022. Score = High.
  - ii. Overall Rating: Low – Moderate.
- c. Distance Zone
  - i. Foreground – middle ground: Hills Creek Dam and Reservoir is visible from travel routes or observation points within 3 to 5 miles.
- d. Visual Resource Inventory Class: IV

**8. DEXTER (DET):**

- a. Scenic Quality Inventory
  - i. Landform: Mostly consists of rolling hills, few or no interesting landscape features. Score = 1.
  - ii. Vegetation: Some variety of vegetation, mostly trees and grasses. Score = 3.
  - iii. Water: Large reservoir filled with clear and clean-appearing water, dominating factor in the landscape. Score = 5.
  - iv. Color: Some variety of color among the water, trees, and vegetation. Score = 3.
  - v. Influence of adjacent scenery: Adjacent scenery has little to no influence. Score = 0.
  - vi. Scarcity: Visitors may spot rare species. Score = 3.
  - vii. Cultural modifications: Modifications add little or no visual variety to the area. Score = 0.
  - viii. Overall Score =15; Grade = B.

*Willamette Valley System Operations and Maintenance  
Environmental Impact Statement*

- b. Sensitivity Level Analysis
  - i. Amount of Use: Greater than 75,000 visits were recorded in FY 2022. Score = High.
  - ii. Overall Rating: High.
- c. Distance Zone
  - i. Foreground – middle ground: Dexter Dam and Reservoir is visible from travel routes or observation points within 3 to 5 miles.
- d. Visual Resource Inventory Class: II

**9. FALL CREEK (FCR):**

- a. Scenic Quality Inventory
  - i. Landform: Mostly consists of rolling hills, few or no interesting landscape features. Score = 1.
  - ii. Vegetation: Some variety of vegetation, mostly trees and grasses. Score = 3.
  - iii. Water: Large reservoir filled with clear and clean-appearing water, dominating factor in the landscape. Score = 5.
  - iv. Color: Some variety of color among the water, trees, and vegetation. Score = 3.
  - v. Influence of adjacent scenery: Adjacent scenery has little to no influence. Score = 0.
  - vi. Scarcity: Somewhat common within the region. Score = 1.
  - vii. Cultural modifications: Modifications add little or no visual variety to the area. Score = 0.
  - viii. Overall Score = 13; Grade = B.
- b. Sensitivity Level Analysis
  - i. Amount of Use: Greater than 75,000 visits were recorded in FY 2022. Score = High.
  - ii. Overall Rating: Low – Moderate.
- c. Distance Zone
  - i. Foreground – middle ground: Fall Creek Dam and Reservoir is visible from travel routes or observation points within 3 to 5 miles.
- d. Visual Resource Inventory Class: III

## **CHAPTER 2 - REFERENCES**

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*Willamette Valley System Operations and Maintenance  
Environmental Impact Statement*

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