

#### 4.13 Visual Quality-Scenic Areas and Visual Quality Objectives

**Legal Reference:** FRPA Section 181 and FPPR 1.1

**Objective:** *The objective set by government for Visual Quality in scenic areas are the established Visual Quality Objectives, applied in accordance with FPPR section 1.1 (Categories of visually altered forest landscapes).*

**HLP Objective or GAR Objective:**

**The Selkirk Natural Resource District**

*The District Manager has made a declaration under the FPC to establish either visual quality objectives or visual scenic classes. These Declarations are grandfathered objectives under Section 181 of the Act as well as under GAR section 7 notice “Establishment of Scenic Areas and Visual Quality Objectives within the Columbia Forest District (January 31, 2007)” and 17 “ Visual Quality Objective Order (November 20, 2014)”.*

**Okanagan TSA**

*The Okanagan Shuswap Land and Resource Management Plan (April 11, 2001 non HLP) defines “Zone 1” areas. These areas have been declared as “scenic areas” with established VQO’s under the FPC and are grand parented as objectives by government.*

**Applicable FDU’s:** Adelphi, Anstey, Banting-Kettle, Barton, Big White, Blackwater Ridge, Bluewater, Boleen, Branchflower, Cascadia, Celista, Chase Harper, Chum, Coldstream, Cooke, Crazy, Currie, Drimmie Creek, Eagle River, Echo, Esplanade, Frisby Ridge, Glen Lake, Graystokes, Harris, Hlina, Hunter Blurton, Ireland, Jackpine, Jumping Creek, Kal Slopes, Kwikoiit, Lamberton, Long Ridge, Mara-Sicamous, Mellin Windy, Mission, Mt. Ida, Mt. Rev Prov, Park, Mt. Seven, Mugford, Naramata, Old Dave, Paxton, Priest Creek, Rose-Swanson, Ross, Sicamous North, Skaha, Skimikin, Smokeyhouse, Stuart Terrace, TFL 33-BCTS, TFL 49, TFL 56, TFL 59-BCTS, Wall Creek, Wetask Lake, White Lake, Whitehead, Yard Creek, Okanagan, Revelstoke, Golden. (All FDU’s where scenic areas apply).

**Applicable FDU’s for 2021 Fire Salvage:** Mara-Sicamous, Paxton, Skaha, TFL 49. (All FDU’s where scenic areas apply within 2021 fires in Okanagan TSA and development will meet VQO’s to the extent practicable in respect to the VLI polygons listed in Table 4.13.1).

## Results and Strategies

When constructing a road or when exercising timber harvesting rights under this FSP within areas having established Visual Quality Objectives (VQO), the agreement holder will meet the VQO at the completion of harvesting or road building by implementing the following strategies:

1. Prior to authorization of primary forest activities, ensure a *QP* carries out a Visual Impact Assessment (VIA), and designs cutblocks and roads such that the visual alteration on the ground is consistent with the applicable category that corresponds to the VQO described in FPPR sec 1.1 Categories of Visually Altered Forest Landscapes, by
  - a) assessing the proposed visual alteration from one or more significant public viewpoints, located on water or land, that provides a viewing opportunity and has relevance to the landscape being assessed; and
  - b) utilizing the guidance for predicting VQOs in:
    - i. Tables 3 and 4 of the FPC Visual Impact Assessment Guidebook, Second edition, January 2001; and/or
    - ii. the Protocol for Visual Quality Effectiveness Evaluation Procedures and Standards, FREP, 2008; and
    - iii. estimating the likely resulting VQO using the descriptive categories of visually altered forest landscape as defined in FPPR Section 1.1.
2. Where road construction and/or timber harvesting is planned and may not fully meet the established VQO, given the specific circumstances or conditions of a particular area, prior to constructing a road or entering into an agreement that authorizes timber harvesting or road construction, the agreement holder will submit and amend the visual results and strategies for these specific situations as appropriate, notwithstanding the following section that applies to 2021 wildfires.
3. Within scenic areas where cutblock and road construction is proposed to recover timber that has been damaged, or threatened, significantly reduced in value, lost or destroyed due to the effects of the 2021 White Rock Lake (K61884), Thomas Creek Fire (K51794), Two-mile creek fire (K42078), or other future large scale fires the FSP holder will:
  - a) Follow section 1 to the extent practicable by ensuring a *QP* carries out Visual Impact Assessment of the altered forest landscape that will result from the cutblock harvesting or road construction, while considering the circumstances or conditions brought on by the wildfire that have impacted or damaged or threatened the timber in the scenic area; and
  - b) Where a *QP* determines that it is not practicable to be consistent with scale and acuity attributes of the established VQOs when recovering the damaged timber, the *QP* is to ensure to the extent practicable, within each VLI polygon,

that the altered forest landscape that results from the cutblock harvesting or road construction:

- i. Is natural in appearance, and not rectilinear or geometric in shape, and
- ii. Does not exceed the levels of scale and acuity that are specified in Table 4.13.1.

Table 4.13.1 \*\*\* Note additional VLI polygons may be added to this table as a minor amendment with appropriate stakeholder referral and First Nation consultation requirements met.

FDU/ Operating Area/ TFL	Wildfire Identification	VLI Polygon	Established VQO	Scale (allowable extent)	Acuity (allowable extent)
Adelphi/ TFL 49	K61884	1606	Retention	Medium in scale	Easy to see
TFL 49	K61884	1863	Retention	Medium in scale	Easy to see
TFL 49	K61884	1675	Partial Retention	Large in scale	Very easy to see
Mara- Sicamous	K42078	2931	Partial Retention	Large in scale	Very easy to see
Paxton	K61884	1597	Partial Retention	Medium to Large in scale	Very easy to see
Paxton	K61884	1599	Partial Retention	Large in scale	Very easy to see
Paxton	K61884	1613	Partial Retention	Large in scale	Very easy to see
Skaha	K51794	794	Retention	Large in scale	Very easy to see
Skaha	K51794	749	Partial Retention	Large in scale	Very easy to see