# *Visual Impacts Discipline Report Checklist*

Project Name: _____ Job Number: _____

Contact Name: _____

Date Received: _____ Date Reviewed: _____ Reviewer: _____

(SAT = Satisfactory; INC = Incomplete; MIS = Missing; N/A = Not Applicable)

Answers are required for questions which have no N/A box.

A Visual Impacts Discipline Report can be highly detailed or extremely concise depending upon whether the level of impact or controversy is substantial or minimal. Project teams should take care to "right-size" the discipline report so it adequately addresses the impacts and controversy without over-analyzing or providing unnecessary information.

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## I. Summary

This section should summarize key information in sections II though VI of the report and present any conclusions reached. It should be written in Plain Talk language so it can be included in the EIS, EA, or DCE with only minor modification.

| SAT | INC | MIS | N/A | |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| ❑ | ❑ | ❑ | | A. Introduction. Summarize the purpose of the report, the purpose and need for the project, and the project description, including each alternative, if applicable. |
| ❑ | ❑ | ❑ | | B. Methodology. Summarize the methodology used to analyze visual elements. |
| ❑ | ❑ | ❑ | | C. Affected Environment. Summarize the existing conditions with respect to views in the study area. |
| ❑ | ❑ | ❑ | | D. Potential Effects. Summarize any direct, indirect, and cumulative impacts of the project on views (both temporary and long-term) and indicate whether the project is likely to have more than a moderate effect on views in the study area. |
| ❑ | ❑ | ❑ | | E. Mitigation. Summarize any minimization, mitigation, or enhancement measures identified for addressing the direct and indirect visual impacts of the project. |

## II. Introduction

This section should state the purpose of the report, the purpose and need for the project, and describe the project, including each alternative, if applicable.

| SAT | INC | MIS | N/A | |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| ❑ | ❑ | ❑ | | A. Purpose of Report. Identify any applicable statutes and discuss any determinations that must be made regarding visual impacts for compliance with NEPA and/or SEPA, Section 4(f), Section 6(f), etc. |
| ❑ | ❑ | ❑ | | B. Purpose and Need. Describe the purpose and need for the project. |
| ❑ | ❑ | ❑ | | C. Project Description/Alternatives. Describe and illustrate the project including each alternative, if applicable. |

## IV. Methodology

This section should describe the methodology used to analyze visual elements.

| SAT | INC | MIS | N/A | |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| ❑ | ❑ | ❑ | | A. Methodology identified, documented, and professionally recognized: |
| ❑ | ❑ | ❑ | | 1. Threshold of significance stated (changes greater than 1.0). |
| ❑ | ❑ | ❑ | | 2. Criteria used (see attached Visual Quality Criteria Rating Scale): |
| ❑ | ❑ | ❑ | ❑ | a. Vividness – the memorability of landscape components. |
| ❑ | ❑ | ❑ | ❑ | b. Intactness – the integration of natural and human components. |
| ❑ | ❑ | ❑ | ❑ | c. Unity – the compositional harmony of the viewshed. |
| ❑ | ❑ | ❑ | ❑ | d. Viewer position noted (inferior, normal, superior). |
| ❑ | ❑ | ❑ | ❑ | e. Viewer groups identified. |
| ❑ | ❑ | ❑ | ❑ | f. Viewer exposure identified. |
| ❑ | ❑ | ❑ | ❑ | g. Viewer sensitivity identified. |
| ❑ | ❑ | ❑ | ❑ | h. Frequency of viewer exposure identified. |
| ❑ | ❑ | ❑ | ❑ | i. Duration of view identified. |
| ❑ | ❑ | ❑ | ❑ | j. Numbers of viewers identified. |

## IV. Affected Environment

This section should map and describe the existing conditions with respect to views in the study area.

| SAT | INC | MIS | N/A | |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| ❑ | ❑ | ❑ | ❑ | A. Study area identified and viewer analysis. |
| ❑ | ❑ | ❑ | | 1. Landscape units identified. |
| ❑ | ❑ | ❑ | | 2. Roadside Classification described (from Roadside Classification Plan). |
| ❑ | ❑ | ❑ | ❑ | 3. Viewer groups identified. |
| ❑ | ❑ | ❑ | ❑ | 4. Viewer exposure identified. |
| ❑ | ❑ | ❑ | ❑ | 5. Viewer sensitivity identified. |
| ❑ | ❑ | ❑ | ❑ | 6. Frequency of viewer exposure identified. |
| ❑ | ❑ | ❑ | ❑ | 7. Duration of view identified. |
| ❑ | ❑ | ❑ | ❑ | 8. Numbers of viewers identified. |
| | | | | B. Views. Discuss how each view will be impacted by the project. |
| ❑ | ❑ | ❑ | ❑ | 1. Representative viewpoints established in each landscape unit. |
| ❑ | ❑ | ❑ | | 2. Map or aerial photo showing key view locations with study area shown. |

| SAT | INC | MIS | N/A | |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| ❑ | ❑ | ❑ | ❑ | 3. Views toward the project analyzed. |
| ❑ | ❑ | ❑ | ❑ | 4. Views from the project analyzed. |
| ❑ | ❑ | ❑ | ❑ | 5. Existing views analyzed (show photos of existing key views). |
| ❑ | ❑ | ❑ | ❑ | 6. Viewer position noted (inferior, normal, superior – these can be shown on the matrix). |
| ❑ | ❑ | ❑ | ❑ | 7. Narrative discusses existing condition and discusses what is seen in the foreground, middleground, and background of each key view. |
| ❑ | ❑ | ❑ | ❑ | 8. Quantitative analysis performed on all viewpoints and stated in the description. |
| ❑ | ❑ | ❑ | ❑ | 9. Quantitative impacts analysis matrix included in the Appendix of the report. |

## V. Potential Effects

This section should describe the direct, indirect, and cumulative visual impacts of the project on views (both temporary and long-term), and indicate and indicate whether the project is likely to have more than a moderate effect on views in the study area. Describe (and quantify where possible) the following by alternative:

| SAT | INC | MIS | N/A | |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| ❑ | ❑ | ❑ | | A. Views. |
| ❑ | ❑ | ❑ | | 1. Temporary construction activity impacts discussed. |
| ❑ | ❑ | ❑ | ❑ | 2. Proposed views analyzed. |
| ❑ | ❑ | ❑ | ❑ | 3. Night sky, light, and glare effects analyzed. |
| ❑ | ❑ | ❑ | ❑ | 4. Quantitative analysis performed on all viewpoints with changes from the existing condition stated. Note difference in visual quality ratings before and after project. |
| ❑ | ❑ | ❑ | ❑ | 5. Quantitative impacts analysis matrix included in the Appendix of the report |
| ❑ | ❑ | ❑ | | B. Narrative. |
| ❑ | ❑ | ❑ | | 1. Does the narrative correspond to the qualitative analysis? |
| ❑ | ❑ | ❑ | | 2. Narrative discusses impacts. Note whether this project or any cumulative effects will change the Roadside Character Classification found in the Roadside Classification Plan. |
| ❑ | ❑ | ❑ | ❑ | a. Direct visual effects as a result of the project. |
| ❑ | ❑ | ❑ | ❑ | b. Indirect visual effects as a result of the project. |
| ❑ | ❑ | ❑ | ❑ | c. Cumulative effects of this project or any adjacent projects either in the past or future. |

## VI. Mitigation

This section should describe any potential and/or recommended mitigation and enhancement measures for addressing any direct and indirect visual impacts of the project. Describe the following for:

| SAT | INC | MIS | N/A | |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| ❑ | ❑ | ❑ | ❑ | A. Avoiding the impact. |
| ❑ | ❑ | ❑ | ❑ | B. Minimizing the impact. |
| ❑ | ❑ | ❑ | ❑ | C. Compensating for the impact. |
| ❑ | ❑ | ❑ | ❑ | D. Enhancement. |

| SAT | INC | MIS | N/A | |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| ❑ | ❑ | ❑ | ❑ | E. How this project will meet the requirements of the Roadside Classification Plan for roadside restoration |
| ❑ | ❑ | ❑ | ❑ | F. Recommendations for how this project will blend with the adjacent landscape after construction. |

## VII. References

| SAT | INC | MIS | N/A | |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| ❑ | ❑ | ❑ | | A. List all published sources of data and other information used in preparing the report. |

## VIII. Appendix

| SAT | INC | MIS | N/A | |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| ❑ | ❑ | ❑ | | A. Show the visual analysis matrix: |

## IX. List of Preparers

| SAT | INC | MIS | N/A | |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| ❑ | ❑ | ❑ | | A. List name and affiliations of authors and contributors to the report, with education, professional licenses, professional organizations, and year of experience writing visual impact discipline reports. |

General Comments: _____

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## Visual Quality Criteria Rating Scale

| | | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| | ***Vividness*** | | |
| | ***Landform*** | | |
| | ***Waterform*** | | |
| | ***Vegetative*** | | **Intactness** |
| | ***Human-made*** | | ***Human Environment*** |
| 7 | Very High | 7 | None |
| 6 | High | 6 | Little |
| 5 | Moderately High | 5 | Some |
| 4 | Average | 4 | Average |
| 3 | Moderately Low | 4 | Moderately High |
| 2 | Low | 2 | High |
| 1 | Very Low | 1 | Very High |
| | **Unity** | | **Intactness** ***Encroachment*** |
| 7 | Very High | 7 | None |
| 6 | High | 6 | Few |
| 5 | Moderately High | 5 | Some |
| 4 | Average | 4 | Average |
| 3 | Moderately Low | 4 | Several |
| 2 | Low | 2 | Many |
| 1 | Very Low | 1 | Very Many |