

A Manual for Forest Landscape Management

Republished by the Forest Practice Authority,
Tasmania — 24-10-2006

About this republication

This republication of the *Manual for Forest Visual Landscape Management*, 1990 closely follows the originals however with minor changes in text and formatting where appropriate for improved comprehension. PDF versions of just 5 of the original 7 chapters have been prepared.

The 1990 publication consolidated the established theme for forest visual landscape management in Tasmania. This was at a time of change and expansion of sophistication within the forest industry which was chiefly centered on harvesting and regeneration of native forest. Indeed the Manual was developed for use with native forest on public lands with some only brief comments on exotic pine forests and their place in the landscape.

Today we can judge the effects of the application of visual landscape management principles and practices over the ensuing years on native forests around the state. Also today, the effects can be seen of the past 5 years of ongoing diversification of the industry, especially in the expansion of large scale hardwood plantation establishment on both public and private lands.

Chapter 2 defines the Visual Management System which continues to provide a useful method for codifying scenery to indicate its viewing prominence, sensitivity and respective planning priority for visual management. This is even more pertinent today due to the expansion of forestry operations, especially plantations, in the more visually open rural scenery where viewing by a higher proportion of the community is assured.

Future revision

The Manual is to be refined to include further ideas and evolution of existing theory and practices in forest visual landscape management. Additional chapters are to be prepared to consolidate and expand the range of capabilities from strategic planning through to aspects of visual design. In particular this is to include: visual design theory, visual character objectives for strategic planning of plantation forestry; planning principles for native forest skyline management; and visual analysis procedure for individual operational areas. (For the latter two aspects, see Landscape Technical Notes under Advisory Links on the FPA Web page).

Contents pages below are copied directly from the original Manual from 1990 and refer to the now obsolete Chapters 3 and 5 which have not been revised and are only available as hardcopy.

Comprehensive Contents

Foreword	6	Landscape Priority Zone Mapping Procedure	46
Landscape Management Policy	7	Landscape Character Types	49
Preface (includes guide to chapters.)	8	Scenic Quality Classifications	49
1 LANDSCAPE AWARENESS	13	Public Sensitivity Levels	52
Visual values and the land manager		Seen-areas	52
Origins of visual principles	14	Landscape Priority Zone	53
Usefulness of visual principles		Forest Planning and the Visual Management System	55
Landscape defined		3 FOREST PLANNING AND VISUAL MANAGEMENT	59
Basic Concepts	15	Landscape planning at each stage of forest planning	
Characteristic Landscape	15	Stages of Forest Planning	60
Compositional types:	15	Strategic Planning	60
Feature, enclosed, detailed, canopied		Sustained yield	
Panoramic, focal, ephemeral		Operational constraints and landscape values	
Landscape Variety	18	Tactical planning	62
Viewers' preference for variety		Visual analysis based on the viewshed	
Preference for roadside variety	19	Limiting visual impact throughout the harvest rotation	
Alterations to the characteristic landscape	20	Visual management goals	
Conceptual Framework for Analysing landscapes	21	Operational planning and harvest planning	63
Dominance elements:	21	Site design to satisfy visual goals	65
Form, line, colour, texture		Three steps for project landscape analysis	
Design principles:	24	Procedure when the proposed operation does not satisfy the objective	66
Contrast, sequence, axis, convergence, co-dominance, framing		District Forester's responsibility	
Variable factors:	28	Summary	66
Motion, light (direction of light source), atmospheric conditions, seasons, distance (foreground, middleground, background), observer position (above, level, below), scale, time (duration of viewing)		Additional Visual Management Documentation	67
2 THE VISUAL MANAGEMENT SYSTEM	39	Visual Management Plans — purpose and content	
Importance of evaluating scenic quality		Monitoring	68
Landscape as an assessable "resource"	40	Effectiveness of visual management guidelines	68
Purposes of the Visual Management System		Photographic monitoring	
Landscape Management Objectives:	42	Sustained yield	68
Inevident Alteration (IA)	42	Keeping records	69
Apparent Alteration (AA)	42	4 VISUAL ABSORPTION CAPABILITY	73
Dominant Alteration (DA)	42	VAC plus Landscape Priority Zones determine visual opportunities	
Reserve (RES)	43	VAC determines visual prominence of activities in the landscape	74
Rehabilitation (REH)	43	Types of VAC assessments	75
Special (SP)	43		
Field examples of Objectives	44		
Premises (the basis for the system)	45		

Tables and Figures

Other Design Aspects	148
Landings, spur roads and snig tracks	148
Regeneration burning	150
Enhancement	151
Rehabilitation	153
7 LANDSCAPE CHARACTER TYPES OF TASMANIA	157
— Use of the V. M. S. to classify scenic quality	
Landscape Character Types	159
Theory and premises	
1. Far North-west Plateau and Plains	161
2. North-west Hills and Plains	161
3. North-east Coastal Hills	162
4. North-east Highlands	162
5. Eastern Hills and Plains	163
6. South-east Coastal Hills	163
7. High Mountains	164
8. West Coast Hills and Plains	164
9. Central Plateau	165
10. Coastlines	165
Landscape character type boundaries	166
Setting boundaries	
Scenic Quality	167
Premises guiding classification	
Scenic quality mapping	168
Frames of reference	
Appendix A — Landscape Character Type Tables	169
Appendix B — Scenic Quality Frame of Reference	172
GLOSSARY	185
Forest Landscape Management	185
Forestry Management	190
INDEX	193

Chapter 1

<i>Fig. 1. Conceptual framework for the landscape</i>	22
---	----

Chapter 2

<i>Map 1. Forest areas, Tasmania</i>	41
<i>Fig. 1. Development, Landscape Priority Zones</i>	47
<i>Fig. 2. Visual Management System flow diagram</i>	48
<i>Table 1. High Mountains character type — scenic quality frame of reference</i>	50
<i>Table 2. Public Sensitivity Level criteria (travel route and use-area classification)</i>	51
<i>Table 3. Recommended Landscape Management Objectives for Landscape Priority Zones</i>	54

Chapter 3

<i>Table 1. Stages of forest planning and landscape management</i>	61
<i>Table 2. Strategic Planning and landscape management</i>	62
<i>Fig. 1. Landscape Planning flow diagram</i>	64

Chapter 4

<i>Table 1. Visual Absorption Capability checklist</i>	85
<i>Table 2. Total Visual Opportunity matrix</i>	89
<i>Appendix Table 1. Required Conditions procedure</i>	90
<i>Appendix Table 2. Numerical procedure</i>	92
<i>Appendix Table 3. Numerical plus Matrix procedure</i>	93
<i>Appendix Table 4. Overlay Matrix procedure</i>	94
<i>Appendix Table 5. Example matrix (erosion potential/slope)</i>	95

Chapter 5

<i>Fig. 1. Selection of viewpoints</i>	103
<i>Fig. 2. Computer-derived perspectives</i>	105
<i>Fig. 3. Analysis overlay</i>	108
<i>Fig. 4. Sketches of Visual Segments</i>	109
<i>Appendix A Fig. 71. Plotting with cross-sections</i>	112
<i>Appendix A Fig. 2. Field Plotting</i>	115

Chapter 7

<i>Fig. 1. Visual Management System flow diagram</i>	158
<i>Map 1. Landscape Character Types</i>	160