

VISUAL RESOURCES

PEBBLE PROJECT
ENVIRONMENTAL BASELINE DOCUMENT



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- Study Areas include both
 - ▣ Bristol Bay (CH 24) and
 - ▣ Cook Inlet (CH52) Drainages
- Visual resources analysis uses tools and methodologies described in the U.S. Forest Service (USFS) *Landscape Aesthetics, A Handbook for Scenery Management* (USFS, 1995).
 - ▣ Scenic Attractiveness
 - ▣ Scenic Integrity
 - ▣ Scenic Class

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- For both study areas, visual characterizations included the following:
 - 1) Determination of viewed areas
 - 2) Evaluation of constituent viewer groups
 - 3) Analysis of the landscape's existing scenic character and quality

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- 1) Determination of view areas:
 - Landscape Analysis Units
 - Based on landform patterns, hydrology, vegetation, and cultural elements.
 - Each unit was characterized with respect to its scenic attractiveness and scenic integrity.

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- 2) Viewer Groups:
 - Residents
 - Tourists and Recreationists
 - Subsistence Users
 - Aircraft Passengers

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- 3) Analysis of the landscape's existing scenic character and quality
 - i. Landscape Visibility is a function of context of viewers, duration of view, degree of discernible detail, seasonal variations, and the number of viewers

DISTANCE ZONES	DISTANCE
Foreground (FG)	0 to 0.5 miles
Middle ground (MG)	0.5 to 4 miles
Background (BG)	4 miles to horizon
Seldom Seen (SS)	Varies

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ii. Scenic Attractiveness measures the perceptions of the intrinsic beauty of landform, water characteristics, vegetation patterns, and cultural features.

Class:	Description
A	Distinctive
B	Typical or Common
C	Indistinctive

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iii. Scenic Integrity is defined as a measure of the completeness of a landscape.

Ratings:

VH = Very High

H = High

M = Moderate

L = Low

VL = Very Low

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iv. Scenic Class measures the value of scenery by looking at the relative importance of discrete landscape areas with regard to scenic attractiveness and landscape visibility.

Scenic Class Ratings	
1 to 2	High Public Value
3 to 5	Moderate Public Value
6 to 7	Low Public Value

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□ **RESULTS: Ch 24 – Bristol Bay Drainages**

□ Landscape Visibility:

■ Residents

- High level of concern

■ Tourists/Recreationists

- High level of concern

■ Subsistence

- High level of concern

■ Aircraft

- Different viewing locations per flight path
- Not possible to predict flight paths of personal aircraft

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□ **RESULTS: Ch 24 – Bristol Bay Drainages**

□ Viewer Exposure:

■ Residents

- Exposure period is continual but varies depending on location, orientation, and variability in vegetation and season

■ Tourists/Recreationists

- Exposure period varies depending on travel method, altitude, and activity

■ Subsistence

- Exposure period varies depending on activity

■ Aircraft

- Exposure period varies depending on route, altitude, and speed

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RESULTS: Ch 24 – Bristol Bay Drainages



Unit 1: Talarik Creek

Summary	
Scenic Attractiveness	Class A (FG), Class B (MG & BG)
Scenic Integrity	Very High
Scenic Class	1 & 2

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RESULTS: Ch 24 – Bristol Bay Drainages



Unit 2: Groundhog & Sheep Mountains

Summary	
Scenic Attractiveness	Class B
Scenic Integrity	Very High
Scenic Class	1 & 2

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RESULTS: Ch 24 – Bristol Bay Drainages



Unit 3: Iliamna & Iliamna Lake/Newhalen River Subunit

Summary	
Scenic Attractiveness	Class A, B, & C
Scenic Integrity	Low to Very High
Scenic Class	1

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RESULTS: Ch 24 – Bristol Bay Drainages



Unit 3: Iliamna & Roadhouse Mtn. & Lowland Subunit

Summary	
Scenic Attractiveness	Class A (mtn.) & B (lowlands)
Scenic Integrity	Very High
Scenic Class	1

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RESULTS: Ch 24 – Bristol Bay Drainages



Unit 4: Pedro Bay

Summary	
Scenic Attractiveness	Class A
Scenic Integrity	High to Very High
Scenic Class	1

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RESULTS: Ch 24 – Bristol Bay Drainages



Unit 5: Chigmit Mountains

Summary	
Scenic Attractiveness	Class A
Scenic Integrity	Very High
Scenic Class	1

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□ **RESULTS: Ch 24 – Bristol Bay Drainages**

□ Summary:

- Bristol Bay drainages study area is
 - almost fully intact in most areas,
 - with very high scenic integrity,
 - a high level of scenic class,
 - and with a high level of concern by users.

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□ **RESULTS: Ch 52 – Cook Inlet Drainages**

□ Landscape Visibility:

■ Residents

- High level of concern, high variability in levels of concern

■ Tourists/Recreationists

- High level of concern

■ Subsistence

- High level of concern

■ Aircraft

- Different viewing locations per flight path
- Not possible to predict flight paths of personal aircraft

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□ **RESULTS: Ch 52 – Cook Inlet Drainages**

□ Viewer Exposure:

■ Residents

- Seasonal Residents in Williamsport and Camp Point (South shore of Chinitna Bay)

■ Tourists/Recreationists

- Exposure time

■ Subsistence

- Highly sensitive to changes

■ Aircraft

- Fishing season/hunting camps in the autumn
- Middle-ground views for approximately 2 minutes, and foreground view for approximately 30 seconds.
- Middle-ground to background views (4 miles or greater), and their estimated exposure time would be several minutes for 30 seconds

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RESULTS: Ch 52 – Cook Inlet Drainages



Unit 1: Williams Creek Valley

Summary	
Scenic Attractiveness	Class A
Scenic Integrity	Very High
Scenic Class	1

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RESULTS: Ch 52 – Cook Inlet Drainages



Unit 2: Cook Inlet Coastline

Summary	
Scenic Attractiveness	Class A
Scenic Integrity	Very High
Scenic Class	1

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RESULTS: Ch 52 – Cook Inlet Drainages



Unit 3: Y Valley

Summary	
Scenic Attractiveness	Class A
Scenic Integrity	Very High
Scenic Class	1

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RESULTS: Ch 52 – Cook Inlet Drainages



Unit 4: Iniskin Peninsula

Summary	
Scenic Attractiveness	Class A
Scenic Integrity	Very High
Scenic Class	1

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□ **RESULTS: Ch 52 – Cook Inlet Drainages**

□ Summary:

- Cook Inlet drainages study area is
 - almost fully intact,
 - with very high scenic integrity,
 - and with a high level of concern by users.