

TSPAC Subcommittee Work

Visual \ Aesthetic resources:

1st Meeting: 5.23.2012

- ▶ Staff: Andy Lanier/Laurel Hillmann,
- ▶ Members (9): Susan Allen, David Allen, Bob Eder, Peter Huhtala, Gus Gates, Bob Lurie, Rick Williams and David Yamamoto.
- ▶ Absent for this meeting (Gus, Susan).
- ▶ Members of the public: Dave Lacey



Draft Meeting Agenda

- ▶ Review the groups charge:
 - discuss or clarify any of the objectives.
- ▶ Presentation on the Visual Impact Assessment Methods (Laurel Hillmann, OPRD).
- ▶ Update on staff training (Laurel, Andy)
 - National Park Service
 - National Association of Environmental Professionals
- ▶ Review the viewpoints in the inventory to be conducted by OPRD (Andy Lanier).
 - Look at maps
- ▶ Discuss and Review proposed criteria for additional inventory locations which will need to be conducted by local governments (w/ DLCD assistance).
- ▶ Discuss what happens at the permit review stage with the JART.



Group Charge:

- ▶ Incorporate the visual impact assessment methodology and maps into the plan, and formalize the JART (Joint Agency Review Team) process for conducting the visual impact analysis and review to ensure the input and participation of local government.



Training Update: National Park Service Inventory Assessment Training

- ▶ Training over a 1.5 days, designed to teach the methods for assessing the viewshed quality from specific points (L&C Trail).



Training Update: NAEP Symposium

Advanced Topics in Visual Resource Impact Assessment

- ▶ Attended a full day on Visual Resource Management = VRM
- ▶ VRM Plans are derived from Visual Inventory Assessments (VIA) and their derived Visual Resource Inventory (VRI) classes.
- ▶ Engagement in public in a process to assess VRI sensitivity is a current weakness in VRM methods... and this is one of the areas that we are working to solve.

- ▶ Additional Resources:
 - <http://www.esf.edu/via>



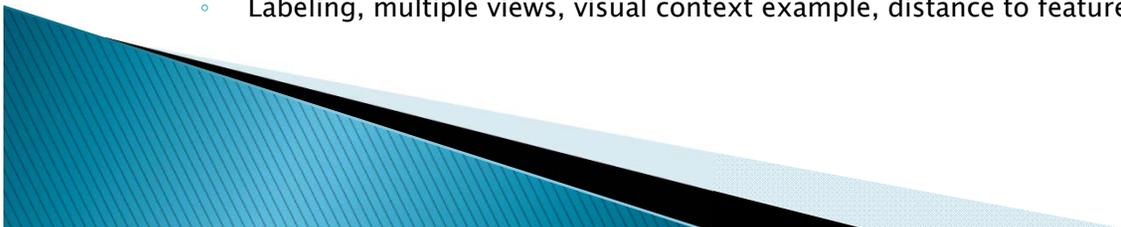
Regulation of visual impacts is rooted in common law.

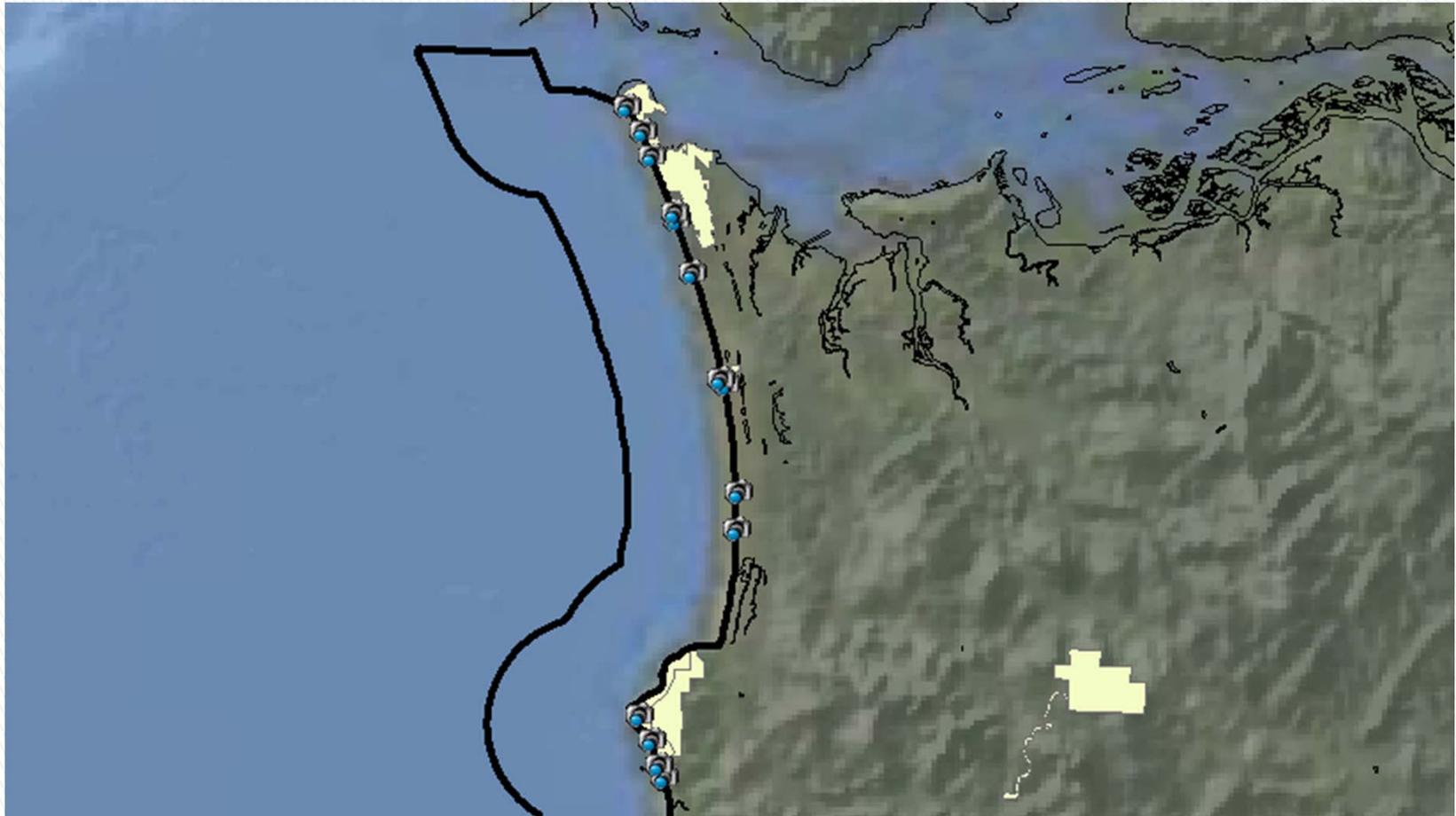
- ▶ Public health, safety, and welfare are protected by common law.
- ▶ Regulatory agencies act to protect the public interests, not the private interests.
- ▶ The avenue for protecting private interests (loss of property value) is through the civil courts. Case law examples can be found related to property owners who files suit over the impacts of power lines.
- ▶ As a result the area that can potentially be protected are those areas (visual resources) that are accessible to the public.
- ▶ Standards are required to create and enforce all regulations, including scenic regulations.
 - The development of a standard, and the use of criteria to evaluate that standard is key in understanding VRM.
 - Evaluation of scenic resources often extend beyond jurisdictional boundaries, and needs to be coordinated.
- ▶ Things to consider...
 - Scenic Byways may have corridor plans that we should consider...Need to look at the Pacific Coast Scenic Byway report.
 - Scenery resource conservation plan?... For the Oregon Coast?



Visual Simulations

- ▶ Simulations that mimic the exact placement and action of an effect (windmills spinning) are important, as poorly crafted simulations will result in loss of confidence with the VRM methods.
- ▶ Simulations should be used for the overall understanding of location, scale, and visibility.
- ▶ Elements of a visual simulation
 - Direction of view from Known Observation Point (KOP)
 - Viewing distance of feature
 - Photographic standard/baseline context.
 - Control
 - Base Data
 - Review of preliminary products
 - Presentation setup/viewing angles
- ▶ The Lens Issue: a lot of distortion results from multiple images stitched together from a standard lens, without correction of the lens distortion factor (common with photographic lenses).
- ▶ Common Problems with simulations
 - Too Abstract
 - Unrealistic and inaccurate
 - Realistic but inaccurate/distorted
- ▶ Other Simulations:
 - Google Earth Sketchup model, potentially animated.
 - Truescape visual simulations.
 - Time lapse photography simulations
- ▶ Using Visual Queues
 - Labeling, multiple views, visual context example, distance to feature.





VRIA Points for the Oregon State Parks

Map Review

Adding Inventory Assessment Locations?

- ▶ Criteria for adding inventory assessment points to accommodate the local government needs.
 - Located at a publicly accessible site
 - Designed to “fill in the gaps” from OPRD’s inventory.
 - Pacific Coast Scenic Byway locations
 - All American Highway Designations
 - Suggestions?...



VRM process for the JART

- ▶ The Joint Agency Review Team will be conducting a review of applications that are submitted to the state for MRE development.
- ▶ The Visual Resources Inventory Assessment completed by OPRD will form the foundation of our plan for managing impacts.
- ▶ The development of standards and criteria used to evaluate each proposals impact on the visual resources with the TS will be crucial.
- ▶ This group should consider what process requirements to include in the part 5 plan language that places constraints on applicants interested in conducting a project.
 - This can relate to:
 - review of the VRIA classifications,
 - the required visual simulation products that would need to be submitted for evaluation, and
 - the process whereby applications are reviewed for their consistency with impact classification designations.

