

# Appendix I: Visual Resource Management

**Field Work was conducted 10/5/04.**

## **General Description of the Juab Valley**

The valley is a wide flat agricultural valley surrounded by mountains. The vegetation ranges from short prairie grasses to woody shrubs (rabbit brush and sagebrush) with grazing and irrigated crop land.

## **KOP 1 North Terminus**

Key Observation Point (KOP) 1 is located at the north terminus of the rail project at the loading facility. The foreground views to the east of highway 78 are pastureland grasses that exhibited a golden home color. In the middle ground views the views transitioned from pasturelands to irrigated crop lands dotting the landscape with the greens of alfalfa. A large power corridor could be seen in the middle ground both to the north and south on the east side of Highway 78. The background views are the San Pitch Mountains. The foreground views to the west are the rail cars located in the rail loading facility and power poles. Just beyond the boxcars is a home, outbuildings, and corrals. The vegetation is grasses and scattered shrubs (rabbit brush and sagebrush) which offer some greens and grays against the grasses. I-15 can be seen in the middle ground views. The background views are of the West Hills. The views to the north and south are similar to the east and west except that Highway 78 forms a line dividing the east and west landscapes and land uses.



**KOP 1 looking South west**

### **KOP 2 Along Highway 28 South of Levan**

This KOP is south of Levan along Highway 28. Panoramic views of the Juab Valley are seen from this KOP. To the west, the agriculture of the valley can be seen. There is a mix of pastureland and irrigated crops that create a patchwork of greens and golden yellows. These views dominate the foreground and middle ground views. The Right-of-Way (ROW) fence line can be seen in the foreground and the differentiation in vegetation between the ROW and the adjacent agriculture. Scattered homes can be seen in the middle ground views as can the irrigation systems. Along Highway 28 there are scattered large livestock operations, which include corrals and storage of feed. Background views include I-15 and the West Hills and looking more southwest the South Hills. The views to the east are dramatically different as they are not agricultural. The vegetation is primarily grasses and rabbit brush and sagebrush in the foreground. The middle and background views are of the San Pitch Mountains. The mountains are dotted with the greens of juniper. There is a stark color contrast and texture between the valley floor and the mountains from yellows and greens to blues and grays. To the south the landscape is split by Highway 28 which divides the land uses of the valley, however, a farmstead can be seen in the middle ground and the background views are dramatic with the blues of the San Pitch Mountains. To the north the views do not differ much from the east and west views.



**KOP 2 looking South**

### **KOPE 3 Along Highway 28 near the Juab and Sanpete County line**

The landscape at this KOP is different from the agricultural Juab Valley. The topography is rolling hills and knobs. Looking to the west the foreground views are mostly of sagebrush with some scattered juniper. In the middle ground the power line corridor can be seen. As the middle ground transitions into the background the formation known as Painted Rocks can be seen. Pink hues can be seen at the top of this formation that offset the yellows, greens and grays of the foreground vegetation. Just beyond this formation is the Sevier Bridge Reservoir. The background views to the west are the Valley Mountains which are offset in the landscape by the blues that exhibit. Looking northwest the South Hills can still be seen. To the east the foreground and middle ground views are dominated by a small rocky ridge. There are subtle pink hues that contrast the dark greens of the juniper. To the north the views are similar to the views of the west without the background views of the Valley Mountains. To the south the views are similar to the west and east views being split by Highway 28, which creates a distinct line in the landscape.



**KOP 3 looking West**

#### **KOP 4 Campground at Sevier Bridge Reservoir**

This KOP is west of the proposed rail line. The users at this campground have views of the reservoir, Painted Rocks, and rolling hills that would be traversed by the rail line. Looking east the foreground views are parking lot accessing the picnic and campground area. The middle ground views are dominated by grasslands and Russian thistle that give the landscape a red tint. There are scattered sagebrush plants. The background views are of a small ridge line with juniper cover that is crossed by the power corridor. Beyond the smaller ridgeline is the San Pitch Mountains. The north foreground views grasses with scattered red weed, sagebrush and juniper. Painted Rocks can be seen in the middle ground. To the south, the foreground views are of the picnic tables and roads to access the visitor sites. Beyond the visitor facilities, there is a knoll covered with juniper. The middle ground and background views are of the reservoir which is dry. To the west the foreground and middle ground views of the two new park pavilions. Just beyond the pavilions the Sevier Bridge Reservoir can be seen. The reservoir is nearly dry during the fall visit. As a result there is red brown vegetation that can be seen. This is offset by the trickle of water running through the valley and white exposed from the dry lake bed. The background views are of the ridge running through the reservoir and the Valley Mountains beyond the reservoir.



**KOP 4 overlooking new pavilion**

### **KOP 5 Near the Sevier Bridge Reservoir Narrows**

KOP 5 was taken near the narrowing of Sevier Bridge Reservoir where the proposed rail line would cross the reservoir. At this KOP the topography begins to flatten revealing a valley once more. The background views are of the San Pitch Mountains to the east and Valley Mountains to west. To the north, south and east the foreground views are shrubby with greasewood. Against the shrubs white saline soils can be seen. The texture is very coarse. In the middle ground views the agriculture present along Highway 28 can be seen. The background views are of San Pitch Mountains creating very dramatic views against the flat valley. To the east, the foreground views are similar with greasewood mostly present. The topography rises and falls in the middle ground views into a ridge that crosses through Sevier Reservoir creating draws that the reservoir flows through. The vegetation also changes to mostly sagebrush. The power corridor can be seen in the distant middle ground views. The background views are of the ridge that splits the Sevier Bridge Reservoir to the southwest.



**KOP 5 looking South east**

### **KOP 6 Near Sevier River south of the Sevier Bridge Reservoir**

KOP 6 sits west of the Sevier River but east of the power corridor. The area is flat and resides between the San Pitch Mountains on the east to the Valley Mountains on the west. The area is primarily agricultural mixed with grazing and irrigated crops. Along Sevier Valley there are several canals that serve the area. To the west the foreground views are primarily grasslands scattered with rabbit brush. There are remnants of the old corrals. The topography is flat. The middle ground views include the power corridor and the Piute canal with scattered snags along fence rows and near the canal. The background views are the Valley Mountains. To the east the foreground views are irrigated crop lands and range in color from light browns to greens. The middle ground views include sprinkler systems, scattered farmsteads, and the system of canals. The background views include the red knolls that sit just below the San Pitch Mountains. The vegetation of the Sevier River can also be seen. Along the river, there is a private hunting area. The views to the south are similar to the east and west for both the foreground and middle ground. The background views are the Sevier Plateau. To the north the foreground and middle ground view are similar to the east and west. The Sanpete Fish and Game Club hunting area is north of KOP 6. The background views are the same as the middle ground views.



**KOP 6 looking South east**

### **KOP 7 North of the three red knolls**

This KOP is located just past the San Pete and Sevier County line and sits northwest of the three red knolls near Redmond. The topography near the site is flat as it resides between the Valley Mountains and Sevier Plateau. The KOP is east of the Redmond Minerals operation and surrounded by rural residential lots. Some of the lots have been in existence for some time while other lots are part of a new large lot rural subdivision. The foreground views to east are flat with grasses and scattered sagebrush. The ground is covered with glacial till material. The middle ground views are dominated by older rural residential development and include several outbuildings and corrals in addition to the homes. There are some irrigated crops that can be seen in the distant middle ground. Looking to the southeast the three red knolls can be seen. The background views are of the Sevier Plateau and stone quarry, which has a much different appearance along the foothills. The mountains have wavy triangular appearance, which is accentuated by the lack of woody vegetation. The coloration is tan which is offset by the blues of the higher mountain peaks. The foreground views to the west are mostly yellow grasses with a few scattered sagebrush plants. In the middle ground view, a new rural residence can be seen as well as the Piute Canal and power corridor. The background views are of the gently rolling Valley Mountains dotted with the

greens of the juniper. The foreground and middle ground views to the north and south are similar to those east and west, except the background views to the south are dominated by the Sevier Plateau.



**KOP 7 looking toward Red Knolls South east**

### **KOP 8 near Redmond Reservoir**

KOP 8 is just south of Redmond and east of Redmond Lake. It is situated in an agricultural valley. Looking to the north, the greens of irrigated alfalfa dominate the foreground view. The First Red Knoll can be seen in the middle ground as well as some farmstead. The background views are not visible beyond the knoll, except for the Valley Mountains to the northwest. To the west the foreground views, like the north, are dominated by alfalfa fields. The canal systems can also be viewed. The middle ground views are similar to the foreground views. The background views are of the Valley Mountains. The foreground and middle views to the south are similar to those in the west and north direction. In the background, scattered farmsteads and the outer limits of Salina can be seen. The Sevier Plateau can also be seen. To the east the foreground views are of grazing with irrigated crops to either the north or south. Redmond Lake can be viewed in the middle ground, while the foothills of the Sevier Plateau can be seen in the background. The tans and pinks of these foothills contrast the blue of the taller peaks behind as well as the blue of Redmond Lake and the greens of irrigated crop land.



**KOP 8 looking North east**

### **KOP 9 near Alternative C load out facility option**

KOP 9 overlooks the junction of Highway 50 and Highway 260. It is located near the proposed load out facility option with Alternative C. Looking to the south sagebrush flats can be seen in the foreground. Highway 50 is found in the middle ground and just beyond Highway 50 is Denmark Wash, which is also dominated by sagebrush flats. The background views are Sevier Plateau, with the Pahvant Mountains becoming visible to the southwest. To the east, the foreground views of sagebrush flats and residence and several pieces of old farm equipment, old cars, some trees, and multiple outbuildings. The background views of the outer limits of Salina, views of the highly eroded foothills (badlands) that serve as foothills to the Sevier Plateau. The badlands would be more visible from Alternative A. Sagebrush flats also dominate in the northern foreground and middle ground views. The Sevier Plateau (the tips of Black Cap Mountain) and agriculture in the Sevier Valley can be seen. The same medium to coarse texture that dominates the other KOP foreground views can be seen when looking west as can the large gravel road. The colors are brown red from the Russian thistle, silver grays of the sagebrush and scattered yellow patches from the short grasses. The power corridor can be seen in the middle ground views as can

the junction between Highway 50 and Highway 260 which are lower in elevation and follow a split in the Valley and Pahvant Mountains which can be seen in the background.



**KOP 9 loading facility Alternative C looking South west**

### **KOP 10 Along Highway 24 between Alternative A and B**

This KOP is located approximately halfway between the proposed location for Alternative A and Alternative B along Highway 24 which goes into Aurora. Looking north the foreground views are of Highway 50. Beyond the highway there is a solid line of trees (mostly Russian olive and willow) that follow the Denmark Wash. To the northeast there is a small horse stable. The middle and to a large extent the background views are not visible beyond the trees. The tips of the Sevier Plateau are visible beyond the trees. To the east the foreground views are the golden yellows of pastureland, grays of the road, reds of weedy invasive right of way vegetation as well as the fence separating the ROW and pasture. Just beyond the pasture, a line of trees similar to the north runs along the Sevier River in the middle ground. The background views are of the highly eroded foothills, which exhibit broad bands of white and narrow bands of pink against the tan hills. The south middle and foreground views are similar to those of the east and west. The background views are the Sevier Plateau. The foreground views to the west are irrigated fields that extend into the middle ground views. Within the middle ground views are scattered

farmsteads that transition into the Valley and Pahvant Mountains to the distant southwest that make up the background. Power poles can be followed from the foreground into the background.



**KOP 10 looking East**

### **KOP 11 Near Southern Project Terminus**

KOP 11 is situated in the flats just below the badlands of the Sevier Plateau and east of the Sevier River. The topography is varied, consisting of floodplains and sharp rises. The colors are varied from whites to yellows and browns to reds. The foreground views range from barren ground just above the Sevier River to sagebrush that transition into a farmstead and agricultural land in the middle ground. In the background I-70 can be observed as well as the Sevier Plateau and Valley and Pahvant Mountains on the east and west respectively. The north views are dominated primarily by the shrubby flats that are adjacent to the Sevier River. The colors range from the silver green of the sagebrush to the yellow of the salt cedar. Directly north these views extend into the middle and background. To the northwest, agricultural ground can be seen in the middle and background in addition to the Sevier Plateau. A red knoll rises sharply to the northeast middle ground. The views to the west are similar to the views to the north and northwest ranging from the river bottom in the foreground to the Valley Mountains in the background. The views to the east are much more varied. The foreground views include a golden yellow grassland area just west of the gravel road and fence lined with rabbit brush. The

middle ground views include the highly eroded badlands that exhibit the red and white coloration. The background views, in particular to the west and southeast, have sharp triangular peaks (of Black Mountain peak) yet still highly eroded. The colors observed in the background are white and gray black.



**KOP 11 looking East**