

## SECTION 14.400 Landscape Settings(GMA & SMA)

Landscape settings are the combination of land uses, landforms and vegetation patterns which distinguish an area in appearance and character from other portions of the National Scenic Area.

Landscape Setting goals, policies and guidelines, as defined and identified in the Management Plan, represent a long-term vision of scenic protection as expressed in the landscape. The following design standards are provided to ensure that new developments are compatible with and maintain the character of their settings. These standards are not intended to limit imagination, variety or creative design solutions.

The Scenic Resources Implementation Handbook shall include recommended species for each landscape setting and minimum recommended sizes of new trees planted (based on average growth rates expected for recommended species).

### A. Pastoral Landscape Setting

#### GMA Only

1. Accessory structures, outbuildings and accessways shall be clustered together as much as possible, particularly towards the edges of existing meadows, pastures and farm fields.
2. In portions of this setting visible from Key Viewing Areas, the following standards shall be employed to achieve visual subordination for new development and expansion of existing development:
  - a. Vegetative landscaping shall, where feasible, retain the open character of existing pastures and fields.
  - b. At least half of any trees planted for screening purposes shall be species native to the setting or commonly found in the area. Such species include fruit trees, Douglas fir, Lombardy poplar (usually in rows), Oregon white oak, bigleaf maple, and black locust (primarily in the eastern Gorge).
  - c. At least one-quarter of any trees planted for screening shall be coniferous for winter screening.

#### SMA Only

3. Pastoral areas shall retain the overall appearance of an agricultural landscape. The use of plant species in rows as commonly found in the landscape setting is encouraged. The use of plant species common to the landscape setting shall be encouraged.

## **B. Coniferous Woodland Landscape Setting**

### **GMA Only**

1. Structure height shall remain below the forest canopy level.
2. In portions of this setting visible from Key Viewing Areas, the following standards shall be employed to achieve visual subordination for new development and expansion of existing development:
  - a. At least half of any trees planted for screening purposes shall be species native to the setting. Such species include: Douglas fir, grand fir, western red cedar, western hemlock, bigleaf maple, red alder, ponderosa pine and Oregon white oak, and various native willows (for riparian areas).
  - b. At least half of any trees planted for screening purposes shall be coniferous to provide winter screening.

### **SMA Only**

3. Woodlands areas shall retain the overall appearance of a woodland landscape. New developments and land uses shall retain the overall visual character of the natural appearance of the Coniferous Woodland landscape.
  - a. Use of plant species native to the landscape setting shall be encouraged. Where non-native plants are used, they shall have native appearing characteristics.
  - b. Buildings shall be encouraged to have a vertical overall appearance.

## **C. Oak-Pine Woodland Landscape Setting**

### **GMA Only**

1. Structure height shall remain below the tree canopy level in wooded portions of this setting.
2. In portions of this setting visible from Key Viewing Areas, the following standards shall be employed to achieve visual subordination for new development and expansion of existing development.
  - a. At least half of any tree species planted for screening purposes shall be species native to the setting. Such species include: Oregon white oak, ponderosa pine, Douglas fir.

- b. At least half of any trees planted for screening purposes shall be coniferous to provide winter screening.

For treeless portions or portions with scattered tree cover:

- c. Structures shall be sited on portions of the property which provide maximum screening from Key Viewing Areas utilizing existing topographic features.
- d. Patterns of plantings for screening vegetation shall be in character with the surroundings. Residences in grassy, open areas or savannahs shall be partly screened with trees in small groupings and openings between groupings.
- e. Accessory structures, outbuildings and accessways shall be clustered together as much as possible, particularly towards the edges of existing meadows, pastures and farm fields.

#### SMA Only

- 3. Woodland areas should retain the overall appearance of a woodland landscape. New developments and land uses shall retain the overall visual character of the natural appearance of the Oak/Pine Woodland landscape.
  - a. Use of plant species native to the landscape setting shall be encouraged. Where non-native plants are used, they shall have native appearing characteristics.
  - b. Buildings shall be encouraged to have horizontal overall appearance.

#### D. Grassland Landscape Setting

##### GMA Only

- 1. Accessory structures, outbuildings and accessways shall be clustered together as much as possible. Exceptions to this criterion, where necessary for farming operations, are permitted.
- 2. In portions of this setting visible from Key Viewing Areas, the following standard shall be employed to achieve visual subordination standards for new development and expansion of existing development:
  - a. Structures shall be sited on portions of the property which provide maximum screening from Key Viewing Areas utilizing existing topographic features.

- b. Lower structures which emphasize horizontal lines and blend with this sweeping landscape shall be encouraged rather than very tall structures.
- c. Planting of trees for screening shall not be extensive, in character with the openness of this setting. Where utilized, screening vegetation shall either tie in with near-by riparian vegetation in seasonal drainages or emulate windrows. At least half of any trees planted for screening purposes shall be species native to the setting or commonly found in the area. Such species include: Oregon white oak, Lombardy poplar, black locust, black cottonwood (wet locations), Russian olive and ponderosa pine.

**E. Rural Residential Landscape Setting**

**GMA Only**

- 1. In portions of this setting visible from Key Viewing Areas, and not exempt from visual subordination standards (see J below), the following standards shall be employed to achieve visual subordination for new development:
  - a. At least half of any trees planted for screening purposes shall be species native to the setting or commonly found in the area.
  - b. At least half of any trees planted for screening purposes shall be coniferous to provide winter screening.

**F. Rural Residential/Pastoral, Coniferous Woodland or Oak-Pine Woodland Landscape Setting**

**GMA Only**

- 1. New development in this setting shall meet the design standards described for both the Rural Residential setting and the more rural setting with which it is combined (either Pastoral, Coniferous Woodland, or Oak-Pine Woodland), unless it can be demonstrated that compliance with the guidelines for the more rural setting is impracticable.
- 2. In the event of a possible conflict between the two sets of standards, the standards for the more rural setting (Coniferous Woodland, Pastoral, or Oak-Pine Woodland) shall apply, unless it can be demonstrated that application of such standards would not be practicable.

**G. Residential Landscape Setting**

**GMA Only**

1. In portions of this setting visible from Key Viewing Areas and not exempt from visual subordination standards (see J below), the following standards shall be employed to achieve visual subordination for new development:
  - a. Structures' exteriors shall be non-reflective unless fully screened from Key Viewing Areas with existing vegetation and/or topography.
  - b. At least half of any trees planted for screening purposes shall be species native to the setting or commonly found in the area.
  - c. At least half of any trees planted for screening purposes shall be coniferous to provide winter screening.

#### SMA Only

2. The Residential setting is characterized by concentrations of dwellings.
  - a. Use of plant species native to the landscape setting shall be encouraged. Where non-native plants are used, they shall have native appearing characteristics.
  - b. At Rowena Dell, new buildings shall have a rustic appearance and use natural materials.

#### H. River Bottomlands Landscape Setting

##### GMA Only

1. In portions of this setting visible from Key Viewing Areas, the following standards shall be employed to achieve visual subordination for new development and expansion of existing development:
  - a. At least half of any trees planted for screening purposes shall be species native to the River Bottomland setting. Public recreation developments are encouraged to maximize the percentage of planted screening vegetation native to this setting. Such native species include: black cottonwood, bigleaf maple, red alder, Oregon white ash, Douglas fir, western red cedar and western hemlock (west Gorge) and various native willow species.
  - b. At least one-quarter of any trees planted for screening purposes shall be coniferous for winter screening.

##### SMA Only

2. River bottomlands shall retain the overall visual character of a floodplain and

associated islands:

- a. Buildings shall have an overall horizontal appearance in areas with little tree cover.
- b. Use of plant species native to the landscape setting shall be encouraged. Where non-native plants are used, they shall have native-appearing characteristics.

I. Gorge Walls, Canyonlands and Wildlands Landscape Setting

GMA Only

1. New development and expansion of existing development shall be screened so as to not be seen from Key Viewing Areas to the maximum extent practicable.
2. All trees planted to screen permitted development and uses from Key Viewing Areas shall be native to the area.
3. All buildings shall be limited in height to 1 1/2 stories.
4. The exteriors of structures shall be non-reflective.
5. Signage shall be limited to natural materials such as wood or stone, and natural colors (GMA only) or earth-tone colors (SMA or GMA), unless public safety concerns or federal or state highway standards require otherwise.

SMA Only

6. New developments and land uses shall retain the overall visual character of the natural appearing landscape:
  - a. Structures, including signs, shall have a rustic appearance, use non-reflective materials, have low contrast with the surrounding landscape, and be of Cascadian architectural style.
  - b. Temporary roads must be promptly closed and revegetated.
  - c. New utilities must be below ground surface, where feasible.
  - d. Use of plant species non-native to the Columbia River Gorge shall not be allowed.

## J. Special Settings

### GMA Only

1. Two landscape settings in Wasco County are considered developed settings: Rural Residential and Residential. Of all General Management Area lands in these two settings, two particular areas which are not visually sensitive have been identified. New development in these settings shall be compatible with the setting, but not necessarily visually subordinate. New developments in these settings are exempt from the color and siting guidelines in the Key Viewing Areas section of this chapter. These areas are:
  - a. Murray's Addition subdivision, The Dalles (Residential)
  - b. Two small areas south of The Dalles in Sections 9 and 10, Township 1N, Range 13E (Residential).
2. The Gorge Discovery Center site at Crates Point is designated River Bottom lands. The scope of development planned for the site may not make visual subordination possible. The Discovery Center site shall be designed and developed to be visually subordinate from Key Viewing Areas and compatible with its landscape setting to the maximum extent possible.

