

## Visibility of the Proposed Project Area from the Columbia River Key Viewing Area

In its application, the Applicant downplayed the visibility of the project area from the Columbia River KVA. In fact, the Applicant only briefly discussed views from the river and instead focused on views from the North bank of the river. PC 1 1-78. However, the KVA is the river itself, not an arbitrary location across the river. The Staff Report also dismissed the visibility of the project area from this KVA with little analysis and no hard evidence. Staff Report at 43.

The following photographs were taken from the Columbia River KVA on October 21, 2016 and show that the project area and various proposed features of the project would be highly visible. The analyses done by the applicant and the County simply do not stand up to the evidence.



This photograph shows the existing cut through the rock mesa at approximately milepost 71.4 within the project area. The expansion of this rock cut as proposed by the applicant will be clearly visible to all river uses, will not meet the not visually evident standard, and will greatly contribute to the cumulative adverse effects of the project.



This photograph depicts a closer view of the rock cut that the applicant proposes to expand. The applicant and the Planning Commission do not propose any screening vegetation to attempt to meet scenic area standards.



This is a view of a train traversing the project area. The train visually dominates the area. Even an increase in traffic of 5–7 trains per day or an increase in the length of trains would have large cumulative adverse impacts on the scenic resources of the NSA.



This is another photo of the adverse visual impacts the operation of the railroad has on the NSA. The area of deciduous trees on the left side of the photo is the area that the applicant proposed to clear and use as a staging area.



This is a photo from a kayak of the tracks through the project area at approximately milepost 71. Despite the applicant's narrative, the tracks within the project area are clearly visible from the Columbia River KVA and the additional development would also be highly visible and not meet the required scenic area standards.



These signals and utility poles are clearly visible from the Columbia River KVA at approximately milepost 71. Despite the applicant's narrative, features like the rails and signals that would be located on the flat area on top of the bank would be highly visible from the Columbia River KVA and not meet the required scenic area standards.