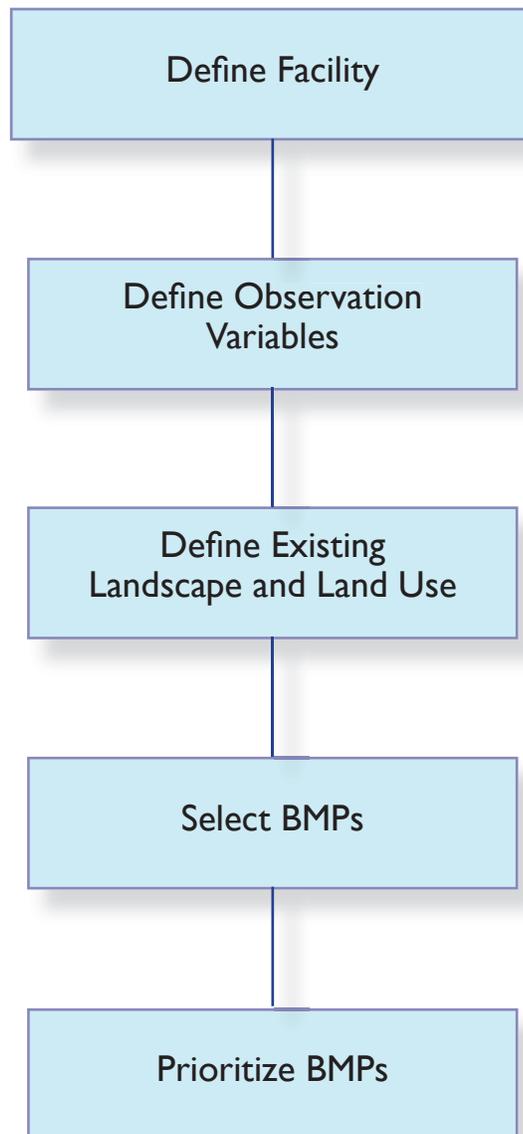


Section 4

Selecting Visual Mitigation BMPs

Selecting the most effective BMPs for visual mitigation requires an on-site evaluation of each proposed project. The flowchart and worksheets in this section are designed to help simplify this process.

Land Classification Flowchart



Facility Characteristics / Variables

(Please circle / fill in applicable information)

Classification

- Major
- Minor

Type

- Natural gas / oil well
- Pipeline(s)
- Injection well
- Compressor
- Equipment yard
- Other _____

Pad Size

- Temporary (construction) pad, length x width: _____
- Permanent pad, length x width: _____

Permanent Equipment

(onsite >6 mos.)

- Enclosed structure(s): Height _____ ft. Length _____ Width _____
 Height _____ ft. Length _____ Width _____
- Pumping unit:
 Type: _____ Height _____ ft.
- Meter: Height _____ ft.
- Separator: Height _____ ft.
- Compressor: Height _____ ft.
- Sound panels: Height _____ ft.
- Permanent storage tanks:
 Number: _____ Height _____ ft. Width _____
- Other (please list with estimated sizes, if applicable):
 _____ Height _____ ft. Total s.f. _____
 _____ Height _____ ft. Total s.f. _____
 _____ Height _____ ft. Total s.f. _____

Access

- Existing access road
- New access road
- Percent of access road visible: _____%

Observation Variables

(Please circle / fill in applicable information)

Note: *May require aerial / topographic maps, available on the County website, GIS page)*

Distance Characteristics (estimated distance between viewer and facility)

- Less than 660' or 1/8 mile (near ground)
- Between 660' and 1,320' or 1/4 mile (middle ground)
- Greater than 1,320' (far ground)

Elevation Characteristics

- Viewer at lower elevation than facility
- Viewer and facility at equal elevation
- Viewer at higher elevation than facility

View Characteristics

- Facility will typically be viewed from one stationary location (e.g., residence window)
- Facility will typically be viewed from multiple stationary locations (e.g., several residence windows)
- Facility will typically be viewed while in motion (e.g., from a vehicle)
- Estimated percent of facility that will be visible _____%

Existing Landscape Variables:

Please circle those characteristics that occur within 1/4 mile of the subject property and/or the proposed facility.

Landscape Characteristics

- Flat lands / no topographic variation
- Hills / moderate topography
- Mountains and cliffs / steep grades (over 30% slope, vertical relief greater than 200')
- Unique natural features
 - Unique rock outcrops
 - Riparian / wetland features

Vegetation Characteristics

- Exposed rock
- Grasslands
- Sagebrush flats
- Cultivated fields: list type(s) of crops _____
- Riparian areas
- Pinyon-juniper woodlands
- Ponderosa pine forest

Existing Landscape Variables, continued:

Please circle those characteristics that occur within 1/4 mile of the subject property and/or the proposed facility.

Predominant Landscape Colors

- Green: Light Medium Dark
- Brown: Light Medium Dark
- Gray: Light Medium Dark
- Red: Light Medium Dark
- Yellow: Light Medium Dark
- Other:
- _____ Light Medium Dark
- _____ Light Medium Dark

Which of the selected colors are subject to seasonal variation?

- _____
- _____

Land Use Compatibility

Private lands

- Undeveloped
- Agricultural
- Commercial / public facilities
- Industrial
- Residential
 - Rural residential (1 residence / parcel >10 acres)
 - Number of residences _____
 - Distance to closest residence _____
 - Distance to furthest residence _____
 - Suburban residential (1 residence / parcel <10 acres)
 - Number of residences _____
 - Distance to closest residence _____
 - Distance to furthest residence _____

Public lands

- Undeveloped
- Developed

Tribal lands

- Undeveloped
- Developed

Selecting Best Management Practices

Please answer the following to determine which BMPs are important to visually mitigate the proposed facility.

Proper Facility Location

Site Characteristics	Yes	Maybe	No
Landforms present that could hide facility			
Area on property where facility could be located to reduce visual impacts			
Distinctive scenery or unique landscape features present that should be avoided			
Area on property where facility could blend into background of existing vegetation (consider vegetation height)			
Location available at least 400 feet from existing residences			

If you answered “yes” or “maybe” above, consider checking the box below to indicate selection of BMP.

I want to include **Proper Facility Location** for visual mitigation.

NOTE: If the entire facility can be located out of view, it is not necessary to answer additional questions.

Preservation of Existing Vegetation

Site Characteristics	Yes	Maybe	No
Existing vegetation that could hide facility			
Existing vegetation that could provide background for facility to blend into			

If you answered “yes” or “maybe” above, consider checking the box below to indicate selection of BMP.

I want to include **Preservation of Existing Vegetation** for visual mitigation.

Naturalized Berms

Site Characteristics	Yes	Maybe	No
Primary viewer(s) at same or lower elevation than facility			
Other viewers at same or lower elevation than facility			
Surrounding landscape includes undulating forms			

If you answered “yes” or “maybe” above, consider checking the box below to indicate selection of BMP.

I want to include **Naturalized Berms** for visual mitigation.

Please answer the following to determine which BMPs are important to visually mitigate the proposed facility.

Naturalized Vegetation

Site Characteristics	Yes	Maybe	No
Area between viewer(s) and facility suitable for vegetation growth			
Existing vegetation that new vegetation can blend with			
Existing vegetation disturbed by facility			

If you answered “yes” or “maybe” above, consider checking the box below to indicate selection of BMP.

I want to include **Naturalized Vegetation** for visual mitigation.

Repetition of Adjacent Structures

Site Characteristics	Yes	Maybe	No
Adjacent structure(s) that facility could repeat in form and style to interrupt view			
Adjacent fences / walls that could be repeated in form and style to interrupt view			

If you answered “yes” or “maybe” above, consider checking the box below to indicate selection of BMP.

I want to include **Repetition of Adjacent Structures** for visual mitigation.

Naturalized Cut-and-Fill Slopes and Contour Manipulation

Site Characteristics	Yes	Maybe	No
Cut-and-fill slopes required to construct facility			
Exposed rock faces resulting from facility construction			

If you answered “yes” or “maybe” above, consider checking the box below to indicate selection of BMP.

I want to include **Naturalized Cut-and-Fill Slopes and Contour Manipulation** for visual mitigation.

Please answer the following to determine which BMPs are important to visually mitigate the proposed facility.

Thinning and Feathering of Existing Vegetation

Site Characteristics	Yes	Maybe	No
Facility location in dense vegetation			
Access roads or pipelines traverse dense vegetation			

If you answered “yes” or “maybe” above, consider checking the box below to indicate selection of BMP.

- I want to include **Thinning and Feathering of Existing Vegetation** for visual mitigation.

Color and Texture

Site Characteristics	Yes	Maybe	No
Color of facility contrasts with surrounding landscape			
Color of facility contrasts with adjacent structures			

If you answered “yes” or “maybe” above, consider checking the box below to indicate selection of BMP.

- I want to include **Color and Texture** for visual mitigation.

Lithic Mulch

Site Characteristics	Yes	Maybe	No
Slopes disturbed by facility			
Tree or plant debris and / or stone a significant component of the landscape			

If you answered “yes” or “maybe” above, consider checking the box below to indicate selection of BMP.

- I want to include **Lithic Mulch** for visual mitigation.

Bare Ground Treatment

Site Characteristics	Yes	Maybe	No
Viewer at higher elevation than facility			
Pad or access road visible			

If you answered “yes” or “maybe” above, consider checking the box below to indicate selection of BMP.

- I want to include **Bare Ground Treatment** for visual mitigation.

Effectiveness of BMP in Relation to Facility Location in the Near, Middle, and Far Ground

The characteristics of each site will influence the effectiveness of the BMP(s) selected, and combining BMP's can increase their effectiveness. A BMP with a 'Low' rating combined with a BMP that has a 'High' rating can substantially increase overall effectiveness.

BMP	Other Variables	Near Ground	Middle Ground	Far Ground
Sightline Interruption				
Proper Facility Location		High	High	High
Preservation of Existing Vegetation	Elevation difference between viewer and facility needs to be considered	High	High	High
Naturalized Berms		High	High	Medium
Naturalized Revegetation		High	High	High
Repetition of Adjacent Structures		High	High	Medium
Layout of Equipment		High	High	High
Repetition of Surrounding Landscape				
Preservation of Existing Vegetation		High	High	High
Naturalized cut-and-fill slopes, berms, and contour manipulation		High	High	High
Thinning and feathering of existing vegetation		High	High	High
Naturalized Revegetation		High	High	High
Color Manipulation		High	High	High
Texture Manipulation		Low	Medium	High
Lithic Mulch	Important when planting new vegetation	High	Medium	Low
Bare Ground Treatment		High	Medium	Low

