



Aesthetic Resources Overview of 2012 Reconnaissance



2012 Study Objectives

- Establish Study Area
- Review of planning documents
- Field-verify baseline aesthetics resource data;
- Identification of potential Analysis Locations
- Evaluate existing soundscapes
- refinement of soundscape analysis plan
- Initiate interdisciplinary coordination
- Complete preliminary Visual Sensitivity Analysis.

Viewshed Models

- *Susitna River* – five miles below the proposed dam site to five miles above the upper terminus of the inundation zone
- *Inundation zone* –

Regulatory and Plan Review

- Federal
- State
- Local

Baseline Aesthetic Resource Data

- BLM – Visual Resource Inventory
- BLM – Recreation Opportunity Spectrum
- 1985 Susitna Hydroelectric Project
Application for Licence of a Major Project
 - Landscape Character Types
 - Notable Natural Features

Preliminary Visual Sensitivity Analysis

- Identification of course-level Sensitivity-level Rating Units
- Development of Draft Survey & Interview Questions
- Consideration of 2014 Focus Groups

Preliminary Analysis Locations

- Observation Points (Ops)
- Observation Areas (Oas)
- Observation Corridors (OCs)
- Landscape Character Points (LCPs)

Soundscape

- Baseline understanding of the existing soundscape
- Observations of perceived and identifiable sources of noise contributing to the ambient sound environment and the conditions during which they occur.
- Observations limited due to limited field time and interference resulting from the primary modes of transportation (e.g., helicopter and jet boat) used during the site visit.

Interdisciplinary Coordination

Coordination was focused on

- identifying how other resources may facilitate identification of common, sensitive, or valued aesthetic resources
- Potential changes to biophysical processes could impact scenery attributes within the primary study area.