U.S. Department of the Interior
Bureau of Land Management

Visual Resource Management Series

Background (Part 1)

Overview of Visual Resource Management BMPs
(Part 1)

- Minimize Contrast
- Key observation points
- Reduce surface disturbance
- Other resource benefits

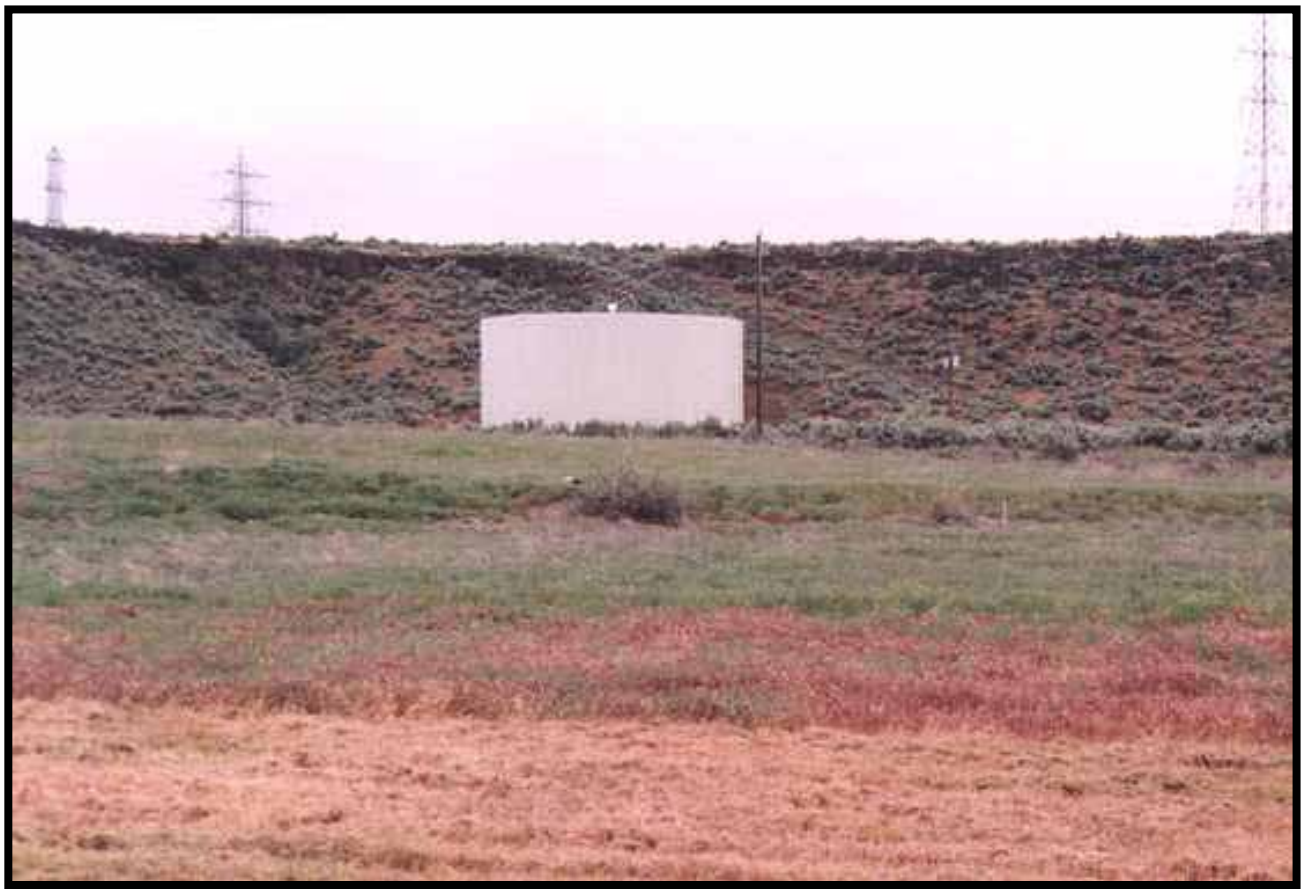
VRM BMP Principles For Fluid Minerals

Proper Site Selection (Part 2)
Reduce Unnecessary Disturbance (Part 3)
Choice of Color (Part 4)
Final Reclamation (Part 5)

BACKGROUND

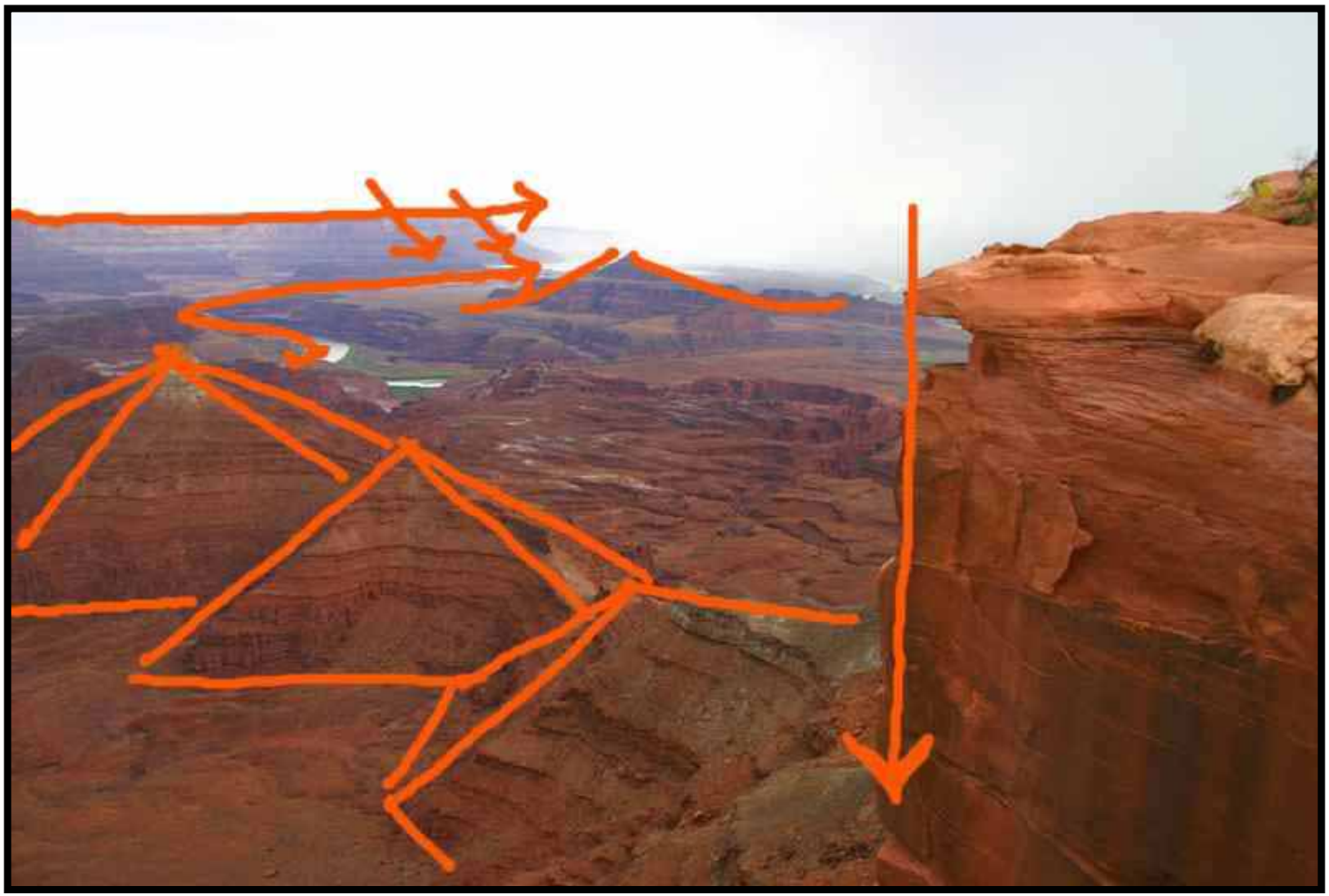
The Bureau of Land Management (BLM) is responsible for protecting the scenic values on public lands.

BLM uses the **Visual Resource Management (VRM)** system to help us protect scenic values by reducing visual contrast in the landscape.



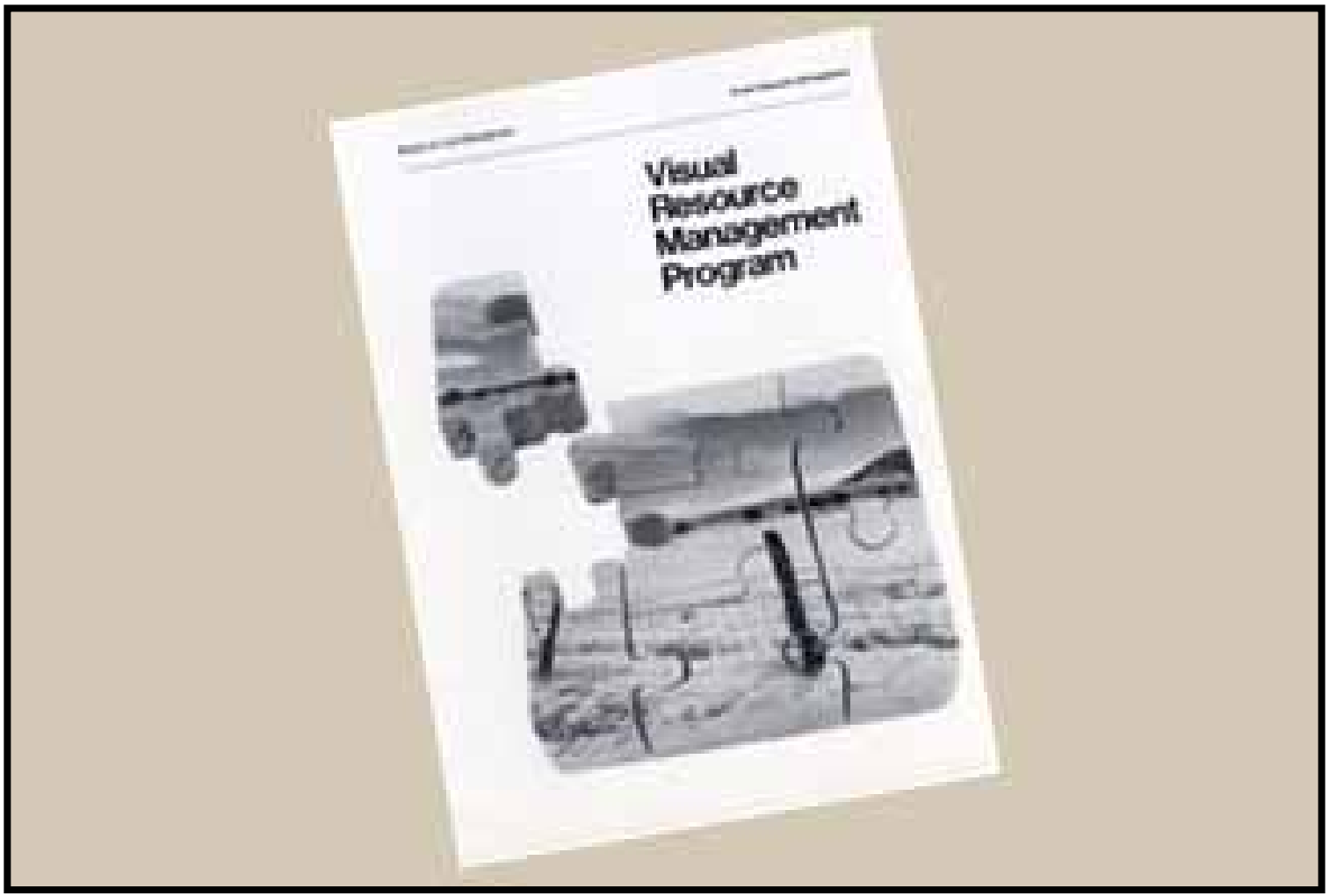
Example of
high visual contrast
that attracts attention
to development.

Through the VRM system,
BLM analyzes the character of the landscape using the elements of:
FORM, LINE,COLOR, & TEXTURE
The graphic overlay here helps demonstrate this analysis.



All types and varieties of landscapes can be described in terms of FORM, LINE, COLOR, & TEXTURE.
This helps us to design projects and activities that blend with these elements.

VRM <u>Best Management Practices</u> (BMPs) are based on the fundamental principles in the VRM system.



Before we go any further lets take a little test.
Looking at this photo:
What mitigations could have been, or could be used to lessen the visual impact viewing this site?

View an oil well from a scenic trail

Continue on, and we will give you some ideas…….

OVERVIEW of VRM BMPs

Basic Concepts:

•minimize C**O**N**T**R**A**S**T**
•Consider Key Observation Points (KOPs)
•Reduce surface disturbance
•Other resources, such as wildlife, also benefit from VRM BMPs

Example of
High Visual **Contrast**
Along a Linear
Key Observation Point

 # 1: It is all about reducing **CONTRAST:**

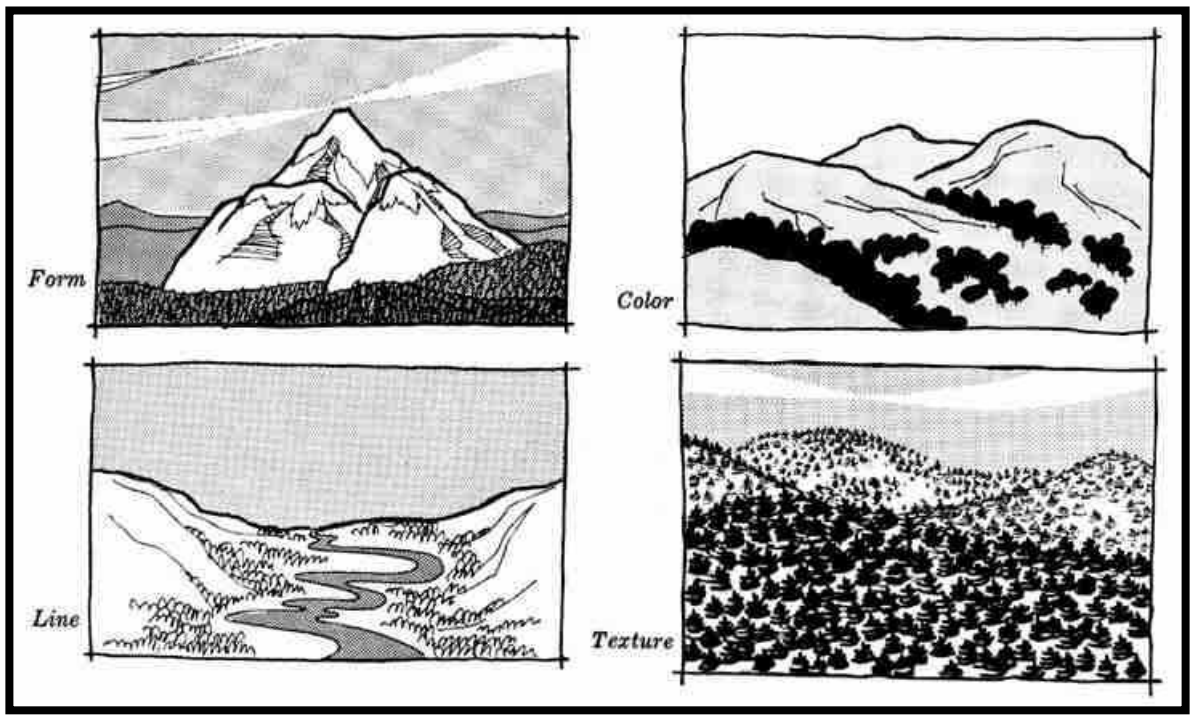
To reduce contrast, we repeat elements of:

Form, *Line,* Color, *Texture*

For example:

•A winding road that follows the lay of the land may appear more natural than a straight road cutting through hills and across valleys.

•An irregularly shaped well pad may better blend with existing openings in the landscape vegetation than a rectangular well pad.



 # 2: Consider how and where the development will be seen from:

Key Observation Points could be:

-linear features: byways, trails, rivers
(a continual moving view)
-points: scenic overlooks, residential areas. (stationary long duration views)

Example of a “point”, (single, fixed place) Key Observation Point

3: Reduce surface disturbance:

•The more long-term surface disturbance you have, the more visual contrast you will have.
•The larger the scale of the disturbance, the more contrast as well.
It's not just the pad; consider roads, pipelines and ancillary facilities too.

Is this well pad larger than necessary to safely accommodate a well drilling operation?

4: Other Benefits:

Visual Resources are not the sole resources we are managing. We also manage the larger landscape for minerals, wildlife, recreation, water, etc…

Many other resources BLM manages also benefit from the same BMP techniques we use to reduce visual impacts.

Recreationists

Greater Sage-grouse

VRM BMP Principles

- The VRM system provides us with many **basic principles and techniques** to help reduce contrast. As they relate to Fluid Minerals and similar development, the 4 most critical are:

1. Proper Site Selection (Slideshow Part 2)
2. Reduce Unnecessary Disturbance (Part 3)
3. Choice of Color (Part 4)
4. Final Reclamation (Part 5)

***Continue on with VRM Slideshow Parts 2, 3, 4, and 5**