

3. SENSITIVITY

Visual Sensitivity refers to the vulnerability of a landscape to visual degradation as a result or alteration. Roads with high visual sensitivity have high levels of visual quality, high traffic volumes and high amounts of privately held land. These visually sensitive areas, typically in the vicinity of major population centers, are the most likely to lose their high visual quality in the near future unless protective action is taken. Roads with low visual sensitivity have low traffic volumes, low levels of scenic quality and large amounts of land owned by public or private conservation or land management organizations.

Average Daily Traffic

The average number of cars traveling on a given road daily.

High: More than 500 cars per day.

Medium: From 100 to 500 cars per day.

Low: Less than 100 cars per day.

Land Ownership

The ownership status of the land adjacent to or highly visible from the highway.

High: Privately held land with few land use controls. Significant number of parcels currently for sale or recently sold.

Medium: Privately held land with strong land use controls or land owned by public land management agencies.

Low: Land owned by public or private, non-profit conservation organizations.

Scenic Quality

The visual quality of the highway as determined by the scenic evaluation process.

