

Visual Quality - Categories of Alteration

Visual Quality Objectives are defined in Section 1.1 of the Forest Planning and Practices Regulation. Visual Quality research shows that percent alteration for clear cuts and volume/stems per hectare for partial cuts are also good predictors of visual quality if applied correctly.

Clear Cuts

Retention Harvest

Partial Cuts

Preservation: very small in scale, and not easily distinguishable from the pre-harvest landscape.
0% ground may be visible.

Retention: is difficult to see, small in scale, and natural in appearance
0 -1.5% ground may be visible.

Partial Retention: easy to see, small to medium in scale, and natural and not rectilinear or geometric in shape.
1.6 – 7% ground may be visible.

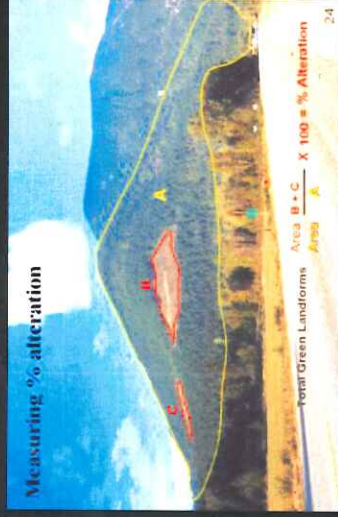
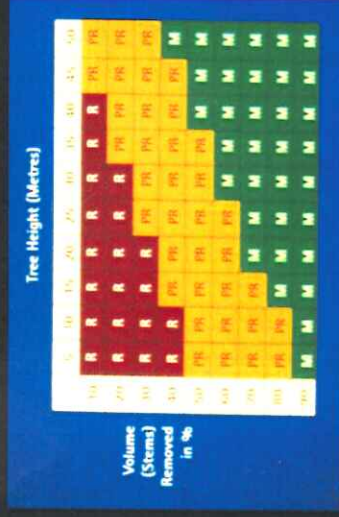
Modification: is very easy to see, and is A) large in scale and natural in its appearance, or B) small to medium in scale but with some angular characteristics.
7.1-18% ground may be visible.

Maximum Modification: is very easy to see, and is (A) very large in scale, (B) rectilinear and geometric in shape, or (C) both
18.1-30% ground may be visible.



Percent Alteration	Per VQO
Preservation	0
Retention	0 - 1.5
Partial Retention	1.6 - 7.0
Modification	7.1 - 18.0
Max Modification	18.1 - 30.0

Note: % Alteration numbers must be applied to a readily distinguishable landform. They were not derived for application against entire landscapes.



Note: The Partial Cutting table may be applied across the landscape as this measure is landform independent.