

APPENDIX G

Aesthetics

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APPENDIX G

AESTHETICS

1. BASELINE VISUAL ASSESSMENT CONDITIONS

1.1 Visual Assessment Unit 1: Northwest Valley

Viewer Group Exposure and Sensitivity

The primary viewer groups of this unit are rural residents, agricultural workers, motorists on Reecer Creek Road, motorists on smaller county roads, and outdoor recreation users of the John Wayne Trail.

Rural residents:

Viewer exposure: 2—The number of residents is small, but some of them are very close to the project and will have direct views of the turbines.

Viewer sensitivity: 3—Rural residents are highly sensitive to landscape change visible from their homes, especially residents with a foreground view of the project.

Agricultural Workers:

Viewer Exposure: 2—Agricultural workers would be able to view the project from many distances intermittently over a long period of time.

Viewer Sensitivity: 1—Agricultural workers are engaged in their farm activities.

Motorists on Reecer Creek Road:

Viewer exposure: 2—This road is the most heavily trafficked road in the unit. Northbound motorists will have a range of direct views of the project.

Viewer sensitivity: 2—Motorists driving on local roads are somewhat aware of changes in the visual environment and some of the motorists will be on their way to their homes.

Motorists on county roads:

Viewer exposure: 1—Stretches of county roads throughout the unit, many of them unpaved, allow glimpses of the project, but they are not heavily trafficked.

Viewer sensitivity: 2—Motorists driving on local roads are somewhat aware of changes in the visual environment and many of the motorists will be on their way to their homes.

John Wayne Trail users:

Viewer exposure: 1—There are quite a few hikers and bikers on the John Wayne trail, but most views to the north are blocked by vegetation, landforms, and built structures.

Viewer sensitivity: 2—Because of the engineered character of the trail, along a former rail line, and the adjacent power lines, the users of the trail would not be as sensitive to changes in the landscape as outdoor recreation users in a more natural environment.

Visual Quality of Key Views-Existing

Key View 1A: Figure G8 shows an existing view looking northeast across the Northwest Valley Visual Assessment Unit from the intersection of Smithson Road and Robbins Road.

Vividness: 3—View contains a memorable skyline: the Wenatchee Mountains, foothills, Naneum Canyon, and the north-south ridge running across the valley and the valley floor. View offers a range of vegetation characteristic of the region: Ponderosa Pine forest, shrub-steppe, and pasture.

Intactness: 3—No encroaching elements intrude into this view.

Unity: 3—Layered progression of visual elements from the valley floor, over the north-south ridge, and up the foothills to the horizon. Strong and harmonious vegetation patterns: fine texture of the pasture, coarse shrub-steppe, and smooth rangeland. Farm buildings nestled into the hills in the middleground evoke working rural landscape.

Overall Visual Quality: 3.0—High.

Key View 1B: Figure G9 shows an existing view looking northwest across the Northwest Valley Visual Assessment Unit from the intersection of Hungry Junction and Lookabout Lane.

Vividness: 3— Memorable scene with the Wenatchee Mountains skyline including Mount Stuart, the foothills, and a broad section of the expansive valley floor. Full expression of characteristic regional vegetation: ponderosa pine forest, rangeland, and shrub-steppe in the middle ground, as well as riparian corridors and pasture.

Intactness: 3—High visual integrity, no encroaching elements in this landscape. Farm buildings and small power lines fit the working landscape.

Unity 3—Clear visual composition and progression from the rolling topography in the foreground to the horizon. Farm buildings dotting the middleground evoke the working landscape.

Overall Visual Quality: 3.0—High.

Key View 1C: Figure G10 shows an existing view looking northeast across the Northwest Valley Visual Assessment Unit along Smithson Road near U.S. Highway 97.

Vividness: 2—Diverse visual patterns of wetlands and pasture, however, the baseline of the mountains against the valley floor is unclear. High vegetation species diversity: pasture, windrows, riparian, shrub-steppe, and forest.

Intactness: 2—Dendritic pattern of small creeks interrupted by Smithson Road.

Unity: 2—Traditional fencing and fields fit with topography and riparian vegetation. Progression from foreground to middleground and background is unclear.

Overall Visual Quality: 2.0— Moderate.

Key View 1D: Figure G11 shows an existing view looking southwest across the Northwest Valley Visual Assessment Unit from immediately north of the project area.

Vividness: 2—Typical view across the valley to the Manastash Ridge allows an appreciation of the larger form of the valley. Visual patterns of non-irrigated rangeland and wind rows are simple but unremarkable.

Intactness: 2—Power lines encroaching in close and distant middleground. Disturbed and uncultivated lands in middleground.

Unity: 2— Progression from foreground to middleground and background is blurred, but enclosure of valley floor by ridge is clear.

Overall Visual Quality: 2.0—Moderate.

Key View 1E: **Figure G12** shows an existing view looking northwest across the Northwest Valley Visual Assessment Unit from Reecer Creek Road.

Vividness: 2—Wenatchee Mountains skyline present, but low vegetation diversity in foreground and middleground. Distinct visual patterns of field, farmstead, and mountains, but extent of field is monotonous.

Intactness: 2—Wide open, but interrupted somewhat by ranch home at farm that blurs boundary between valley floor and foothills. Power lines compromise the horizon line.

Unity: 2—Field, farms, and mountains clear, but not visually integrated.

Overall Visual Quality: 2.0—Moderate.

Key View 1F: **Figure G13** shows an existing view looking northwest across the Northwest Valley Visual Assessment Unit from Smithson Road at the CTC Farm.

Vividness: 2—Wenatchee Mountains foothills are present, but low vegetation diversity in foreground and middleground. Distinct visual patterns exist of field, farmstead, and mountains.

Intactness: 2—Wide open, but interrupted somewhat by cluttered ranch homes. Power lines compromise the horizon line.

Unity: 3—Clear progression from foreground through background along diagonals over farms and fields.

Overall Visual Quality: 2.33—Moderate.

Key View 1G: **Figure G14** shows an existing view looking southeast across the Northwest Valley Visual Assessment Unit from Reecer Creek Road just north of the project boundary.

Vividness: 2— View across the valley to Manastash Ridge allows an appreciation of the larger form of the valley. Visual patterns of non-native hedgerow and irrigated fields are unremarkable.

Intactness: 2—Wide open view beyond hedgerow. Rural buildings at great distance are not intrusive.

Unity: 2—Hedgerow blurs distinction between foreground and middleground, but general progression beyond hedgerow is clear and unified.

Overall Visual Quality: 2.0—Moderate.

1.2 Visual Assessment Unit 2: Northeast Valley

Viewer Group Exposure and Sensitivity

The primary viewer groups of this unit are rural residents, agricultural workers, motorists on county roads, and airport users.

Rural residents:

Viewer Exposure: 1—Relatively few residents will be exposed to the project area, but some may have filtered views to the turbines on the eastern half of the project area.

Viewer Sensitivity: 3— Rural residents are highly sensitive to landscape change visible from their homes.

Agricultural Workers:

Viewer Exposure: 2—Agricultural workers would be able to view the project from many distances intermittently over a long period of time.

Viewer Sensitivity: 1—Agricultural workers are engaged in their farm activities.

Motorists on county roads:

Viewer exposure: 1—Stretches of county roads throughout the unit, many of them unpaved, allow glimpses of the project, but they are not heavily trafficked and most views are filtered or blocked by vegetation and landforms.

Viewer sensitivity: 2—Motorists driving on local roads are somewhat aware of changes in the visual environment and many of the motorists will be on their way to their homes.

Airport users:

Viewer Exposure: 2—Although it is a small airport, the project area will be clearly visible from the runway and planes flying in and out of Bowers Field.

Viewer Sensitivity: 2—Many fliers are aware of the landscape character, but are likely distracted by other activities.

Visual Quality of Key Views-Existing

Key View 2A: Figure G16 shows an existing view looking southwest across the Northeast Valley Visual Assessment Unit from Wilson Creek Road.

Vividness: 2—Distinct visual patterns of the mountain background and the shrub-steppe vegetation foreground. Full expression of native vegetation diversity. Power lines diminish appreciation of natural diversity.

Intactness: 1—The power lines are very intrusive elements in the landscape.

Unity: 2—The background mountains and the power lines are competing dominant elements. Power lines dissect progression from foreground to background especially where the valley floor and the lower foothills meet.

Overall Visual Quality: 1.67—Moderate.

Key View 2B: Figure G17 shows an existing view looking west across the Northeast Valley Visual Assessment Unit from Wilson Creek Road on Rabbit Hill.

Vividness: 2—Limited view of distant mountains. Distinctive patches of native vegetation and riparian corridor along Wilson Creek.

Intactness: 2—Continuous band of riparian vegetation associated with Wilson Creek and native shrub-steppe vegetation surrounding farm. Some landform disturbance around the foreground farm.

Unity: 2—Manmade structures not integrated with the landscape so somewhat cluttered visual pattern in the foreground.

Overall Visual Quality: 2.0—Moderate.

Key View 2C: Figure G18 shows an existing view looking northwest across the Northeast Valley Visual Assessment Unit from the north end of Bowers Field at Hungry Junction Road.

Vividness: 2—Partial expression of the Wenatchee Mountains and Mount Stuart in the background, but undifferentiated plane of fields against foothills and mountain backdrop. Low vegetation species diversity. Memorable historic farm fencing.

Intactness: 3—Strong and established visual character as the fence, windrows, and pasture are all elements part of the working landscape. View to the mountains free of obstruction.

Unity: 3—Clear visual composition and integration of built and natural elements.

Overall Visual Quality: 2.67—High.

1.3 Visual Assessment Unit 3: Greater Ellensburg

Viewer Group Exposure and Sensitivity

The primary viewer groups of this unit are city residents, suburban residents, university students, and tourists.

City residents:

Viewer exposure: 1—The highest concentration of people in the Kittitas Basin is in Ellensburg, but nearly all residents are on the flat areas of the city where trees and structures block most views toward the project.

Viewer sensitivity: 2—Residents in the city are used to more cluttered landscape patterns and more accepting of landscape changes.

Suburban residents:

Viewer exposure: 2—Subdivisions at the edge of the city contain a growing number of Ellensburg's residents, but the majority of residents are on flat areas where trees and structures block or filter most views toward the project. Some residents at the current edge of the urban area may have long views to the north that include the project area.

Viewer sensitivity: 2—Residents in suburban areas of Ellensburg are used to landscape change, but tend to appreciate the open spaces that contrast with urban density.

University students:

Viewer exposure: 1—There are over 7,000 students at Central Washington University, but there is only one small hill on campus offering a very distant view of the project. Trees and structures block most other views out of the campus.

Viewer sensitivity: 1—Students are engaged in school activities.

Tourists:

Viewer exposure 1—Many tourists visit Ellensburg, but their attention is focused on the city center and the rodeo.

Viewer sensitivity 2—Tourists are relatively observant of their surroundings.

Visual Quality of Key Views-Existing

Key View 3A: Figure G20 shows an existing view looking north across the Greater Ellensburg Visual Assessment Unit over the Burlington Northern Railroad near U.S. Highway 97 and Cascade Way.

Vividness: 2—Memorable expression of the intrinsic foothills and mountains. Bold patterns of mountain background and urban fabric. Low vegetation species diversity relating to pasture and urban setting.

Intactness: 1—Discordance between suburban development and the rural landscape.

Unity: 1—Ellensburg's outskirts interrupt the natural visual progression from valley to mountains.

Overall Visual Quality: 1.33—Low.

Key View 3B: Figure G21 shows an existing view looking northwest across the Greater Ellensburg Visual Assessment Unit from a hill on the Central Washington University campus.

Vividness: 1—Exotic trees, lawn, and institutional buildings populate this bland landscape.

Intactness: 2—Consistently flat lawn with some clusters of trees obscuring surrounding landscape.

Unity: 1—Built features do not fit with the character of the region.

Overall Visual Quality: 1.33—Low.

Key View 3C: Figure G22 shows an existing view looking northwest across the Greater Ellensburg Visual Assessment Unit from Reed Park in Ellensburg.

Vividness: 3—Memorable juxtaposition of city and mountains. Rare view out from the city.

Intactness: 2—City view disrupted by power lines, but overall grouping of green city and brown hills is retained.

Unity: 3—Continuous view across the city, over the valley floor, and up to the foothills and mountains conveys the range of valley conditions in one view.

Overall Visual Quality: 2.67—High.

1.4 Visual Assessment Unit 4: Yakima River

Viewer Group Exposure and Sensitivity

The primary viewer groups in this unit are rural residents, motorists on I-90, motorists on State Route 10, motorists on the Thorp Highway, and outdoor recreation users of the river corridor.

Rural residents:

Viewer exposure: 1—There are relatively few homes in the corridor and views to the northeast are blocked or filtered by the thick riparian vegetation along the Yakima River and any glimpses of the project would be at a great distance.

Viewer sensitivity: 2— Rural residents are sensitive to landscape change visible from their homes.

Motorists on I-90:

Viewer exposure: 2—There are very many motorists on I-90 and this is the beginning of the Mountains to Sound Greenway, but the project area is not near the highway corridor and most views are blocked by vegetation and landform.

Viewer sensitivity: 1—Motorists on I-90 are driving fast and paying attention to the road.

Motorists on State Route 10:

Viewer exposure: 1—Most motorists' views to the project area are blocked by landforms and vegetation.

Viewer sensitivity: 2—Viewers are on a designated scenic highway.

Motorists on the Thorp Highway:

Viewer exposure: 1—Most motorists' views to the project area are blocked by riparian vegetation.

Viewer sensitivity: 2—This local highway is used by local residents or by leisurely drivers aware of their surroundings.

River corridor users:

Viewer exposure: 1—Distance and thick surrounding vegetation prevent significant exposure.

Viewer sensitivity: 3—River rafters and hikers enjoying the corridor are very aware of their surroundings.

Visual Quality of Key Views-Existing

Key View 4A: Figure G24 shows an existing view looking north across the Yakima River Visual Assessment Unit from the intersection of the Thorp Highway and Weaver Road.

Vividness: 3—Riparian corridor is dominant feature fully expressing this regional characteristic. Range of vegetation types.

Intactness: 3—Strong visual character. There are no encroaching elements in the landscape.

Unity: 3—Clear visual composition and coherent patterns.

Overall Visual Quality: 3.0—High.

1.5 Visual Assessment Unit 5: Southwest Valley

Viewer Group Exposure and Sensitivity

The primary viewer groups of this unit are rural residents, agricultural workers, and motorists on county roads.

Rural residents:

Viewer exposure: 1—There are some residents in this unit, but this unit is the furthest from the Project Area, placing the project in the distant background of any views north across the valley.

Viewer exposure: 2—Rural residents are sensitive to landscape changes.

Agricultural workers:

Viewer exposure: 1—Agricultural workers would be able to view the project area for long periods of time. However, they are only exposed to very distant views of the project.

Viewer sensitivity: 1—Agricultural workers will be actively engaged in farming and ranching.

Motorists on county roads:

Viewer exposure: 1—Stretches of county roads throughout the unit, many of them unpaved, allow glimpses of the project, but they are not heavily trafficked.

Viewer sensitivity: 2—Motorists driving on local roads are somewhat aware of changes in the visual environment and many of the motorists will be on their way to their homes.

Visual Quality of Key Views-Existing

Key View 5A: Figure G26 shows an existing view looking north from the Southwest Valley Visual Assessment Unit at the intersection of Killmore Road and Robinson Road.

Vividness: 3—Memorable regional landscape elements including mountains, foothills, river corridor.

Intactness: 2—Some discordance in overall rural landscape due to large suburban residences in the middleground.

Unity: 2—Reduced compositional harmony due to suburban development that is neither integrated in the pastoral landscape nor hidden.

Overall Visual Quality: 2.33—Moderate.

1.6 Visual Assessment Unit 6: Hayward Hill

Viewer Group Exposure and Sensitivity

The primary viewer groups of this unit are rural residents and motorists on unpaved county roads.

Rural residents:

Viewer exposure: 1—There are very few residents on Hayward Hill.

Viewer sensitivity: 3—Rural residents are highly sensitive to landscape change visible from their homes, especially residents with such a clear view of the project.

Motorists on unpaved county roads:

Viewer exposure: 1—There are very few motorists on Hayward Hill.

Viewer sensitivity: 2—Motorists on these unpaved roads will be moving slowly so they are somewhat aware of changes in the visual environment.

Visual Quality of Key Views-Existing

Key View 6A: Figure G28 shows an existing view looking east from the Hayward Hill Visual Assessment Unit at the top of the hill.

Vividness—3: Memorable skyline of mountains, canyon, foothills, and north-south ridges. Diverse range of vegetation communities: ponderosa pine forest, rangeland, shrub-steppe, riparian corridors, wind rows and pasture.

Intactness—3: Undisrupted forms, view free of discord, and established visual character, interrupted only slightly by U.S. Highway 97 in the middleground.

Unity: 3—Clear visual composition and layering of foreground, middleground, and background.

Overall Visual Quality: 3.0—High.

1.7 Visual Assessment Unit 7: Dry Creek Slope

Viewer Group Exposure and Sensitivity

The primary viewer groups in this unit are rural residents and motorists on U.S. Highway 97.

Rural residents:

Viewer Exposure 1—There are few residents in this unit and most of their views are blocked by landforms and vegetation.

Viewer Sensitivity 3—Rural residents are highly sensitive to landscape change visible from their homes, especially residents with a foreground view of the project.

Motorists on U.S. Highway 97:

Viewer Exposure 2—There are many motorists on U.S. Highway 97, but most views are blocked by landform.

Viewer Sensitivity 1—Motorists on U.S. Highway 97 are driving fast and paying attention to the road.

Visual Quality of Key Views-Existing

Key View 7A: Figure G30 shows an existing view looking to the northwest from the Dry Creek Slope Visual Assessment Unit off U.S. Highway 97.

Vividness: 3—Memorable expression of the rolling coulees across Dry Creek Slope leading to the foothills of the Wenatchee Mountains.

Intactness: 2—Some encroachment by the power lines.

Unity: 2—Gradual topographical progression with limited middleground.

Overall Visual Quality: 2.33—Moderate.

1.8 Visual Assessment Unit 8: Table Mountain Slope

Viewer Group Exposure and Sensitivity

The primary viewer group of this unit are rural residents at Sun East and outdoor recreational users.

Rural residents:

Viewer Exposure: 2—There are over 100 homes in Sun East and many homes have direct views over the project.

Viewer Sensitivity 3— Rural residents are highly sensitive to landscape change visible from their homes.

Outdoor recreational users:

Viewer exposure: 2— The Wenatchee Mountains are an outdoor recreation destination and some users access the mountains from this unit, but many views are blocked by the forest after rising above the foothills.

Viewer sensitivity: 3—Campers, hunters, horseback riders, and hikers enjoying nature are very aware of their surroundings.

Visual Quality of Key Views-Existing

Key View 8A: Figure G32 shows an existing view looking south from the Table Mountain Slope Visual Assessment Unit over the Kittitas Basin.

Vividness—3: Memorable display of the open sky, mountains, ridge running north-south through the valley, flat valley, creeks and canyons. Diverse plant communities: ponderosa pine forest, riparian vegetation, shrub-steppe, rangeland, and pasture. Farms dot the valley.
Intactness: 3—Strong visual character. Undisrupted skyform, landcover, landform, built forms.
Unity: 3—Clear visual composition and sense of enclosure, harmonious patterns across the valley. Built structure of paved road follows natural creek form.

Overall Visual Quality: 3.0—High.

Key View 8B: Figure G33 shows an existing view looking southwest from the Sun East development in the Table Mountain Slope Visual Assessment Unit.

Vividness: 3— View across the valley to Manastash Ridge allows an appreciation of the larger form of the valley as well as its distinctive landforms and a diverse array of native shrub steppe and riparian vegetation. There is even a glimpse of the top of Mt. Rainier from this elevation.
Intactness: 2—View over stunning valley cluttered by numerous rural residential structures with little integration in the landscape.
Unity: 3—Clear, uninterrupted progression from foreground through background along undulating landforms.

Overall Visual Quality: 2.67—High.

2. OPERATION PERIOD IMPACT ASSESSMENT

2.1 Visual Assessment Unit 1: Northwest Valley

Visual Quality of Key Views-With Project

Key View 1A: Figure G34 shows a simulated view of the proposed project looking northeast across the Northwest Valley Visual Assessment Unit from the intersection of Smithson Road and Robbins Road.

Vividness: 2—Dramatic height and light color of turbines are vivid elements, but they diminish appreciation of the intrinsic features of the region such as mountains, foothills, and the ridge.

Intactness: 1—The white turbines contrast sharply with the brown and green foothills.

Unity: 2—Visual progression from foreground to background is severed by the turbines. Their arrangement does not clearly relate to topography or a discrete form.

Overall Visual Quality: 1.67—Moderate.

Level of Visual Impact: 1.33—High.

Key View 1B: Figure G35 shows a simulated view of the proposed project looking northwest across the Northwest Valley Visual Assessment Unit from the intersection of Hungry Junction and Lookabout Lane.

Vividness: 3—The turbines at this distance do not reduce the vividness of the scene dominated by strong landscape features such as mountains, foothills, and the farm-dotted valley.

Intactness: 2—The white turbines contrast mildly with the brown and green foothills.

Unity: 2—Turbines clutter the seam between valley and foothill slopes and disrupt transition from middleground to background.

Overall Visual Quality: 2.33—Moderate.

Level of Visual Impact: 0.67—Moderate.

Key View 1C: Figure G36 shows a simulated view of the proposed project looking northeast across the Northwest Valley Visual Assessment Unit along Smithson Road near U.S. Route 97.

Vividness: 2—No significant change. Turbines only barely visible.

Intactness: 2—No significant change. Turbines no more disruptive than existing small power poles and fence posts.

Unity: 2—No significant change. Turbines are very minor element.

Overall Visual Quality: 2.0—Moderate.

Level of Visual Impact: 0.0—Low.

Key View 1D: Figure G37 shows a simulated view of the proposed project looking southwest across the Northwest Valley Visual Assessment Unit from immediately north of the Project Area.

Vividness: 2—Dramatic height and light color of turbines are vivid elements, but they diminish appreciation of the intrinsic features of the region.

Intactness: 1—Turbines are disruptive elements in the landscape, especially where they break the skyline of the southern ridge.

Unity: 1—Topographic form of basin less clear with scattered turbines lacking definite end or shape to their arrangement.

Overall Visual Quality: 1.33—Low.

Level of Visual Impact: 0.67—Moderate.

Key View 1E: Figure G38 shows a simulated view of the proposed project looking northwest across the Northwest Valley Visual Assessment Unit from Reecer Creek Road.

Vividness: 1—Dramatic height and light color of turbines diminish appreciation of intrinsic features of the region such as farmland and foothills.

Intactness: 1—Turbines break up the skyline and interrupt the view to the mountains.

Unity: 1—Visual progression from middleground to background is disrupted by the turbines and the scattered arrangement of the turbines doesn't reflect topography or recognizable form.

Overall Visual Quality: 1.0—Low.

Level of Visual Impact: 1.0—High.

Key View 1F: Figure G39 shows a simulated view of the proposed project looking northwest across the Northwest Valley Visual Assessment Unit from Reecer Creek Road.

Vividness: 1—Dramatic height and light color of turbines diminish appreciation of intrinsic features of the region such as farmland and foothills.

Intactness: 1—Turbines break up the skyline and interrupt the view to the foothills.

Unity: 2—Visual progression from middleground to background is disrupted by the turbines. Turbine layout doesn't reinforce topography, but does appear to be grouped in somewhat recognizable lines.

Overall Visual Quality: 1.33—Low.

Level of Visual Impact: 1.0—High.

Key View 1F: Figure G40 shows a simulated view looking southeast across the Northwest Valley Visual Assessment Unit from Reecer Creek Road just north of the project boundary.

Vividness: 1—Dramatic height and light color of turbines diminish appreciation of intrinsic features of the region such as farmland.

Intactness: 1—Turbines break up the skyline and interrupt the view to Manastash Ridge.

Unity: 1—Visual progression from middleground to background is disrupted by the turbines and the turbine layout appears as a large scattered group stretching across the entire scene.

Overall Visual Quality: 1.0—Low.

Level of Visual Impact: 1.0—High.

2.2 Visual Assessment Unit 2: Northeast Valley Floor

Visual Quality of Key Views-With Project

Key View 2A: Figure G41 shows a simulated view of the proposed project looking southwest across the Northeast Valley Visual Assessment Unit from Wilson Creek Road.

Vividness: 2—No significant change. Turbines are not strong feature in this view compared with transmission lines.

Intactness: 1—No significant change. Power lines already disrupt view and most of turbines do not break skyline.

Unity: 1—The sense of continuity between foreground and background is already lowered by the power lines, but the turbines further block the flow of views under the powerlines to the mountains.

Overall Visual Quality: 1.33—Low.

Level of Visual Impact: 0.33—Low.

Key View 2B: Figure G42 shows a simulated view of the proposed project looking west across the Northeast Valley Visual Assessment Unit from Wilson Creek Road on Rabbit Hill.

Vividness: 2—No significant change. Turbines mostly blocked by vegetation and farm structures.

Intactness: 2—No significant change. Turbines do not break skyline.

Unity: 2—No significant change. Scattered farm structures more noticeable.

Overall Visual Quality: 2.0—Moderate.

Level of Visual Impact: 0.0—Low.

Key View 2C: Figure G43 shows an existing view looking northwest across the Northeast Valley Visual Assessment Unit from the north end of Bowers Field at Hungry Junction Road.

Vividness: 2— No significant change. Turbines are not strong feature in this view.

Intactness: 2— Some contrast between light-colored turbines against brown foothills.

Unity: 3— No significant change.

Overall Visual Quality: 2.33—Moderate.

Level of Visual Impact: 0.33—Low.

2.3 Visual Assessment Unit 3: Greater Ellensburg

Visual Quality of Key Views-With Project

Key View 3A: Figure G44 shows a simulated view of the proposed project looking north across Greater Ellensburg Visual Assessment Unit over the Burlington Northern Railroad near U.S. Highway 97 and Cascade Way.

Vividness: 2—No significant change. Turbines are not strong feature at this distance.
Intactness: 1— No significant change. Suburban development is much more intrusive.
Unity: 1—No significant change.

Overall Visual Quality: 1.33—Low.
Level of Visual Impact: 0.0—Low.

Key View 3B: Figure G45 shows a simulated view of the proposed project looking northwest across the Greater Ellensburg Visual Assessment Unit from a hill on the Central Washington University campus.

Vividness: 1—No significant change. Turbines are completely obscured by trees and buildings.
Intactness: 2— No significant change.
Unity: 1—No significant change.

Overall Visual Quality: 1.33—Low.
Level of Visual Impact: 0.0—Low.

Key View 3C: Figure G46 shows a simulated view of the proposed project looking northwest across the Greater Ellensburg Visual Assessment Unit from Reed Park in Ellensburg.

Vividness: 2—Turbines diminish dramatic view of the mountains contrasted with city.
Intactness: 2—Turbines in distance contrast slightly with brown foothills, but do not block or interrupt view to scenic elements and do not break the skyline.
Unity: 2—The turbines in the middleground compromise separation of city and mountains by rural valley.

Overall Visual Quality: 2.0—Moderate.
Level of Visual Impact: 0.67—Moderate.

2.4 Visual Assessment Unit 4: Yakima River

Visual Quality of Key Views-With Project

Key View 4A: Figure G47 shows a simulated view of the proposed project looking north across the Yakima River Visual Assessment Unit from the intersection of the Thorp Highway and Weaver Road.

Vividness: 3—No significant change. Parts of turbines visible over riparian vegetation are not strong features at this distance.
Intactness: 2—Turbines contrast somewhat with brown foothills but do not break the skyline.
Unity: 3—No significant change.

Overall Visual Quality: 2.67—High.
Level of Visual Impact: 0.33—Low.

2.5 Visual Assessment Unit 5: Southwest Valley

Visual Quality of Key Views-With Project

Key View 5A: Figure G48 shows a simulated view of the proposed project looking north from the Southwest Valley Visual Assessment Unit at the intersection of Killmore Road and Robinson Road.

Vividness: 3—No significant change. Turbines are not strong features at this distance.

Intactness: 2—Turbines contrast somewhat with brown foothills but do not break the skyline and are much less noticeable than suburban development.

Unity: 2—No significant change.

Overall Visual Quality: 2.33—Moderate.

Level of Visual Impact: 0.0—Low.

2.6 Visual Assessment Unit 6: Hayward Hill

Visual Quality of Key Views-With Project

Key View 6A: Figure G49 shows a simulated view of the proposed project looking east from the Hayward Hill Visual Assessment Unit at the top of the hill.

Vividness: 3—No significant change. Intrinsic character of valley to foothills progression remains dominant.

Intactness: 2—The white turbines contrast with the brown and green foothills.

Unity: 2—Turbines obscure the seam between middleground and background, appear to continue endlessly to the left and right of view and lack formal arrangement or relationship to topography.

Overall Visual Quality: 2.33—Moderate.

Level of Visual Impact: 0.67—Moderate.

2.7 Visual Assessment Unit 7: Dry Creek Slope

Visual Quality of Key Views-With Project

Key View 7A: Figure G50 shows a simulated view of the proposed project looking northwest from the Dry Creek Visual Assessment Unit off U.S. Highway 97.

Vividness: 3—No significant change. Turbines do not block foothills or foreground shrub-steppe.

Intactness: 2—No significant change. Turbines share visual band with power lines that already interrupt view of foothills and turbines do not break skyline.

Unity: 1—Scattered turbine arrangement clutters middleground without revealing topography. No clear form to groups of turbines.

Overall Visual Quality: 2.0—Moderate.
Level of Visual Impact: 0.33—Low.

2.8 Visual Assessment Unit 8: Table Mountain Slope

Visual Quality of Key Views-With Project

Key View 8A: Figure G51 shows a simulated view of the proposed project looking south from the Table Mountain Slope Visual Assessment Unit over Kittitas Basin.

Vividness: 3—No significant change. Intrinsic character of foothills to valley progression remains dominant.

Intactness: 2—The leftmost turbine intrudes on the view. The majority of the turbines lower on the valley floor blend somewhat with the mixture of tones in the valley.

Unity: 2— Scattered turbine arrangement clutters middleground without revealing topography.

Overall Visual Quality: 2.33—Moderate.
Level of Visual Impact: 0.67—Moderate.

Key View 8B: Figure G52 shows a simulated view of the proposed project looking southwest from the Sun East development in the Table Mountain Slope Visual Assessment Unit.

Vividness: 2—Ribbon of turbines diminishes appreciation of Mt. Rainier, but the overall experience of the valley is still dominant.

Intactness: 2—The turbines do clutter some of the middleground, but their impact is not much more than the existing rural residential buildings.

Unity: 2—Turbines blur transition from middleground to background, but at this elevation most of the turbines appear to be in a narrow band of the field of vision and distinct clusters are apparent.

Overall Visual Quality: 2.0—Moderate.
Level of Visual Impact: 0.67—Moderate.



Figure G1
Kittitas County, roughly coterminous with the Kittitas Basin.

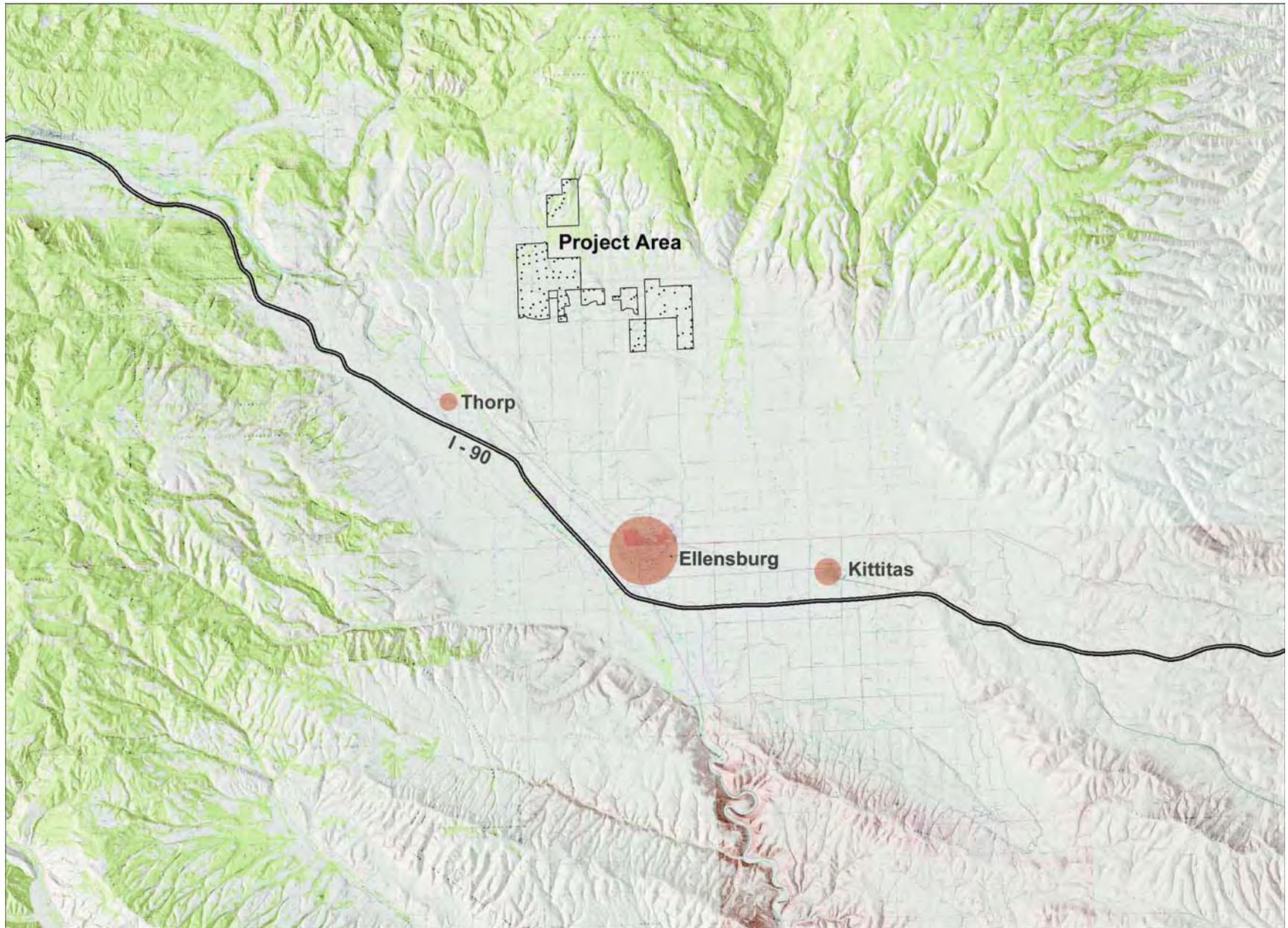


Figure G2
Project Area.

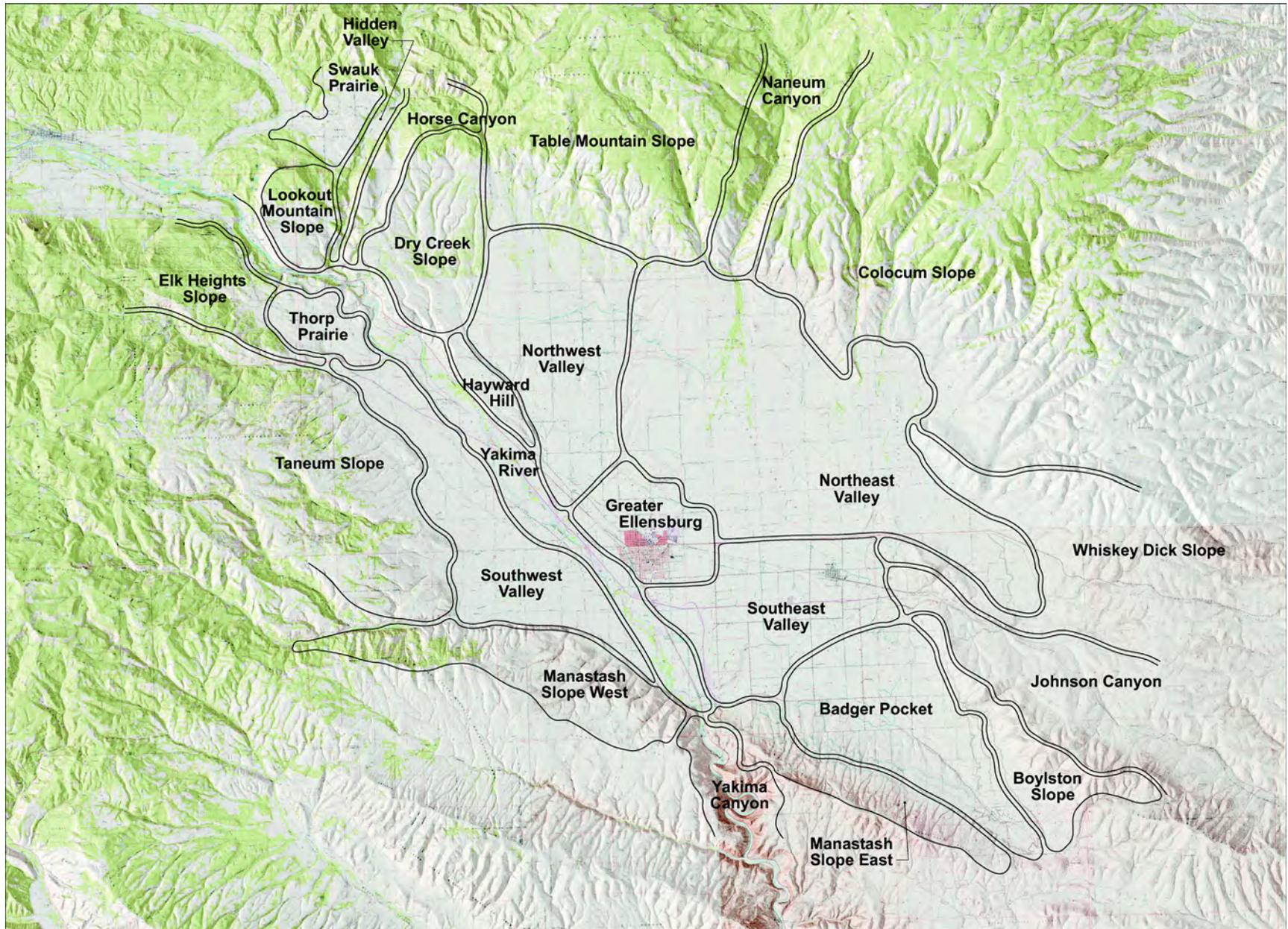


Figure G3
Landscape Units of the Kittitas Basin.

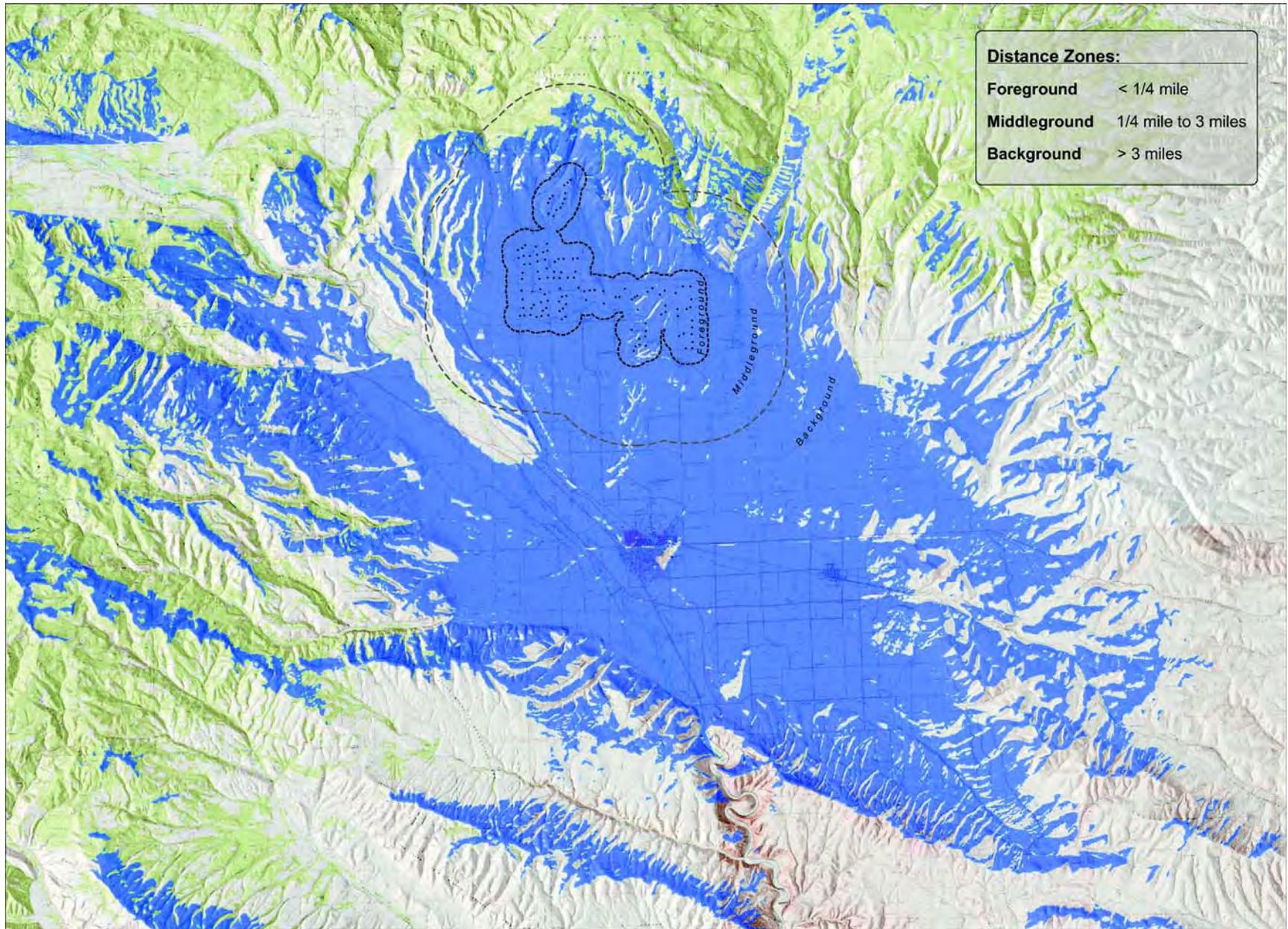


Figure G4
Viewshed of turbine blades indicated by shaded area.

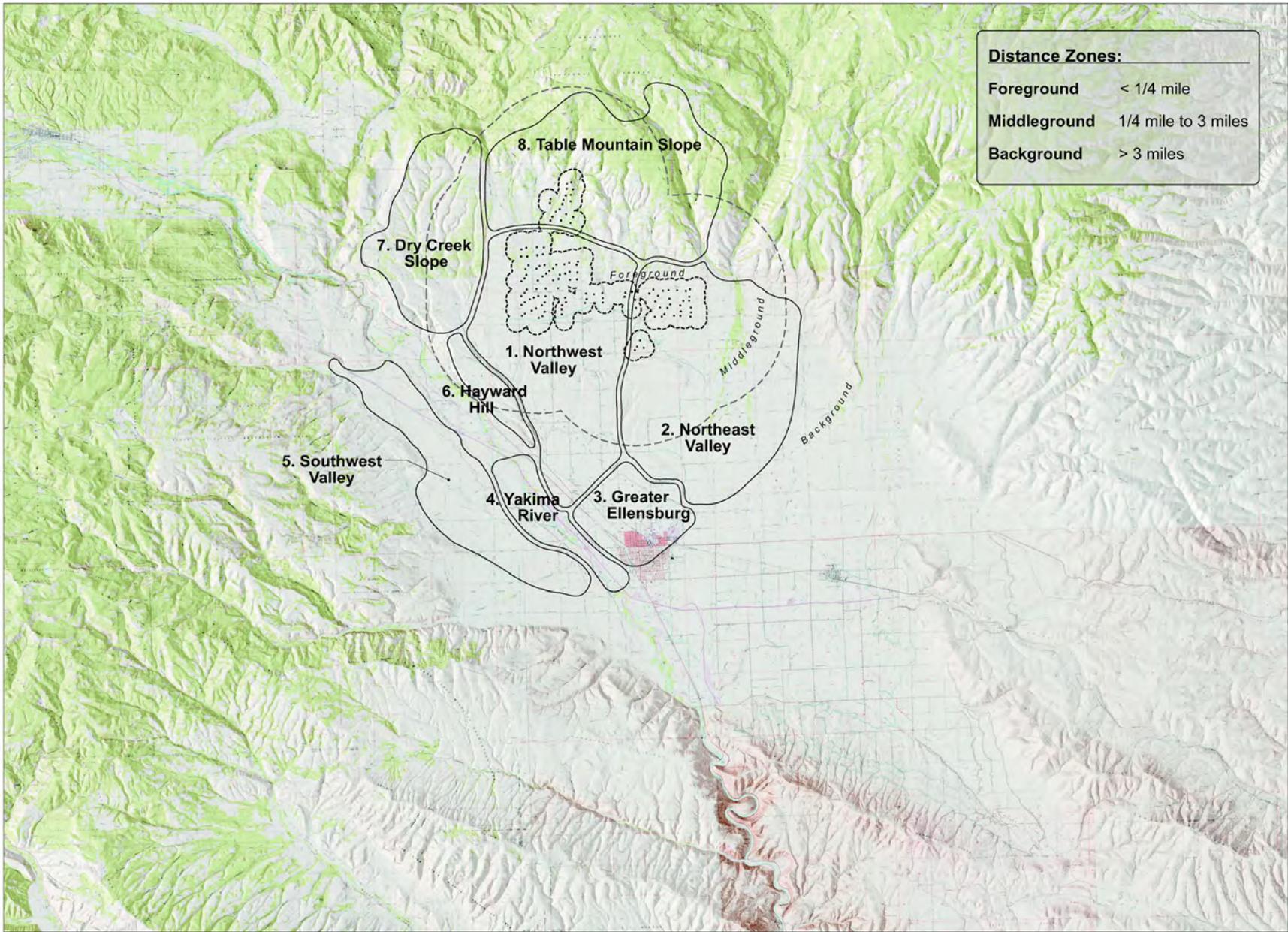


Figure G5
Visual Assessment Units.

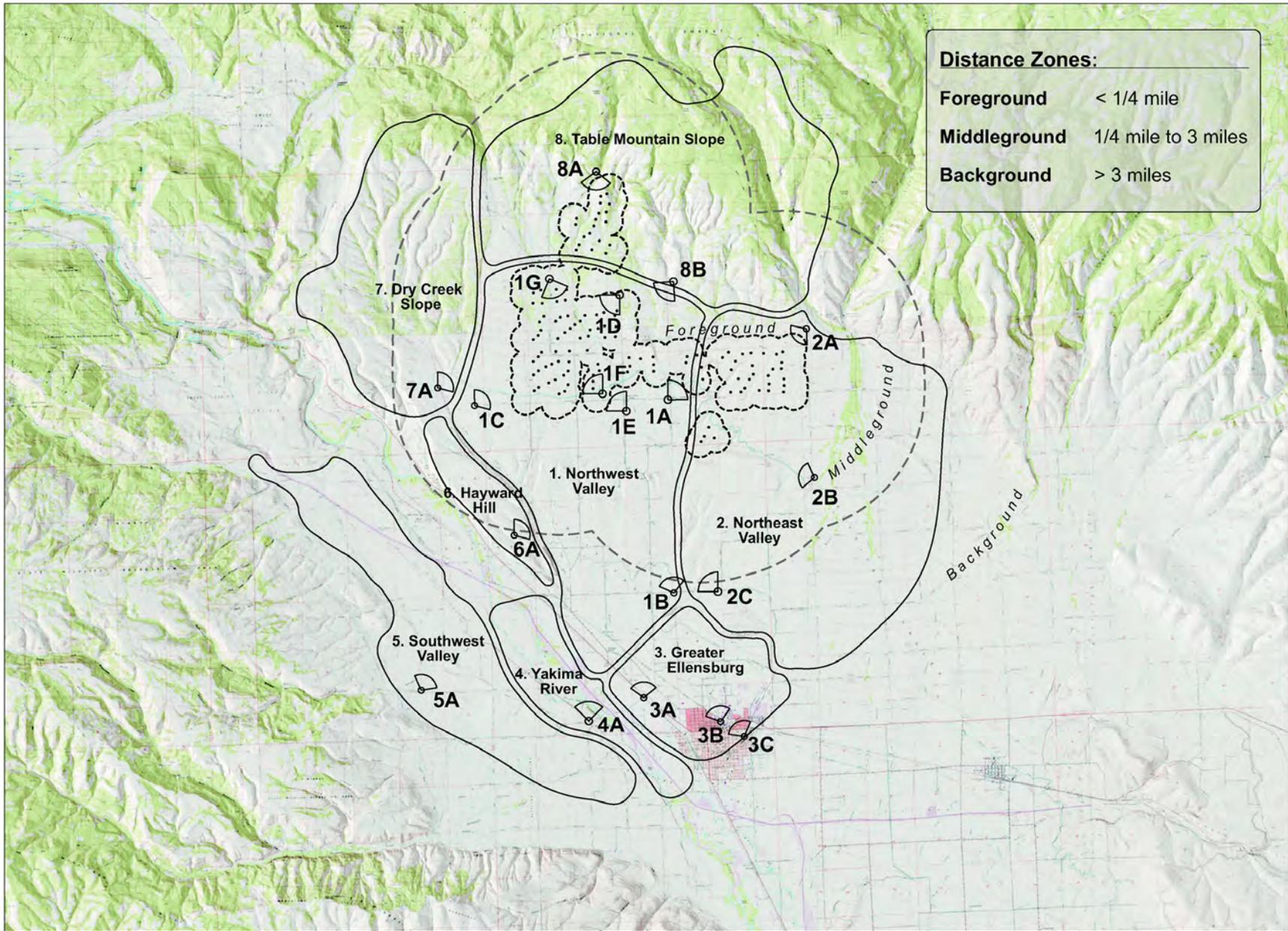


Figure G6
Key View Locations and Directions.

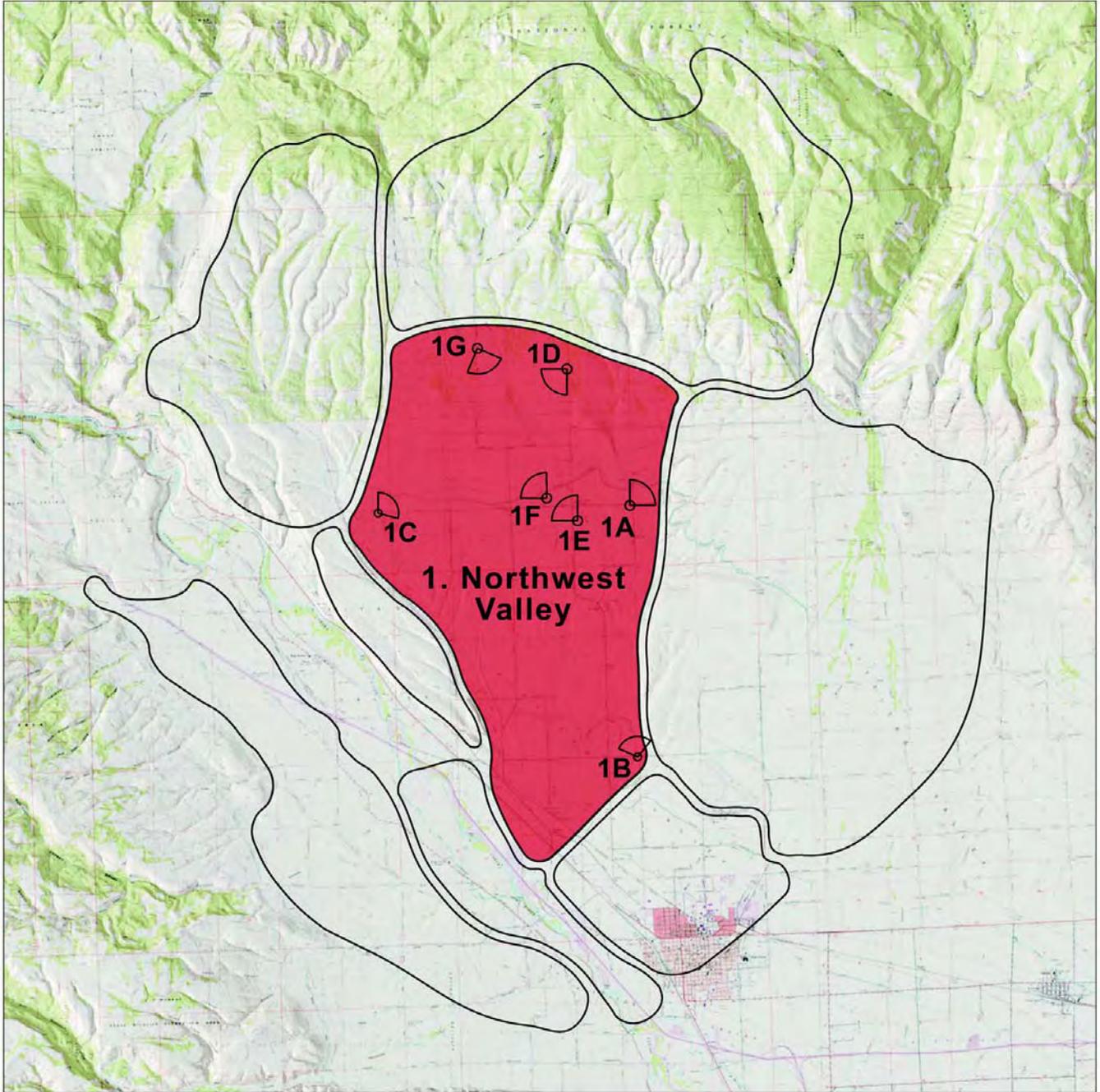


Figure G7
Visual Assessment Unit 1: Northwest Valley



Figure G8
Key View 1A – Existing View looking northeast across the Northwest Valley Visual Assessment Unit
from the intersection of Smithson Road and Robbins Road.



Figure G9
Key View 1B – Existing view looking northwest across the Northwest Valley Visual Assessment Unit from the intersection of Hungry Junction and Lookabout Lane.



Figure G10
**Key View 1C – Existing view looking northeast across the Northwest Valley Visual Assessment Unit
along Smithson Road near U.S. Highway 97.**



Figure G11
Key View 1D – Existing view looking southwest across the Northwest Valley Visual Assessment Unit
from immediately north of the project area.



Figure G12
Key View 1E – Existing view looking northwest across the Northwest Valley Visual Assessment Unit from Reecer Creek Road.



Figure G13
Supplementary Key View 1F – Existing view looking northwest across the Northwest Valley Visual Assessment Unit from Smithson Road near CTC farm.



Figure G14
Supplementary Key View 1G – Existing view looking southeast across the Northwest Valley Visual Assessment Unit from Reecer Creek Road immediately north of project boundary.

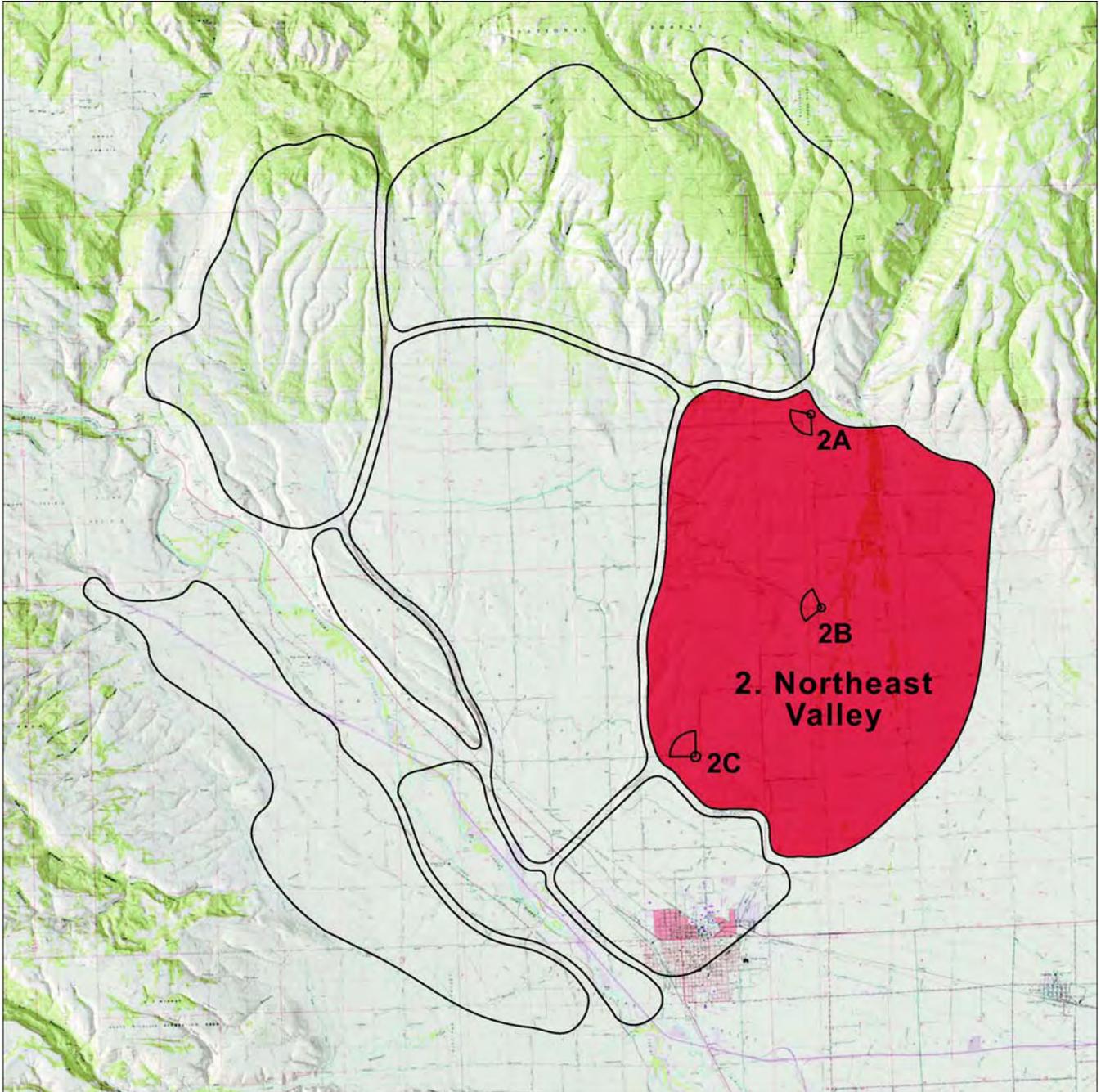


Figure G15
Visual Assessment Unit 2: Northeast Valley



Figure G16
Key View 2A – Existing view of project area looking southwest across the Northeast Valley Visual Assessment Unit from Wilson Creek Road.



Figure G17
Key View 2B – Existing view looking southwest across the Northwest Valley Visual Assessment Unit from Wilson Creek Road.



Figure G18

Key View 2C – Key view looking northwest across the Northeast Valley Visual Assessment Unit from the north end of Bowers Field at Hungry Junction Road.

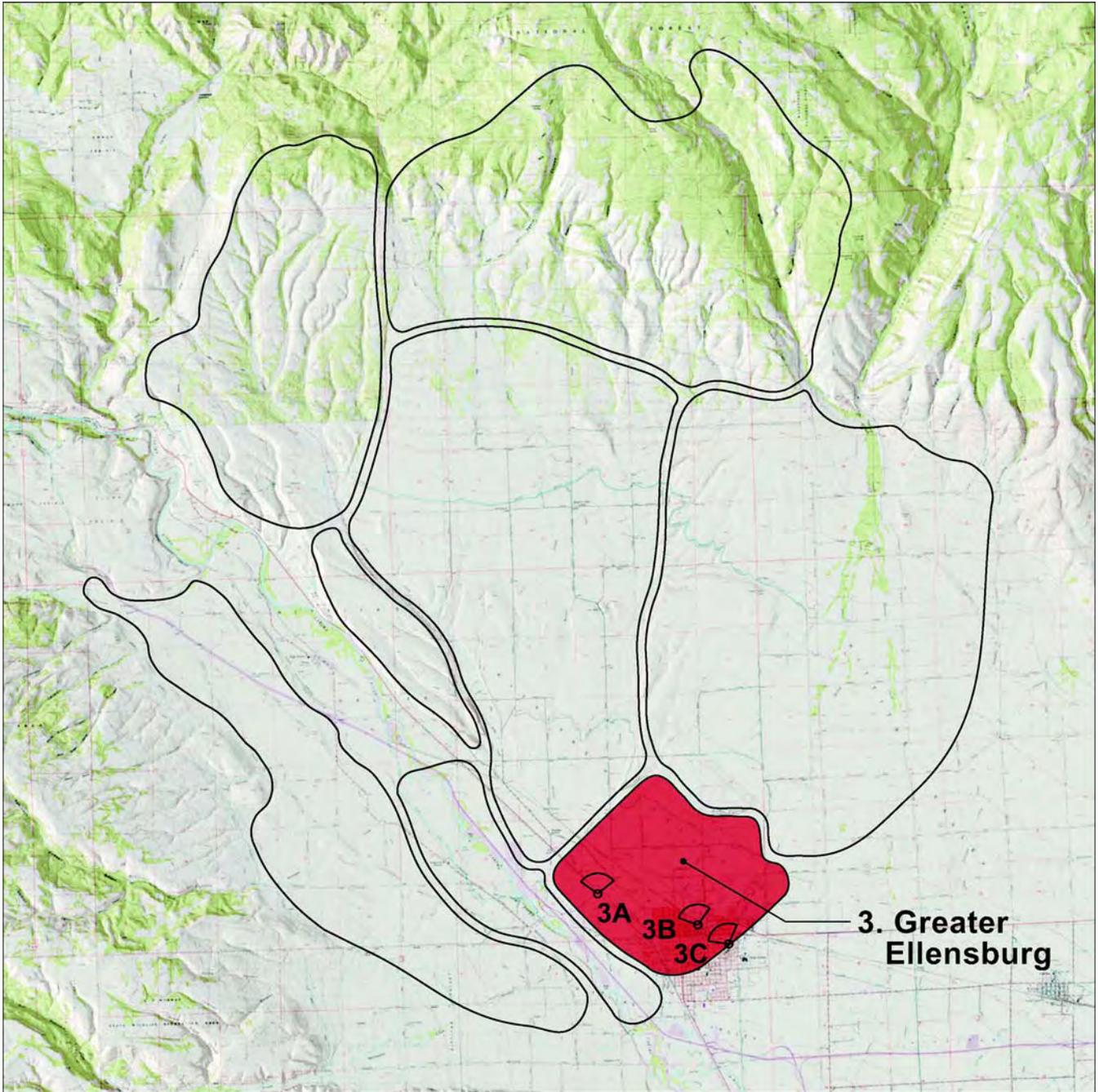


Figure G19
Visual Assessment Unit 3: Greater Ellensburg



Figure G20
Key View 3A – Existing view north across the Greater Ellensburg Visual Assessment Unit
over the Burlington Northern Railroad near U.S. Highway 97 and Cascade Way.



Figure G21
Key View 3B – Existing view across the Greater Ellensburg Visual Assessment Unit
from the Central Washington University campus.



Figure G22
Key View 3C – Existing view looking northwest across the Greater Ellensburg Visual Assessment Unit
from Reed Park in Ellensburg.

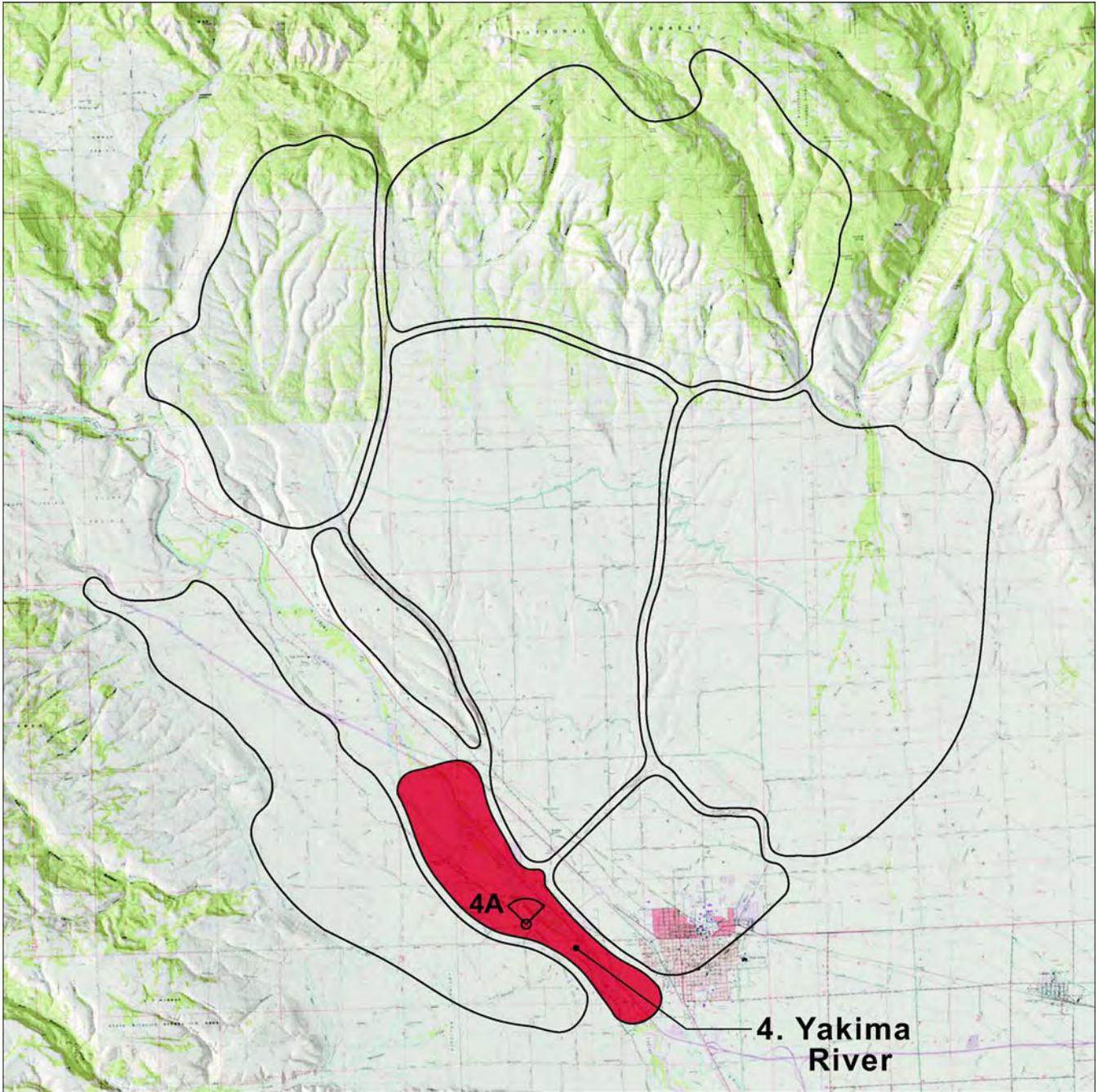


Figure G23
Visual Assessment Unit 4: Yakima River



Figure G24
Key View 4A – Existing view looking north across the Yakima River Visual Assessment Unit
from the intersection of the Thorp Highway and Weaver Road.

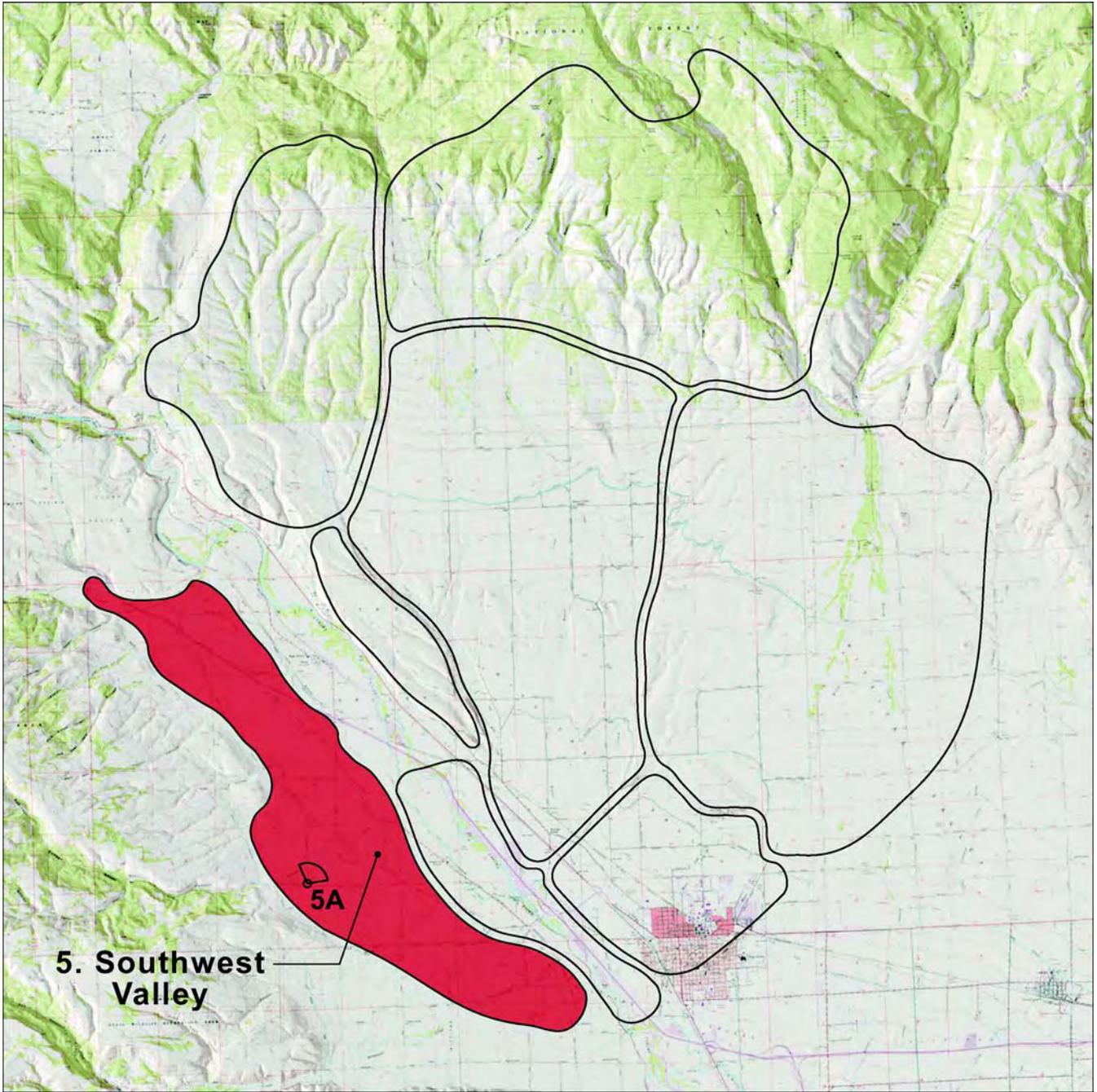


Figure G25
Visual Assessment Unit 5: Southwest Valley



Figure G26
Key View 5A – Existing view looking north from the Southwest Visual Assessment Unit at the intersection of Killmore Road and Robinson Road.

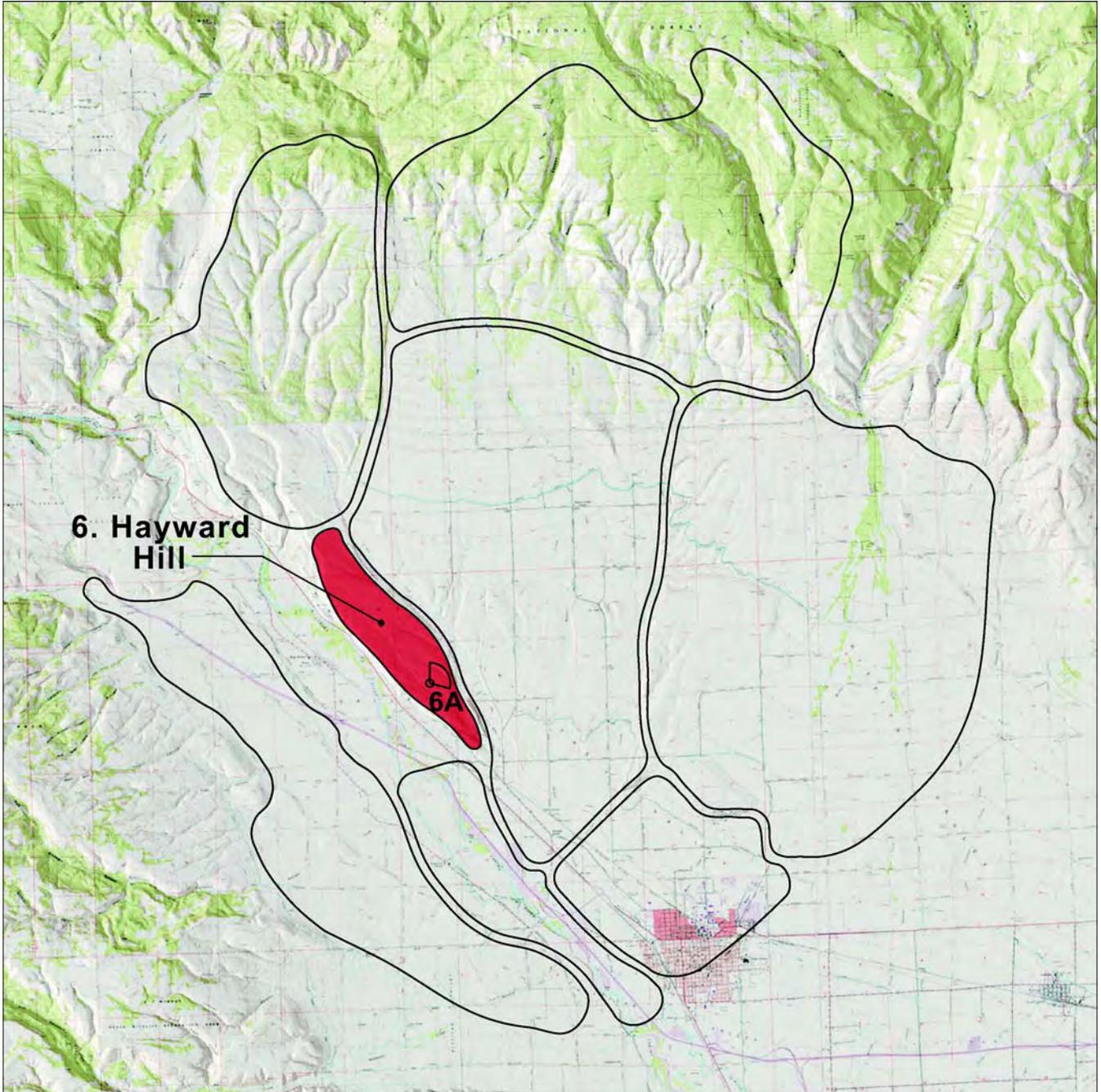


Figure G27
Visual Assessment Unit 6: Hayward Hill



Figure G28
Key View 6A – Existing view looking east from the Hayward Hill Visual Assessment Unit at the top of the hill.



Figure G29
Visual Assessment Unit 7: Dry Creek Slope



Figure G30
Key View 7A – Existing view looking northwest from the Dry Creek Slope Visual Assessment Unit off U.S. Highway 97.



Figure G31
Visual Assessment Unit 8: Table Mountain Slope



Figure G32
Key View 8A – Existing view looking south from the Table Mountain Slope Visual Assessment Unit
over the Kittitas Basin.



Figure G33

Key View 8B – Existing view looking southwest from the Table Mountain Slope Visual Assessment Unit near the Cole/Binette residence in Sun East



Figure G34
Key View 1A – Simulated view looking northeast across the Northwest Valley Visual Assessment Unit from the intersection of Smithson Road and Robbins Road.



Figure G35
Key View 1B – Simulated view looking northwest across the Northeast Valley Visual Assessment Unit from the intersection of Hungry Junction and Lookabout Lane.



Figure G36
**Key View 1C – Simulated view looking northeast across the Northwest Valley Visual Assessment Unit
along Smithson Road near U.S. Highway 97.**



Figure G37
Key View 1D – Simulated view looking southwest across the Northwest Valley Visual Assessment Unit from immediately north of the project area.



Figure G38
Key View 1E – Simulated view looking northwest across the Northwest Valley Visual Assessment Unit
from Reecer Creek Road.



Figure G39
Key View 1E – Simulated view looking northwest across the Northwest Valley Visual Assessment Unit from Smithson Road near CTC farm.



Figure G40
Supplementary Key View 1G – Simulated view looking southeast across the Northwest Valley Visual Assessment Unit from Reecer Creek Road immediately north of project boundary.



Figure G41
Key View 2A – Simulated view looking southwest across the Northwest Valley Visual Assessment Unit from Wilson Creek Road.



Figure G42
Key View 2B – Simulated view looking west across the Northeast Valley Visual Assessment Unit
from Wilson Creek Road on Rabbit Hill.



Figure G43
**Key View 2C – Simulated view looking northwest across the Northwest Valley Visual Assessment Unit
from the north end of Bowers Field at Hungry Junction Road.**



Figure G44
Key View 3A – Simulated view north across the Greater Ellensburg Visual Assessment Unit over the Burlington Northern Railroad near U.S. Highway 97 and Cascade Way.



Figure G45

Key View 3B – Simulated view looking northwest across the Greater Ellensburg Visual Assessment Unit from the Central Washington University campus.



Figure G46
Key View 3C – Simulated view looking northwest across the Greater Ellensburg Visual Assessment Unit from Reed Park in Ellensburg.



Figure G47

Key View 4A – Simulated view looking north across the Yakima River Visual Assessment Unit from the intersection of the Thorp Highway and Weaver Road.



Figure G48
Key View 5A – Simulated view looking north from the Southwest Valley Visual Assessment Unit at the intersection of Killmore Road and Robinson Road.



Figure G49
Key View 6A – Simulated view looking east from the Hayward Hill Visual Assessment Unit
at the top of the hill.



Figure G50
Key View 7A – Simulated view looking northwest from the Dry Creek Slope Visual Assessment Unit off U.S. Highway 97.



Figure G51
Key View 8A – Simulated view looking south from the Table Mountain Slope Visual Assessment Unit over the Kittitas Basin.



Figure G52
Key View 8B – Simulated View