

VISUAL PREFERENCES ALONG A SCENIC PARKWAY

Perceptions of Vegetation Management

Vegetation management along the Blue Ridge Parkway can be conducted at various levels of intensity. For example, the roadside grass can be mowed weekly, monthly, bi-monthly, etc. We would like your opinion to some possible levels of grass mowing and tree clearing that might be practiced on the Parkway. By rating the vegetation management examples in our photos, we can determine what Parkway visitors prefer.

Instruction

There is a collection of photographs presented as three (3) pairs per page.

EXAMPLE:

☐	1A	1B	☐
☐	2A	2B	☐
☐	3A	3B	☐

Each picture has a short description under it. Please pay particular attention to the described feature as you rate each photograph.

First, look through them quickly to get a general feeling for the photographs. Then, go back and carefully read the description. Rate EACH photo (compared to its pair) for HOW MUCH YOU LIKE IT. Simply circle the number of your choice below each photograph.

- | |
|-----------------|
| 1 = not at all |
| 2 = a little |
| 3 = somewhat |
| 4 = quite a bit |
| 5 = very much |

Thank you!

Kathlyne A. McGee
The University of Tennessee

"There are idle spots on every farm-

and every highway is bordered by an idle strip as long as it is.

Keep cow, plow, and mower out of these idle spots, and the full

native flora, plus dozens of

interesting stowaways

could be part of the normal

environment of every citizen."



Aldo Leopold,

Pioneer Ecologist

from

A Sand County Almanac



Just a 50% reduction

in mowing on the

Blue Ridge Parkway

will save taxpayers \$71,000 per year.

There is an economy in natural things.



1a

1b



1 2 3 4 5 No mowing beyond guardrail.

1 2 3 4 5 Mowing to and beyond guardrail.



2a

2b



1 2 3 4 5 Mowed one mower width from roadside.

1 2 3 4 5 Mowed to treeline.



3a

3b



1 2 3 4 5 No mowing.

1 2 3 4 5 Complete mowing into treeline.



4a 4b

1 2 3 4 5 Vegetation not
mowed around sign.



1 2 3 4 5 Vegetation mowed
around & beyond sign.



5a 5b

1 2 3 4 5 Shrub vegetation
in near foreground.



1 2 3 4 5 Shrubs managed by
controlled burning.



6a 6b

1 2 3 4 5 Mowed one mower
width from roadside.



1 2 3 4 5 Mowing complete to
treeline.



7a

7b



1 2 3 4 5 Mowing to treeline.

1 2 3 4 5 Mowed one mower width from roadside.



8a

8b



1 2 3 4 5 Mowed only at mid-summer.

1 2 3 4 5 Mowed every three weeks.



9a

9b



1 2 3 4 5 Only roadside shoulder mowed.

1 2 3 4 5 Mowed to fenceline and beyond.



10a 10b



1 2 3 4 5 Trees closing in
the scenic vista.

1 2 3 4 5 Low shrubs in
distant foreground.



11a 11b



1 2 3 4 5 Vista with some
trees in foreground.

1 2 3 4 5 Trees removed from
foreground in vista.



12a 12b



1 2 3 4 5 Foreground trees
in vista.

1 2 3 4 5 No foreground trees
in vista.



13a 13b

1 2 3 4 5 Scene with foreground trees.



1 2 3 4 5 Foreground trees completely removed.



14a 14b

1 2 3 4 5 Hardwood and conifer (evergreen) trees present.



1 2 3 4 5 Hardwoods cut to emphasize conifers.

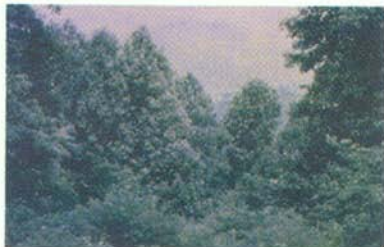


15a 15b

1 2 3 4 5 Shrubs in foreground.



1 2 3 4 5 Shrubs removed by cutting & controlled burning.



16a 16b



1 2 3 4 5 Selective cutting
to re-open vista.

1 2 3 4 5 Trees closing in
vista more than 50%.



17a 17b



1 2 3 4 5 Mowing and cutting
of foreground vegetation.

1 2 3 4 5 Low shrubs in
distant foreground.



18a 18b



1 2 3 4 5 Single edge tree
removed.

1 2 3 4 5 Original scene
with edge trees.

THANK YOU for rating the photos. We now have a few questions for you to answer which will help us interpret your ratings and leisure patterns.

VEGETATION MANAGEMENT ALTERNATIVES

The following items describe various levels at which the grass and shrubs along the Blue Ridge Parkway could be maintained. Please indicate whether you support or do not support each of the following management options. (Circle the most appropriate response for each statement).

	Strongly Support	Support	Probably Support	Don't Know	Probably Don't Support	Don't Support	Definitely Don't Support
I. The roadside grass should be mowed:							
1. weekly, like a lawn.	1	2	3	4	5	6	7
2. every two weeks, when 3 to 6 inches tall.	1	2	3	4	5	6	7
3. once per month, when at least 10 inches tall.	1	2	3	4	5	6	7
4. once in the Fall after the wildflowers are through blooming.	1	2	3	4	5	6	7
5. only one mower width (7 feet) from the edge of the road surface.	1	2	3	4	5	6	7
6. two mower widths (14 feet) from the road's edge.	1	2	3	4	5	6	7
7. from the road's edge to the ditch or swale.	1	2	3	4	5	6	7
8. from the road's edge to the treeline.	1	2	3	4	5	6	7
9. as little as possible, only when necessary to maintain driver safety and help prevent grass fires.	1	2	3	4	5	6	7
II. Shrubs and trees at pull-off vistas should be cut or trimmed:							
10. annually to maintain a completely clear view.	1	2	3	4	5	6	7
11. every 5 to 7 years, before the shrubs in the foreground block much of the distant view.	1	2	3	4	5	6	7
12. just often enough so that no more than 1/3 of the view is blocked.	1	2	3	4	5	6	7

OUTDOOR ACTIVITIES

We would like to ask some questions about the kind of outdoor recreation activities in which you participate. FIRST, place a check mark only by those activities in which you annually participate, AND SECONDLY, indicate how often you do these activities by circling the appropriate code number.

Code

1	1 wk+	= Once a week or more
2	2-3 mth	= Two to three times a month
3	1 mth	= Once a month
4	1 cple mth	= Once every couple months
5	2-3 yr	= Two to three times a year
6	1 yr	= Once a year

		1 wk+	2-3 mth	1 mth	1 cple mth	2-3 yr	1 yr
1. _____	Camping in remote wilderness areas	1	2	3	4	5	6
2. _____	Camping in developed campgrounds	1	2	3	4	5	6
3. _____	Hunting	1	2	3	4	5	6
4. _____	Fishing	1	2	3	4	5	6
5. _____	Riding motorcycles, trailmobiles, snowmobiles, etc. off the road	1	2	3	4	5	6
6. _____	Driving 4-wheel drive vehicles off the road	1	2	3	4	5	6
7. _____	Wildlife and bird photography	1	2	3	4	5	6
8. _____	Bird watching	1	2	3	4	5	6
9. _____	Hiking	1	2	3	4	5	6
10. _____	Nature walks	1	2	3	4	5	6
11. _____	Walking for pleasure	1	2	3	4	5	6
12. _____	Bicycling	1	2	3	4	5	6
13. _____	Horseback riding	1	2	3	4	5	6
14. _____	Canoeing	1	2	3	4	5	6
15. _____	Sailing	1	2	3	4	5	6
16. _____	Other boating (water skiing)	1	2	3	4	5	6
17. _____	Outdoor pool swimming	1	2	3	4	5	6
18. _____	Other swimming outdoors	1	2	3	4	5	6
19. _____	Golf	1	2	3	4	5	6
20. _____	Tennis	1	2	3	4	5	6

		1 wk+	2-3 mth	1 mth	1 cple mt.	2-3 yr	1 yr
21. _____	Playing other outdoor games or sports	1	2	3	4	5	6
22. _____	Going to outdoor concerts, plays	1	2	3	4	5	6
23. _____	Going to outdoor sports events	1	2	3	4	5	6
24. _____	Visiting zoos, fairs, amusement parks	1	2	3	4	5	6

25. _____	Sightseeing	1	2	3	4	5	6
26. _____	Picnicking	1	2	3	4	5	6
27. _____	Driving for pleasure	1	2	3	4	5	6
28. _____	Other outdoor activities (please specify) _____	1	2	3	4	5	6

Do you attend

29. _____	Football games	1	2	3	4	5	6
30. _____	Basketball games	1	2	3	4	5	6
31. _____	Baseball games	1	2	3	4	5	6
32. _____	Track and field	1	2	3	4	5	6
33. _____	Other _____	1	2	3	4	5	6
34. _____	How often do you watch sports on TV?	1	2	3	4	5	6

LEISURE ATTITUDES

These items measure your attitudes toward leisure. By this we mean how you feel about your leisure, your recreation, or the things you do in your free time. Please answer as quickly and accurately as possible indicating whether you agree or disagree with each of the following statements. (Circle the appropriate response for each statement).

	Strongly Agree	Agree	Probably Agree	Don't Know	Probably Disagree	Disagree	Strongly Disagree
1. Leisure is my most enjoyable time.	1	2	3	4	5	6	7
2. I admire a person who knows how to relax.	1	2	3	4	5	6	7
3. I like to do things on the spur of the moment.	1	2	3	4	5	6	7
4. I would like to lead a life of complete leisure.	1	2	3	4	5	6	7
5. Most people spend too much time enjoying themselves today.	1	2	3	4	5	6	7
6. I don't feel guilty about enjoying myself.	1	2	3	4	5	6	7
7. People should seek as much leisure as possible in their lives.	1	2	3	4	5	6	7
8. I'd like to have at least two months vacation a year.	1	2	3	4	5	6	7
9. Leisure is great.	1	2	3	4	5	6	7
10. It is good for adults to be playful.	1	2	3	4	5	6	7