

Education

-M.L.A. II (with awards), Landscape Architecture, Harvard University, 1975

-B.L.A. Landscape Architecture and Environmental Planning I, Utah State University, 1972

-Studies in Ecology and Landscape Architecture, University of Minnesota

Years of Experience

46

Expertise

-Agency interactions

-GIS, field analyses and visual contrast rating worksheets

-Affected environment narrative
-Visual simulations

-Impacts narrative

-Mitigation effectiveness

-Cumulative impacts narrative

-Figure generation

-Report preparation

Merlyn J. Paulson, FASLA, Visual Resources Subject Matter Expert

Merlyn Paulson is a recognized expert in the aesthetics of cultural and natural resources, visual resources, digital imaging, and geographic information systems (GIS). He is a land architect and environmental planner with 46 years of experience in conducting visual and geospatial analysis of National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA)-related development alternatives and generating mapping, imagery, and illustrations for site, linear, and regional projects. Mr. Paulson's experience within the United States (including Alaska) in visual resource management includes a long list of successful large-scale solar and wind energy, transmission, mining, and land development projects based on both the BLM Visual Resource Management System (VRM) and U.S. Forest Service (USFS) Scenery Management System (SMS).

Mr. Paulson has extensive experience with visual resources projects, environmental impact statements (EIS), and environmental assessments (EA). He understands NEPA-related applications and requirements for federal agencies such as the BLM's VRMS and USFS's Scenery Management System. He has conducted several projects requiring hybrid application of the BLM, USFS, and California Energy Commission visual resources systems in their respective jurisdictions. He developed the methodology for aesthetics affected environment, impacts, and mitigation for the U.S. Department of the Interior for energy-related development in the outer continental shelf and coastal zone of Alaska.

Representative Experience

TransWest Express 600-kV Transmission Project EIS and Plan Amendments, Wyoming, Colorado, Utah, and Nevada; BLM (AECOM).

Mr. Paulson provided GIS-aided project simulations, GIS visibility analysis, impact assessments, and visual simulations for a 725-mile transmission line and ancillary facilities from the Chokecherry-Sierra Madre Wind Energy Project to southern Nevada; traversing four states, 14 BLM field offices, five national forests, two national parks/recreation areas, other federal, state and private lands.

Blythe Solar Energy Project, Blythe, California; BLM (AECOM).

Mr. Paulson provided GIS-aided project simulations, GIS visibility analysis, impact assessments, and visual simulations Solar Millennium's 12,000-acre facility and 500-kV transmission line in the Mojave Desert adjacent to the Diane Feinstein Wilderness Area.

Boswell Springs Wind Energy Permitting Support Project—Intermountain Wind LLC./ICF Project (MPi), Wyoming.

Mr. Paulson provided visual resources field investigation, visual/aesthetics inventory and analysis, computer-aided photographic visual simulations, and GIS visibility analyses of wind turbines, substations, and transmission line.

Desert Center Solar Energy Project, Desert Center, California; BLM (AECOM).

Mr. Paulson provided GIS-aided project simulations, GIS visibility analysis, impact assessments, and visual simulations for Solar Millennium's 2,700-acre facility and 230-kV transmission line in the Mojave Desert adjacent to Joshua Tree National Park.

Little Medicine Bow Wind Energy Permitting Project—Viridis Eolia Corporation/ICF Project (MPi), Wyoming.

Mr. Paulson provided visual resources field investigation, visual/aesthetics inventory and analysis, computer-aided photographic visual simulations, and GIS visibility analyses of wind turbines and transmission line.

NextEra Solar Energy Projects (2 – Trough and PV)—BLM (AECOM), California City, California.

Mr. Paulson provided project field studies, GIS visibility analysis, impact assessments, and visual simulations for large facilities and transmission lines.