

# THE PUBLIC LANDSCAPE

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## A Vital Constituent in the Human Quality of Life

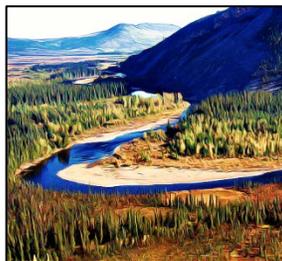
Is the scenic quality of the public landscapes we experience daily gradually eroding, and are we simply powerless to do anything about it? Learn about the issues and what landscape architects working in land management are doing to preserve scenic landscapes on public lands.

*A presentation by Curtis LaPierre, Otak, Inc. | Ramiro Villalvazo, Portland Parks & Recreation | John McCarty, Bureau of Land Management | Mark Meyer, National Park Service*

## LEARNING OBJECTIVES

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1. Learn about the competing interests, cultural associations, stakes and battles over managing scenery.
2. Learn about the link between evoking a person's connection to the land and the sustainable care and management of public lands/places.
3. Discover the various opportunities for landscape architects to engage with the public lands professionally and personally including the experience of a private practitioner.



# AGENCY PERSPECTIVES: KEY TALKING POINTS

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## Introduction

- Public lands are extensive in the West and are managed by several federal agencies
- Public lands have been debated since the West was settled.
- The competing agendas and conflicting mandates within the multiple use of public lands.
- Landscape architects have many ways to engage with public lands.
- Landscape architects have the expertise to advocate for proper management of public lands.

## USDA Forest Service & Local Community Perspective

- People's attachment to green spaces begins at an early age and increases the closer it is to home.
- Nature and scenic beauty support human physical, psychological, and spiritual well-being.
- Sustaining ecological health is essential to protecting scenic values and the outdoor natural experience.
- People care more about the special places than the agency that manages it.
- Public land stewardship is an inherent principle of landscape architecture.

## USDOI Bureau of Land Management Perspective

- Multiple-use management and sustained yield: Its effect on all Americans.
- Multiple-use management opens many doorways and opportunities for landscape architects.
- The working landscape, natural landscape, cultural landscape, economic landscape, and the adjacent landscape.

## USDOI National Park Service Perspective

- The NPS mission is to protect special places, but allow for visitor use – now and into the future.
- National Parks are not just big natural areas – the 417 units are of all types located in all kinds of landscape settings.
- The visual experience is important – not just for the visitor, but also to telling the park story at many units.
- Good planning, design, and development in the landscape and communities around parks is critical to maintaining the visual setting and visitor experience.



# MODERATOR AND PANELISTS

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## **Curtis LaPierre, ASLA, Otak, Inc.**

Curtis is a landscape architect and certified planner with 32 years of experience in private practice with multi-disciplinary consulting firms. His work includes transportation and park design projects that frequently involve ecological restoration and visual resource analysis. Curtis has performed visual resource inventories on BLM lands in five Western states. Currently, his work includes planning and design for local and national parks. He has managed visual impact analyses for transportation and energy projects. Curtis is licensed to practice in Washington, Oregon, Idaho, California and Alaska and serves as the ASLA Washington Chapter Trustee



## **Ramiro Villalvazo, FASLA, Portland Parks & Recreation**

Ramiro Villalvazo is the Assets & Development Division Manager for Portland Parks & Recreation. He retired from the USDA Forest Service after 35 years of service. Notable positions include Pacific Southwest Director for Public Services, Forest Supervisor on the Eldorado National Forest, and Chief Landscape Architect in Washington DC. Program responsibilities included outdoor recreation, land acquisition, special uses, heritage, wilderness management, federal energy regulatory commission relicensing, landscape architecture, trails management, and provided leadership in maintaining the integrity and quality of scenic resources and recreation settings. Ramiro received the prestigious ASLA LaGasse Medal for his lifetime achievements.



## **John McCarty, ASLA, USDOJ Bureau of Land Management**

John is the Bureau of Land Management's Chief Landscape Architect and Visual Resource Management (VRM) National Program Manager. Central to his responsibility is the development and oversight of national policy that directs the management of visual resources, designation of backcountry byways, and implementation of sustainable landscape architectural design principles. He imparts landscape architecture leadership in the national discussion on outdoor recreation, renewable energy, electrical transmission, fluid minerals, transportation, and land use planning. Mr. McCarty coordinates and oversees VRM training curricula. He is also engaged with advancing research on new technologies to resolve the visual challenges of large-scale energy development.



## **Mark Meyer, ASLA, USDOJ National Park Service**

Landscape architect with over 35-years of experience in land use planning, site design, and natural resource planning. Prior to joining the Park Service experience included visual assessments for pipelines and transmission lines, and visual inventories for BLM land. Currently is developing a visual program to provide service-wide consistency in the inventory and evaluation of the visual landscape. Also provides technical assistance to parks and assists in the incorporation of visual resources into park planning documents. Received his Bachelor of Science in Design and Master of Natural Sciences from Arizona State University.

