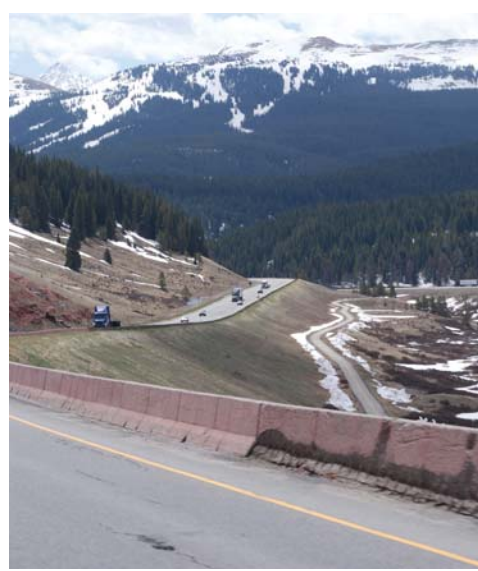
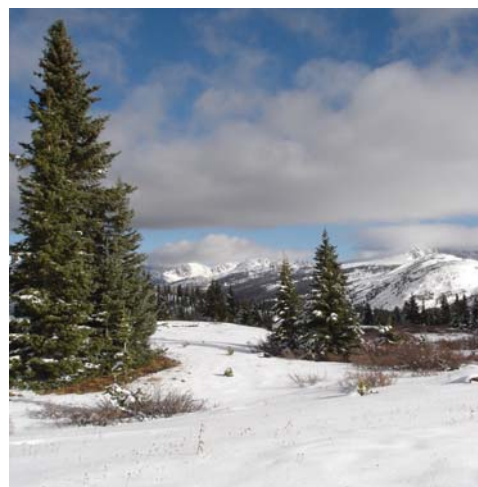


Visual Resources

Types of Impacts

- Visual impacts are generally described by the degree of visual contrast.
 - Large and/or multiple transportation components result in higher visual contrast
 - Components fewer in number, lower in diversity, and smaller in size result in less visual contrast.
 - Visual impacts are less pronounced in diverse landscapes
- Alternatives with larger footprints or more elevated features are more likely to be visible and perceived as having a negative visual impact.
 - Visual impacts of the Minimal Action alternative are limited to specific locations of interchange or highway actions.
 - Highway alternatives expand the highway footprint and further degrade the visual landscape by increasing manmade features.
 - Transit alternatives introduce a new transportation mode; associated landform changes and introduction of structural elements create a noticeable change in setting throughout the Corridor. The Advanced Guideway System creates a strong visual contrast because is elevated and requires supporting piers every 80 to 100 feet.
 - Combination alternatives, including the Preferred Alternative, combine highway and transit components and create the highest level of visual contrast.
- Induced growth results in visual changes from development and land use conversion in urban and rural areas; growth in rural areas could reduce natural buffer areas around towns and change the Corridor character.
- Development around transit stations will change the visual setting around specific station locations.



Mitigation Strategies

- Mitigation strategies for visual resources will be defined in Tier 2 processes
- All Tier 2 processes will follow the I-70 Mountain Corridor Context Sensitive Solutions process to collaborate with Corridor stakeholders to assess and reduce visual contrast of any improvements.
- The lead agencies will follow the following plans or processes in Tier 2 processes:
 - Follow I-70 Mountain Corridor Context Sensitive Solutions Aesthetic Guidelines
 - Comply with United States Forest Service, Bureau of Land Management, and local Corridor jurisdictions' visual standards.
 - Create Aesthetic Plans and Lighting Plans
 - Create Visual Impact and Mitigation Plans to address:
 - » Past visual impacts and scarring
 - » Project-related visual impacts
 - » Options for rockfall mitigation measures

