



Existing Scenic Integrity: High, with Areas of Low. This existing landscape view is from the Pacific Crest National Scenic Trail about ¼ miles west of Big Buck Camp, looking north. The landscape visible from the PCT is predominantly natural-appearing, consisting of a foreground and middleground landscape with dense, dark green Douglas fir, oak, and pine trees on north-facing slopes and chaparral shrubs with widely scattered pine trees on south-facing slopes, creating a mosaic of patterns scattered across these steep mountainsides. The natural landscape has a good coherence of form and character with substantial visual variety. The natural landscape exhibits a high degree of intactness, or scenic integrity, except for the few distinct manmade features – the transmission lines with industrial-character, tall, geometric lattice towers. Access and spur roads to the existing towers are evident and attract attention. When viewed for long durations in the foreground or middleground, as when hiking on the PCT, the existing transmission line towers are very evident as vertical, angular structures that create glare and contrast with the natural landscape. These discordant features attract attention from the harmony of the natural form and character of the landscape, especially transmission towers that are in the foreground or are silhouetted against the skyline in the middleground. These discordant elements do not borrow form, line, color or texture from the natural-appearing landscape, and create a moderately altered landscape. Therefore, the existing transmission line towers meet the definition of low inherent scenic integrity.

Scenic Integrity Objective: High. In the 2005 Forest Plan, the entire landscape in this vicinity is mapped as High SIO, where the management direction states that human activities should not be visually evident. Human-caused deviations may be present but must repeat the form, line, color, texture, and pattern common to the natural landscape character so completely and at such a scale that they are not evident.

Figure 3.14-29a
Existing Conditions
for KOP-Center-14
Pacific Crest Trail
(Alternative 2, Segment 11)

Source: Lee Anderson, 2007.