



Existing Scenic Integrity: High, with Areas of Unacceptably Low. This existing landscape view is from the northbound lane of the Angeles Forest Highway headed north from Mill Creek Summit toward Lancaster and Palmdale. Although the immediate foreground is dominated by the highway itself, NFS lands visible from the Angeles Forest Highway are predominantly natural-appearing, consisting of middleground and background views to brush-covered hillsides and rounded landforms that contain and enframe the overall composition. The vegetation is finely-textured brushfields with many hues of dark- and medium-green colors and tan-colored, grassy mountainsides in the background. The landscape exhibits a high degree of intactness and coherence of form and character with a moderate amount of visual variety. However, this harmony of form and character is punctuated on the skyline by the dark brown and gray vertical lines and geometric forms of the existing 220-kV transmission line towers. Existing transmission lines are visible as discordant visual elements in the foreground along the highway for more than three miles. Overall, the existing scenic integrity of this NFS landscape is high, with very few deviations of form, line, color, texture, or scale. However, the size and scale of existing skylined transmission towers, with their inherent industrial character, are excessive and totally dominate the natural-appearing landscape character. This reduces certain areas of the existing landscape to levels of unacceptably low 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 3.14-17a
Existing Conditions
for KOP-Center-2
Northbound Angeles
Forest Highway
(Alternative 2, Segment 6)

Source: Lee Anderson, 2007.