

GROWING SMART

Viewsheds on High Knob

Viewsheds — or the landscape visible from a given point— are key to maintaining the scenic character of mountainous regions like High Knob. The below tips can help landowners and planners think smart about viewshed impacts in our region.



A tale of two viewsheds: a forested vista along Stone Mountain (top) and a viewshed heavily impacted by intensive clearcutting above the City of Norton and Powell Valley (bottom).

Tip 1: Value Our Vistas

Scenic vistas are a valuable tourism asset, but construction and resource extraction on elevated ridgelines can scar vistas for decades. Consider how land-clearing on your property might impact the view from nearby communities, and avoid intensive land-clearing efforts.

Tip 2: Try a Viewshed Analysis

Before planning a project that involves land-clearing or timber removal, consider performing a viewshed analysis. These analyses allow you to visualize how a vista may be impacted by development activities and can guide project planning. More info is available via the link at the bottom of this page.

Tip 3: Be a Good Neighbor

If your project might impact a viewshed, consider starting a conversation with stakeholders who live within the impacted area. They may have valuable knowledge that can help make sure your project minimizes damaging scenic assets and shared community vistas.

Tip 4: Use Low-Impact Practices

If viewshed impacts are unavoidable, design your project to minimize them as much as is possible. Options include using low-glare lighting and choosing responsible timber harvesting methods instead of invasive clearcuts removing many acres of forest cover.



Learn more about viewsheds and access resources to assist in planning development projects in Chapter 7 of the free *Growing Smart on High Knob* planning blueprint. Available at <http://bit.ly/highknobblueprint>