

Would you like to learn how to better communicate planning alternatives to local stakeholders?

Learn about CanVis: A Visual Simulation Tool for Resource Planning

Despite the use of plans and written descriptions, many people still have difficulty conceptualizing what a proposed activity will look like on their landscape after it has matured. Now, with the aid of image-editing software, you can create photo-realistic visual simulations of proposed projects to help convey practice or system alternatives.

What is visual simulation?




Visual simulations graphically represent what a proposed activity would look like on the land from a particular viewpoint. Simulations communicate ideas in ways that plan drawings and words cannot, making this technology appropriate for any activity, program, or project where visualization would enhance communication. A simulation can be used as:

- A planning and design tool to present alternatives and solicit feedback
- A method of documenting and analyzing visual impacts
- A training aid to help employees visualize new concepts
- A marketing aid for new programs and activities
- A construction aid to contractors
- A post-construction evaluation tool to assess project compliance

Simulations encourage stakeholders to invest time in the planning process and offer feedback on alternatives. This participatory process greatly increases a sense of ownership in a plan, which leads to enhanced acceptance and adoption of the proposed action. Simulations can also help shorten the time it takes to plan because decisions can be made more quickly since planning options are easier to understand.

CanVis is an entry-level program that allows for the creation of photo-realistic simulations with minimal computer skills. However, two types of skills will aid in creating realistic simulations:

- The ability to read site plans and understand spatial relationships of proposed design features.
- Basic knowledge of land surveying, drafting, and construction as well as art and computer graphics.

CanVis is a product of  a partnership of  

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