

Unit 3.5 Plan Goals, Objectives, and Alternatives



Unit Objectives

- ◆ Define vision, goals, objectives and alternatives within the planning context
- ◆ Describe collaborator roles in development of vision, goals, objectives and alternatives
- ◆ Write goal and objective statements and alternatives
- ◆ Describe the role of alternatives in the planning process
- ◆ List the steps in the adaptive management process

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Definitions

- **Vision**—expression of desired future conditions from an experiential viewpoint
- **Goals**—broad statements of desired outcomes, usually not quantifiable
- **Standards**—descriptions of bio-physical conditions re. healthy sustainable lands

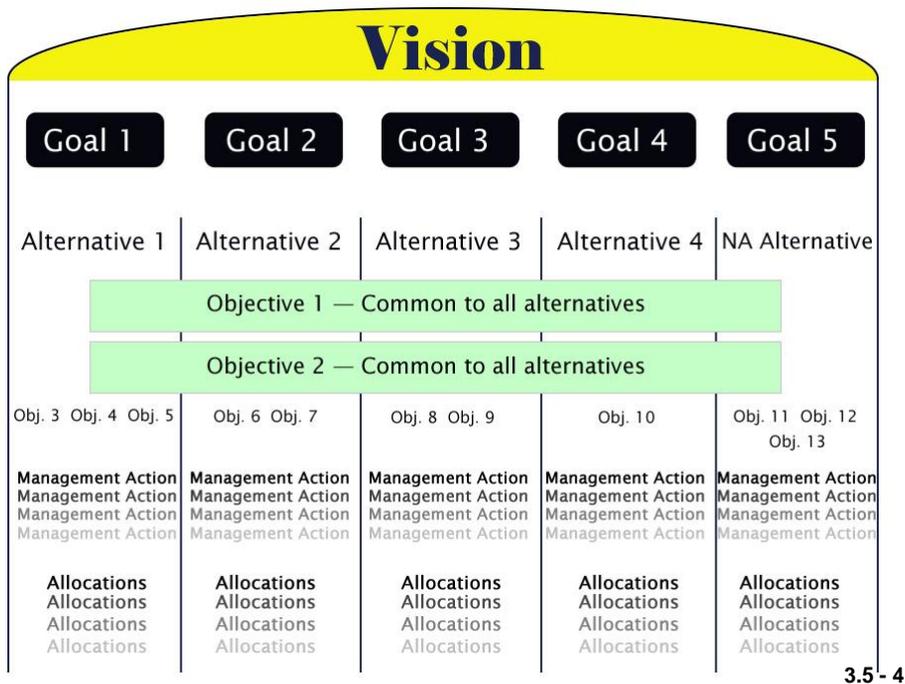


See "Types of Land Use Plan Decisions" outline in Appendix A of course notebook 3.5 - 2

Definitions (Cont.)

- **Alternatives**—groupings of management actions
- **Themes**—the general look & feel of an alternative
- **Objectives**—specific desired conditions for resources, with established timeframes, are quantifiable and measurable
- **Management Actions**—activities are needed to articulate desired outcomes, including protective measures and criteria that will be applied to guide day-to-day activities

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Writing a Vision Statement

- Should include all interested parties
- Jointly developed vision statement makes for a stronger planning process and builds supportive relationships (better “buy in”) early in the process
- Incorporate proclamations, directives, etc.
- Describe how the planning area should look, feel, sound
- Include social and economic aspects

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Writing Goal Statements

- Should include partners in development
- More specific and focused than vision statements
- One set of goals for all alternatives
- Describe desired outcomes, or conditions, of the social, economic and bio-physical environment
- Attempt to integrate resources, rather than having 1 or more goals per resource

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Role of Collaborators in Developing Goals

- Joint visioning
- Who does it?
- How is it done?
- How to get buy-off



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Incorporating Land Health Standards

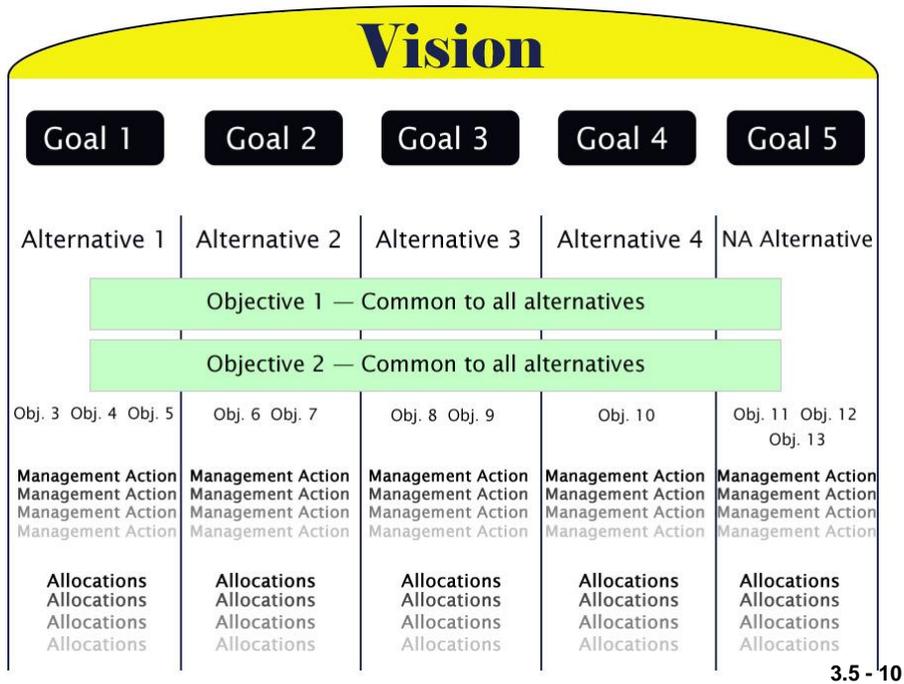
- May involve partners
- One set of standards for all alternatives

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Exercise G. Write a Vision Statement and Goals

- Each small group will write a concise vision statement for your planning area.
- Then write a goal statement(s) for one of the topics listed
 1. Ecosystem health, management and restoration.
 2. Recreation management
 3. Economic health and sustainability of local communities
 4. Endangered and threatened species
 5. Integration and consideration of American Indian tribal issues and issues of other special populations (per Environmental Justice)
 6. Water quality

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Definition of a Plan Alternative

A combination of proposed activities, resource uses, and management practices designed to meet stated goals



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Contents of a Plan Alternative: BLM Handbook Requirements

- How the alternative meets the plan's goals (e.g., how it relates to the purpose and need)
 - ◆ Objectives for each resource
 - ◆ Designation of land allocations
 - ◆ Allowable, conditional, and prohibited land uses and management actions to achieve stated objectives
 - ◆ Land tenure and future land acquisition policies
- Ask your program lead for additional guidance regarding a particular resource or program

Appendices C, D, & F in BLM Planning Handbook; BLM Manual Sec. 1613 (ACECs)

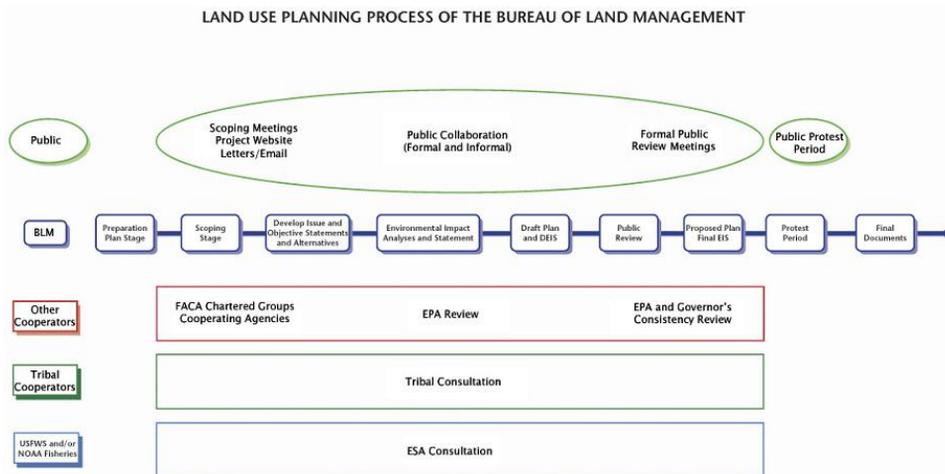
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Writing Objectives



- May involve partners
- Statements regarding the desired condition for resources addressed
- Should be quantifiable and measurable
- Can include established time frames for achievement
- Can vary among alternatives

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Importance of Objectives

- Objectives drive the definitions of the alternative
- Writing S.M.A.R.T. objectives
 - ◆ S = Specific
 - ◆ M = Measurable
 - ◆ A = Achievable
 - ◆ R = Reasonable
 - ◆ T = Trackable
- Consider including adaptive management and monitoring within objectives

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Elements of a Plan Alternative: Land Allocations

- Generally can be depicted as a line on a map delineating an area with a certain management focus, for example:
 - ◆ Special area designations (ACEC, Wild and Scenic River, etc.)
 - ◆ Open, closed or limited OHV areas
 - ◆ Riparian management areas
 - ◆ Areas open or closed to mineral leasing

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Elements of a Plan Alternative: Management Actions

- Statements of management activities, or land uses that are:
 - ◆ allowed
 - ◆ restricted
 - ◆ excluded
- Tie to objectives
- Basis for subsequent implementation and effectiveness monitoring

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Elements of a Plan Alternative: Land Tenure

- Identify lands available for disposal
- List criteria under which land would be acquired
- Identify proposed withdrawal areas and right-of-way corridors
- Specify where and when major leases may occur
- BLM Planning Handbook, Appendix C, pages 20-23

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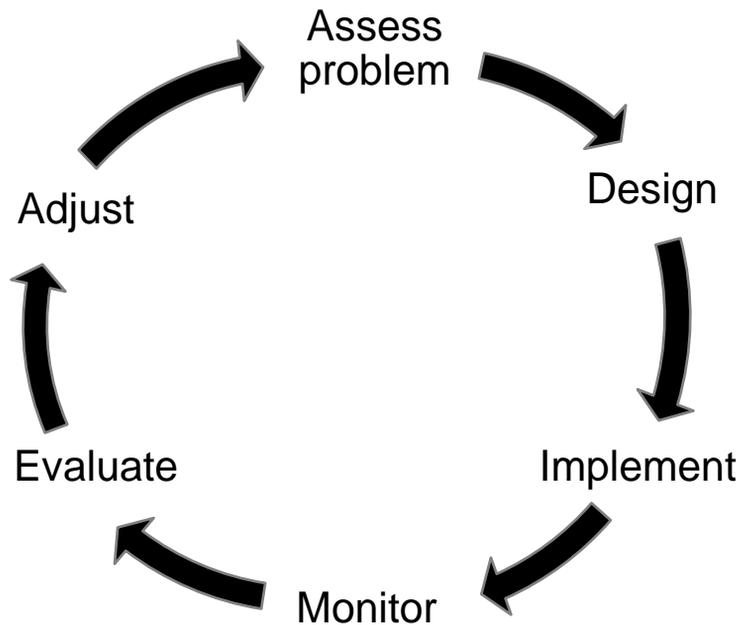
Adaptive Management is...



- A learning-based decision process that promotes flexible decision making that can be adjusted in the face of uncertainties as outcomes from management actions and other events become better understood.
- See full definition in *USDOI Technical Guide on Adaptive Management, 2007*.

<http://www.doi.gov/initiatives/AdaptiveManagement/documents.html>

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Adaptive Management Technical Guide

- ◆ What is adaptive management?
- ◆ When should it be used?
- ◆ How should it be implemented?
- ◆ When is it successful?
- ◆ Other operational issues

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Implementing Adaptive Management

- Set-up Phase (5 steps)
 - ◆ Ensure stakeholders are committed throughout the process.
 - ◆ Identify clear, measurable, agreed-upon objectives.
 - ◆ Identify a set of potential management actions.
 - ◆ Identify models that characterize different ideas about how the system works.
 - ◆ Design & implement a monitoring plan to track resource status and other key resource attributes.

DOI Adaptive Management Technical Guide pages 21-32

3.5 – 22a

Implementing Adaptive Management

- Iterative Phase (4 steps)
 - ◆ Select management actions based on objectives, resource conditions, and understanding (decision making).
 - ◆ Use monitoring to track system response to management actions.
 - ◆ Improve understanding of resource dynamics (assessment).
 - ◆ Cycle back to Step 6, which is decision making.

DOI Adaptive Management Technical Guide pages 33-37

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Non-Adaptive Measure

- When activity X occurs with 100 feet of streams, new plantings of xyz are required within 90 days.



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Adaptive Measure

- When activity X occurs with 100 feet of streams
- BLM shall require applicant to:
 - ◆ Establish desired condition for restoration efforts
 - ◆ Plant species A in accordance with certain prescriptions
 - ◆ BLM biologist to monitor every six months
 - ◆ If Species A fails to meet certain indicators, then re-plant
 - ◆ Monitor again, if still failure, then
 - ◆ Plant species B
 - ◆ Monitor again to determine success
 - ◆ Continue until success threshold is achieved and you learn more about the system

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Relationship to NEPA

- In the EIS, analyze all reasonably foreseeable effects of potential management actions, including adaptive management actions.
- If actions to meet objectives (based on monitoring results) are *within* range of analysis, then no new NEPA analysis.
- If actions to meet objectives are *outside* initial EIS analysis, then new NEPA analysis must be done before management actions are implemented.

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To Learn More About Adaptive Management

- NTC's Knowledge Resource Center
www.blm.gov/ntc/st/en/knowledge_resource.html
 - ◆ Adaptive Management Overview & Orientation (05/24/07 broadcast, 90 min)
 - ◆ Implementing Adaptive Management: Set-up Phase (09/27/07 broadcast, 120 min)
 - ◆ Implementing Adaptive Management: Iterative Phase (11/29/07 broadcast, 120 min)
- DOI Adaptive Management Website
www.doi.gov/initiatives/AdaptiveManagement/index.html.
- BLM will develop bureau-specific training, as are other bureaus

Adaptive Mgmt Technical Guide can be downloaded from DOI AM Website

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Rules Regarding EIS Alternatives

- Explain why certain alternatives were eliminated
- Describe alternative ways to meet purpose and need
- Describe “No-Action” Alternative
- Evaluate and compare alternatives
- Identify preferred alternative
- Identify environmentally preferable alternative
- Incorporate mitigation measures for alternatives

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Alternatives Development

- Collaborative input starts informally in Preparation Plan stage and more formally from the scoping stage onward
- Alternative themes may be identified in Preparation Plan (during scoping process)
- Alternatives may be raised during public review of draft (or possibly even the review of the final)

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Differences among Alternatives

- Different levels or degrees of protection for each resource and use
- Different approaches to management for each resource and use
- Different mix of allowable, conditional, and prohibited uses in various geographic areas
- Different levels and methods for restoration

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Naming Alternatives

- Thematic names (e.g., recreation-oriented alternatives)
- Magnitude and intensity alternatives (e.g., high-yield, low-yield)
- Nondescriptive alternatives (e.g., A, B)



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How Many Alternatives Are Necessary?

- No specific number required: “a reasonable range”
- Alternatives must allow a true choice of ways to meet the Purpose and Need (vision/goals)
- “No-Action Alternative” must be analyzed with the range of alternatives (typically continuation of existing plan)

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No-Action Alternative

- Required by NEPA
- Probably does not meet purpose and need, goals, objectives
- Serves as important point of comparison
- Demonstrates what would happen without a new plan
- For RMP, No Action is current management/existing plan

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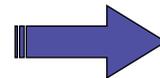
Alternatives Eliminated from Detailed Consideration

- Draft Plan/EIS must include explanations why they were eliminated (related to screening factors)
- Explanation becomes an important part of administrative record

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Factors Used in Alternative Screening

- Meets purpose and need
- Compliance with applicable laws, regulations, proclamations, etc.
- Compliance with planning criteria
- Compliance with land health standards
- Feasible



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Factors Used in Alternative Screening (Cont.)

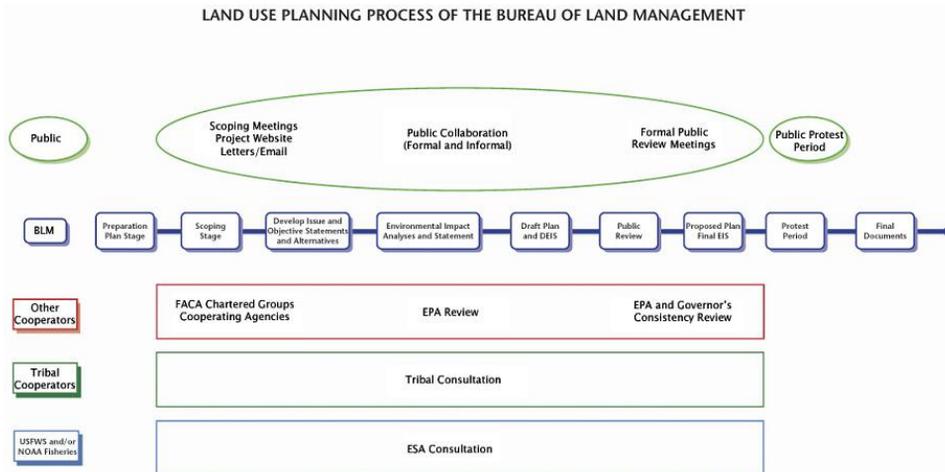
- Can be monitored
- Adaptable
- Collaborator support
- Need for application of professional judgment

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Exercise H. Write Alternatives, Objectives, and Management Actions

- Each small group will write a theme for two alternatives.
- Using the vision statement and goal(s) you wrote for Exercise G, and the alternative themes you wrote in Step 1, write a SMART (specific, measurable, achievable, reasonable/realistic, trackable) objective that would fit under each alternative.
- Write one or more management actions to achieve each objective.

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Notes

- What I am going to do differently when I get back to my office based on what I learned in this section...

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