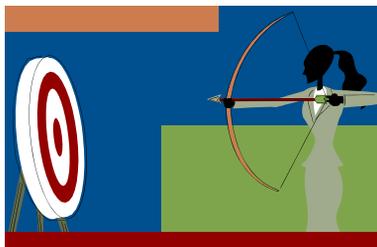




## Unit Objectives

- Accurately determine which impacts need to be evaluated for a land use plan
- Develop a matrix comparing the alternatives that is understandable to the public and decision makers



3.7 - 1

## **CEQ NEPA Regulations and BLM NEPA Handbook**

- BLM NEPA regulations require preparation of EIS that includes evaluation and comparison of plan alternatives



3.7 - 2

## **Importance of Comparing Alternatives**

- Comparative approach required by NEPA
- Helps the public and decision-makers understand the differences
- Forms basis for comparative analysis of impacts of each alternative

3.7 - 3

## No-Action Alternative

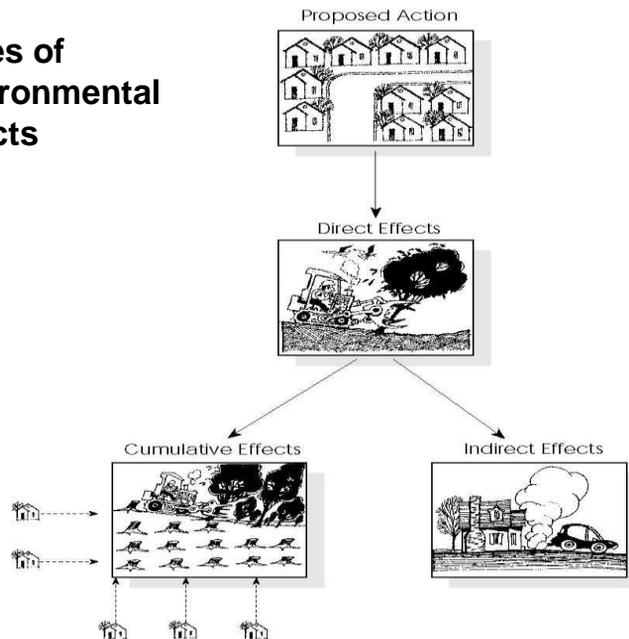


- According to CEQ, No Action Alternative for updating a land management plan, it is:
  - “no change” from the current management direction or level of management intensity; stated a different way, it is continuing with the present course of action until the action is changed
- To construct an alternative that is based on no management at all would be useless
- Projected impacts of alternative management schemes would be compared in the EIS to those impacts projected for the existing plan

CEQ 40 Questions (3)

3.7 - 4

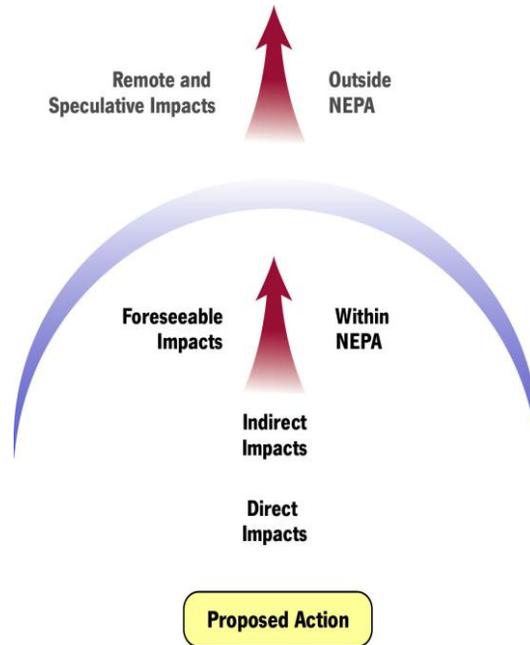
## Types of Environmental Effects



CEQ NEPA Regulations 40 CFR 1508.8; BLM NEPA Handbook glossary

3.7 - 5

## Determining Which Impacts Are Reasonably Foreseeable



3.7 - 6

## Growth-Inducing Impacts

- Estimate amount, location, and time frame of growth
- Apply impact assessment methodology
- Determine the impacts from growth

## Cumulative Impact Definition

- Results from incremental impact of the action
- Added to other past, present, and reasonably foreseeable future actions
- Regardless of what agency (federal or nonfederal) or person undertakes such other actions
- Can result from individually minor, but collectively significant, actions over time
- Assessment area based; not necessarily coincident with planning area boundary

3.7 - 8

## Cumulative Impacts: Approach to Analysis

- Identify resources important from cumulative impact perspective
- Determine geographic scope, timeframe for analysis
- Determine effects of alternatives
- Determine relevant past, present, reasonably foreseeable future actions
- Determine magnitude of cumulative effects

NTC has a 3 hr broadcast on cumulative impacts (for BLM only):  
[http://web.tc.blm.gov/Cumulative\\_Effects/Cumulative\\_Effects1.swf](http://web.tc.blm.gov/Cumulative_Effects/Cumulative_Effects1.swf)

3.7 - 9

## Key Features of Adequate Impact Assessment Narrative

- Succinct description of affected environment
- Nature and intensity of impacts
- Facts
- Reasoning
- Conclusions
- Assumptions used in the impact analysis

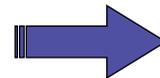
3.7 - 10

## BLM NEPA Handbook (1988)

NOTE: BLM's new improved NEPA Handbook will be available in Spring '08. Requirement to address all 14 critical elements has not been carried forward, but the concept remains.

The critical elements of the "human environment" include:

- ◆ Air quality
- ◆ Areas of critical concern
- ◆ Cultural resources
- ◆ Farm lands
- ◆ Floodplains
- ◆ Native American religious concerns



3.7 - 11

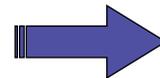
## BLM NEPA Handbook (1988) Critical Elements (Cont.)

- ◆ Threatened and endangered species
- ◆ Invasive, non-native species
- ◆ Wastes (hazardous and solid)
- ◆ Water quality (surface and ground)
- ◆ Wetlands/riparian zones
- ◆ Wild and scenic rivers
- ◆ Wilderness
- ◆ Environmental justice

3.7 - 12

## BLM Planning Regulations and Handbook Resource Considerations

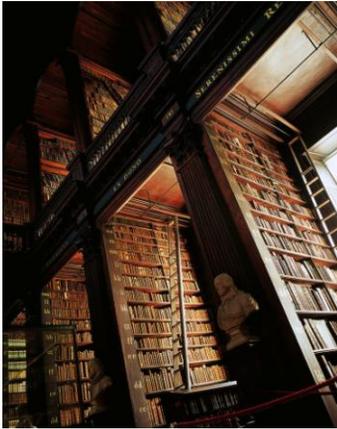
- Natural, biological, cultural resources:
  - ◆ Air
  - ◆ Soil and water
  - ◆ Vegetation (forests and woodlands, rangelands, riparian and wetlands)
  - ◆ Special status species
  - ◆ Fish and wildlife
  - ◆ Wild horses and burros
  - ◆ Cultural resources
  - ◆ Paleontology
  - ◆ Visual resources
  - ◆ Wildland Fire management
  - ◆ Wilderness characteristics
  - ◆ Cave and karst resources



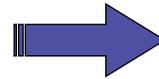
BLM Planning Handbook Appendix C

3.7 - 13

## BLM Planning Regulations and Handbook Resource Considerations



- Resource Uses:
  - ◆ Forestry
  - ◆ Livestock grazing
  - ◆ Recreation and visitor services
  - ◆ Comprehensive trails and travel management
  - ◆ Lands and realty
  - ◆ Coal, oil, and shale
  - ◆ Fluid minerals
  - ◆ Locatable minerals, mineral materials, and non-energy leasable minerals



H-1601-1 Appendix C

3.7 - 14

## BLM Planning Regulations and Handbook Resource Considerations

- Special Designations:
  - ◆ Congressional designations
  - ◆ Administrative designations
- Support:
  - ◆ Cadastral (boundary management)
  - ◆ Interpretation and environmental education
  - ◆ Transportation and facilities

H-1601-1 Appendix C

3.7 - 15

## NEPA Analysis of Social and Economic Conditions

- Economic, Social
- Environmental Justice
- Health and Safety
  - ◆ Abandoned Mines
  - ◆ Debris Flows
  - ◆ Hazardous Materials
- Indian Trust Resources
- BLM Planning Handbook, Appendix D

IM 2003-169 (Using EPS in Planning), IM 2006-112 Minimum Quals for Socioeconomic Contractors; Guidance for Consideration of EJ in NEPA (EPA); EJ Guidance (CEQ).

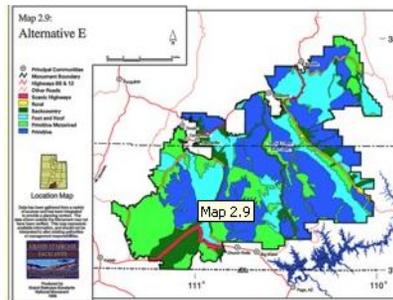
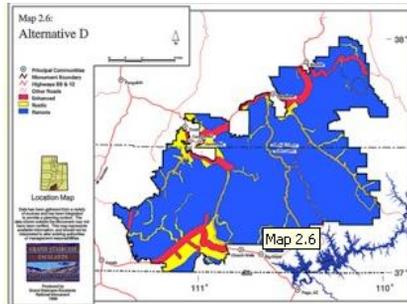
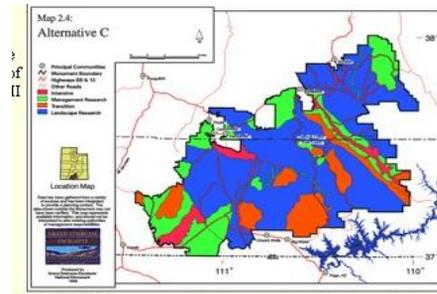
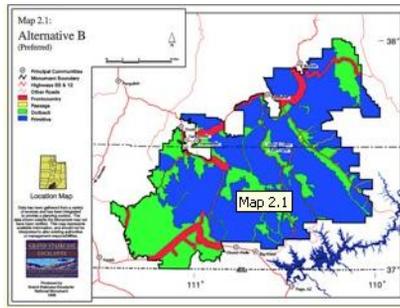
3.7 - 16

## Comparison of Alternatives Examples

**Table 4-19. Extents of Habitats that Have Declined Substantially within Six Categories of Terrestrial Communities, Current and by Alternative at 100 years.**

Terrestrial Community Category	Current	Alternative S1	Alternative S2	Alternative S3
		<i>Percent of Historical Levels</i>		
Subalpine Forest <sup>1</sup>	21	122	123	123
Montane Forest <sup>2</sup>	36	62	64	64
Lower Montane Forest <sup>3</sup>	29	77	79	78
Upland Woodland <sup>4</sup>	55	229	231	230
Upland Shrubland <sup>5</sup>	63	41	42	42
Upland Herbland <sup>6</sup>	33	82	80	80

3.7 - 17

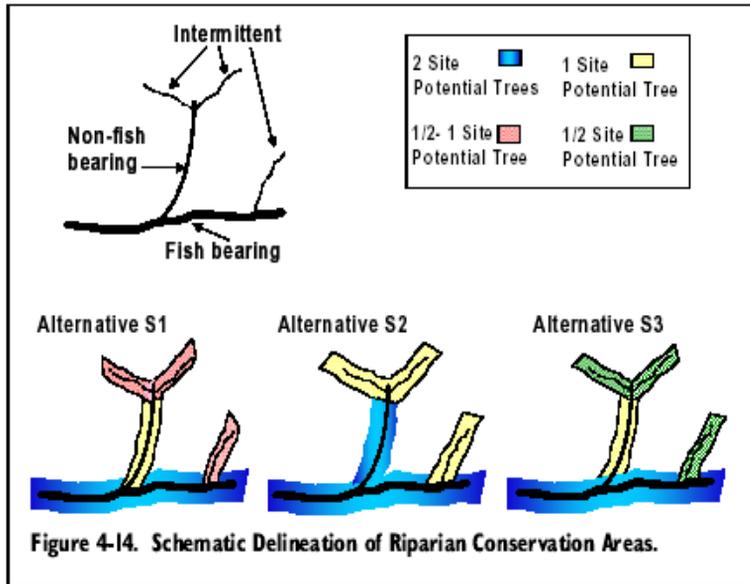


3.7 - 18

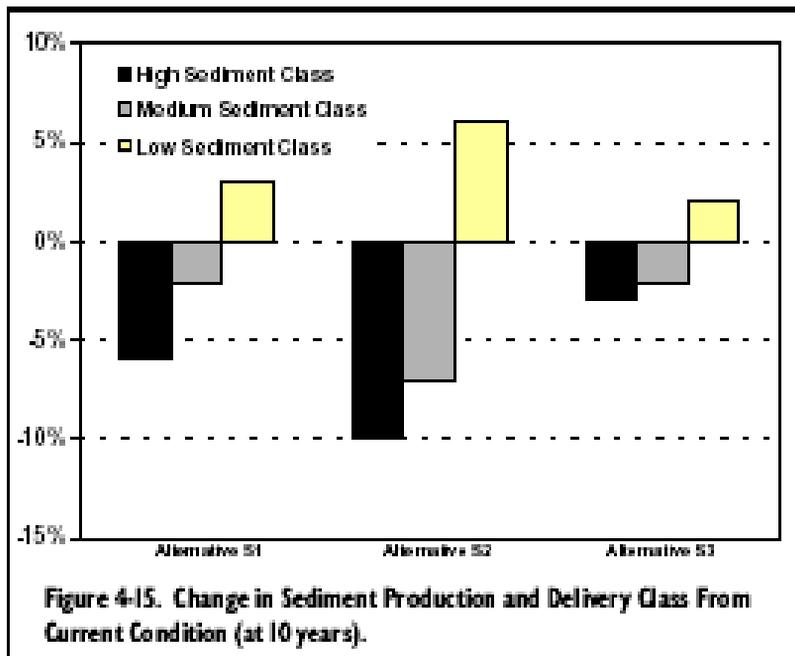
**Table 4-41. Projected Acres of Prescribed Fire and Fuels Management, by RAC/PAC and Alternative, Annual Average First Decade,<sup>1</sup> Project Area.**

RAC/PAC	Alt. S1		Change from S1		Alt. S3		Change from S1	
	Alt. S1	Alt. S2	Acres	%	Alt. S3	Acres	%	
Butte RAC	24,400	211,800	187,400	768	200,900	176,500	723	
Klamath PAC	13,100	43,300	30,200	231	37,200	24,100	184	
Deschutes PAC	24,300	79,400	55,100	227	80,200	55,900	230	
John Day-Snake RAC	46,400	484,800	438,400	945	366,500	320,100	690	
Southeastern Oregon RAC	33,900	313,000	279,100	823	182,100	148,200	437	
Lower Snake River RAC	2,600	26,100	23,500	904	10,700	8,100	312	
Upper Snake River RAC	3,500	17,300	13,800	394	18,600	15,100	431	
Upper Columbia-Salmon Clearwater RAC R4	17,700	98,700	81,000	458	84,800	67,100	379	
Eastern Washington	2,600	33,500	30,900	1,188	26,500	23,900	919	
Yakima PAC	0	100	100	nc	0	0	nc	
Eastern Washington Cascades	800	14,300	13,500	1,688	10,800	10,000	1,250	
Upper Columbia-Salmon Clearwater RAC R1	11,700	134,200	122,500	1,047	91,400	79,700	681	
<b>Total Project Area (FS-BLM Lands)</b>	<b>181,100</b>	<b>1,456,400</b>	<b>1,275,300</b>	<b>704</b>	<b>1,109,900</b>	<b>928,800</b>	<b>513</b>	

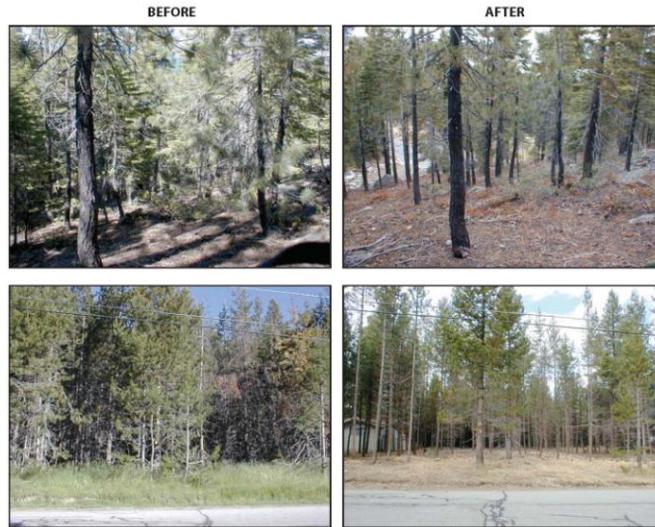
3.7 - 19



3.7 - 20



3.7 - 21



**Figure 3. Representative Forest Stands in the Lake Tahoe Basin Management Unit before and after Fuel-Reduction Treatments**

3.7 - 22

## **Exercise J. Types of Impacts**

- Each small group will list what impacts would occur and how they should be evaluated.
  1. Impacts to air and/or water and/or soils (depending on the expertise in your group)
  2. Impacts to special status species (listed or candidate or sensitive fish, wildlife, plants)
  3. Impacts to historical and/or archaeological and/or tribal resources
  4. Impacts to vegetation
  5. Social and/or economic impacts to the local communities
  6. Impacts to recreation (including visual resources)

3.7 - 23