

Exercise 10 – Preferred Alternative

Purpose:

The purpose of this exercise is to define the criteria you'll use to screen and identify your preferred alternative.

The BLM must determine which alternative would most likely achieve the desired outcomes defined in the plan. Rather than randomly selecting the alternative in the middle, it's more strategic to develop a list of criteria against which you will screen the alternatives. The criteria should be identified early in the planning process.

At the end of this exercise, you should have a preliminary list of selection criteria, developed with input from your non-BLM partners, with which the decision maker will identify the preferred alternative.

Instructions:

Individually...

1. Review the guidance for identifying a preferred alternative.
 - BLM Planning Handbook, section III.A.7.
 - BLM Planning Regulations, 43 CFR 1610.4-7.

You'll notice that the handbook is much more specific than the regulations.

As an interdisciplinary team...

1. Select a team member to write on the flipcharts.
2. Brainstorm various screening criteria for the alternatives, beginning with the list in the Planning Handbook.
3. Go through the list again, combining similar criteria, deleting criteria that don't fit or don't make sense, and rewriting criteria to be clearer. Be as specific as possible (for example, don't use "DOI Strategic Plan" as a criterion—that's a 100-page document. Instead, use something more like "Protect cultural and natural heritage resources".)
4. Continue working the list until you have a draft list of specific criteria that everyone on the team can accept.

Approximate Time:

Individual tasks – 15 minutes

ID Team tasks – 90 minutes