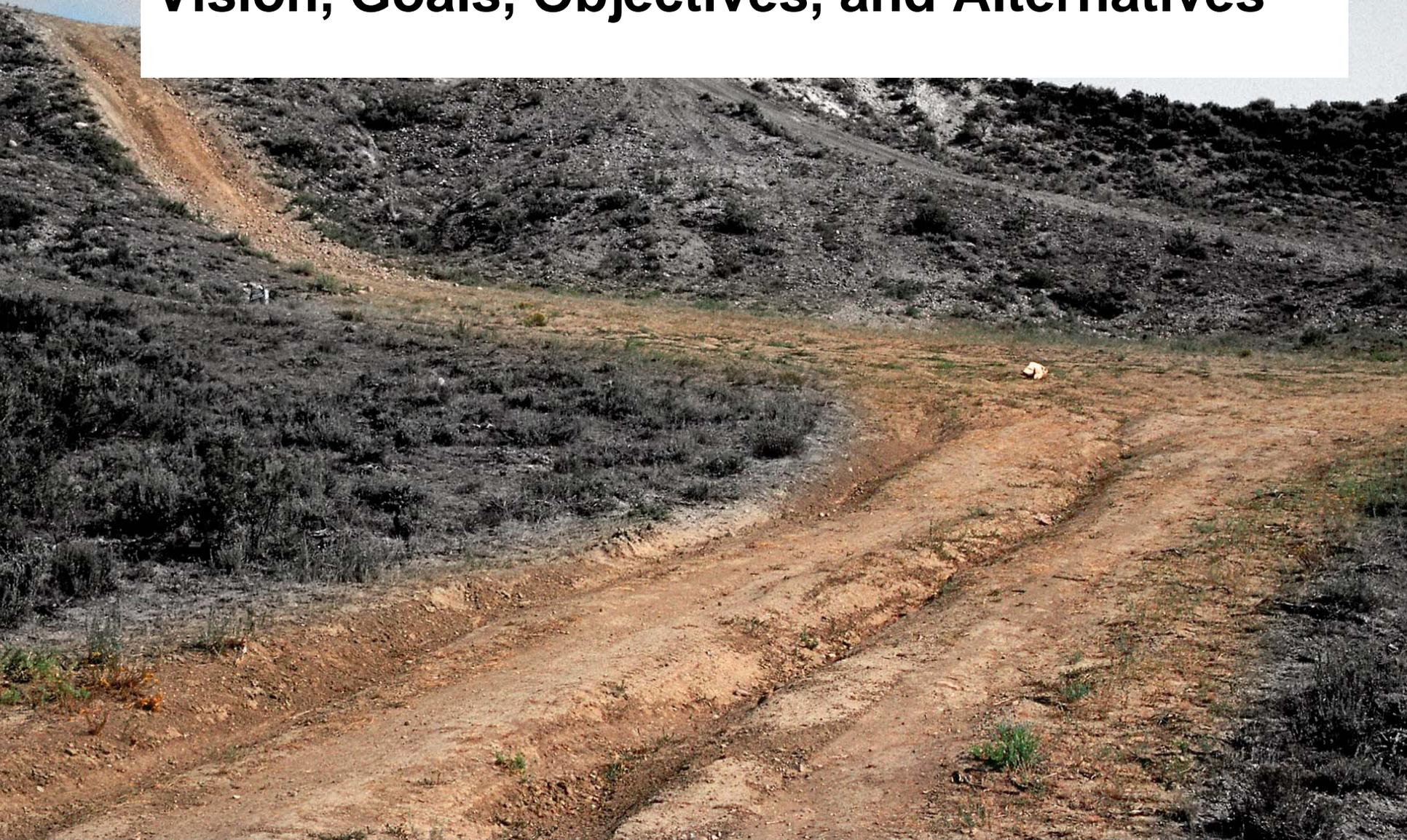
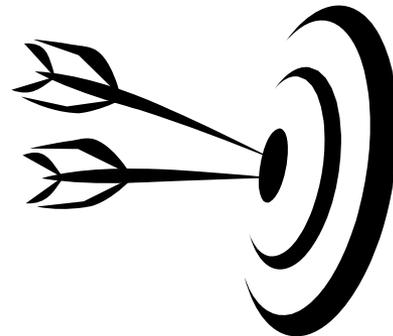


Vision, Goals, Objectives, and Alternatives



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.



Definitions

- **Vision**—expression of long-term desired conditions from an experiential viewpoint.
- **Goal**—broad statement of desired outcomes, usually not quantifiable.
- **Standard**—description of bio-physical conditions regarding healthy sustainable lands.



Definitions (Cont.)

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

Vision

Goal 1

Goal 2

Goal 3

Goal 4

Goal 5

Alternative 1

Alternative 2

Alternative 3

Alternative 4

NA Alternative

Objective 1 — Common to all alternatives

Objective 2 — Common to all alternatives

Obj. 3 Obj. 4 Obj. 5

Obj. 6 Obj. 7

Obj. 8 Obj. 9

Obj. 10

Obj. 11 Obj. 12
Obj. 13

Management Action
Management Action
Management Action
Management Action

Allocations
Allocations
Allocations
Allocations

Writing a Vision Statement

- Should include partners.
- 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.

Suggested Activity: develop a vision statement with your partners (see tab for Exercise 7).

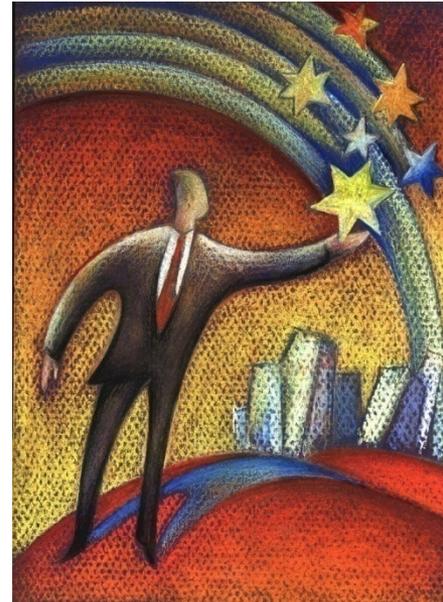
Writing Goal Statements



- Should include partners.
- More specific and focused than vision statements.
- Common set of goals for all alternatives.
- Describe desired outcomes, or conditions, of the social, economic, and bio-physical environment.
- Attempt to integrate resources into a handful of goals, rather than having one or more goals per resource.

Role of Collaborators in Developing Vision and Goals

- Who does it?
- How is it done?
- How do you get buy-off?
- What are the benefits and drawbacks?



Incorporating Land Health Standards

- What is a land health standard?
 - An expression of levels of physical and biological condition or degree of function required for healthy lands and sustainable uses, and define minimum resource conditions that must be achieved and maintained.
- Each state has a set of standards for public land health that must be included in the RMP.
- These standards are common to all alternatives.



Definition of a Plan Alternative

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



Contents of a Plan Alternative: BLM Planning Handbook Requirements

- A description of 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.

Elements of a Plan Alternative: Objectives

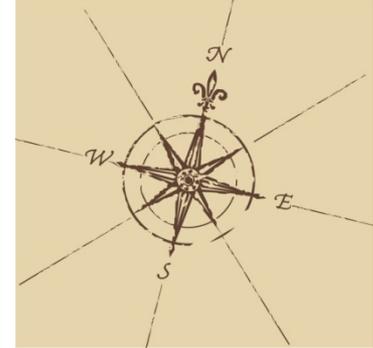


- May involve partners.
- Should be statements regarding the desired condition of resources addressed.
- Should be quantifiable and measurable.
- Can include established time frames for achievement.
- Can vary among alternatives.

Importance of Objectives

- Objectives drive the composition of the alternative.
- Write S.M.A.R.T. objectives.
 - **S** = Specific
 - **M** = Measurable
 - **A** = Achievable
 - **R** = Reasonable
 - **T** = Trackable
- Consider including adaptive management and monitoring within objectives.
- The indicators associated with Land Health Standards are one possible source of objectives.

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)
 - Open, closed, or limited OHV areas
 - Riparian management areas
 - Areas open mineral leasing with restrictions

Elements of a Plan Alternative: Management Actions

- Management activities or land uses that are:
 - allowed
 - restricted
 - prohibited
- Tie to objectives
- Basis for subsequent implementation and effectiveness monitoring



Elements of a Plan Alternative: Land Tenure

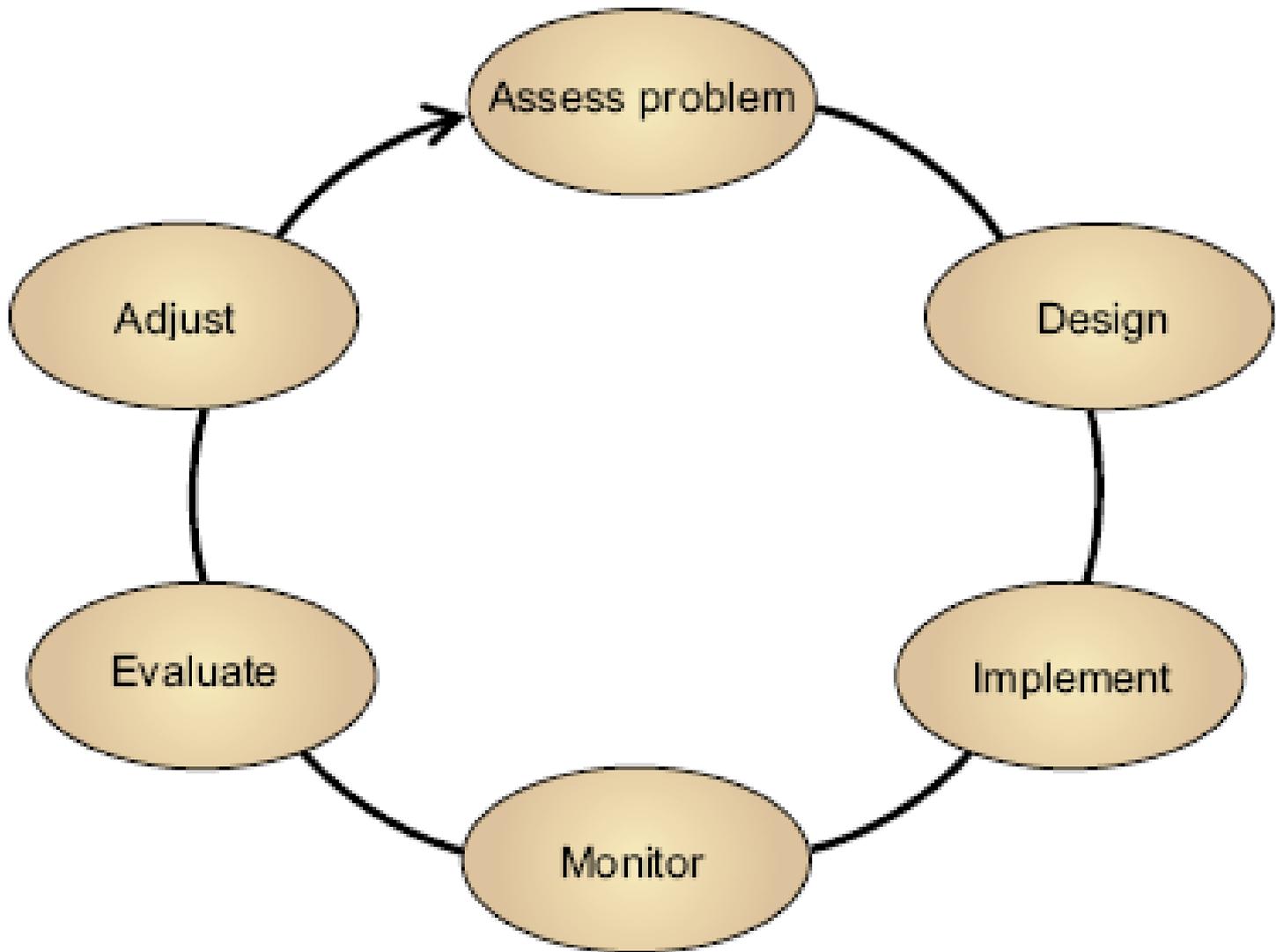
- Identify lands available for disposal.
- List criteria under which land would be acquired.
- Identify proposed withdrawal areas and right-of-way corridors.
- Specify where and when major leases may occur.
- BLM Planning Handbook, Appendix C, pages 20-23.

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 the full definition in *USDO/ Technical Guide on Adaptive Management* (2007).

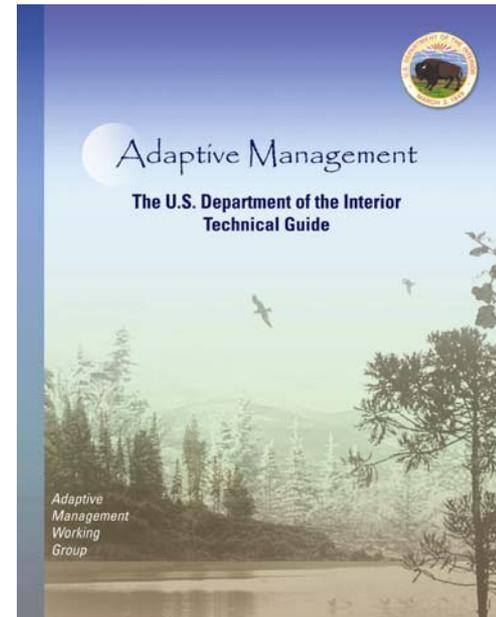


Adaptive Management Process



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



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 and implement a monitoring plan to track resource status and other key resource attributes.

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 (decision making).

Adaptive Management: 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 is required.
- If actions to meet objectives are *outside* the initial EIS analysis, then new NEPA analysis must be done before management actions are implemented.

To Learn More About Adaptive Management

- NTC's Knowledge Resource Center
(<http://www.ntc.blm.gov/krc/>)
 - 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)
- DOI Adaptive Management Technical Guide
(<http://www.doi.gov/initiatives/AdaptiveManagement/documents.html>)

Rules Regarding EIS Alternatives

- Explain why certain alternatives were eliminated.
- Describe alternative ways to meet purpose and need.
- Describe the no action alternative.
- Evaluate and compare alternatives.
- Identify the preferred alternative.
- Identify the environmentally preferable alternative (final EIS only).
- Incorporate mitigation measures for alternatives.

Alternatives Development

- Collaborative input starts informally in the preparation plan stage and more formally from the scoping stage onward.
- Alternative themes may be identified in the preparation plan.
- Alternatives may be suggested during public review of draft (or possibly even the review of the final).
- BLM Planning Handbook: page 20
- BLM NEPA Handbook: Section 6.6

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

Options for Naming Alternatives

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



Don't use names that appear pre-decisional.

How Many Alternatives Are Necessary?

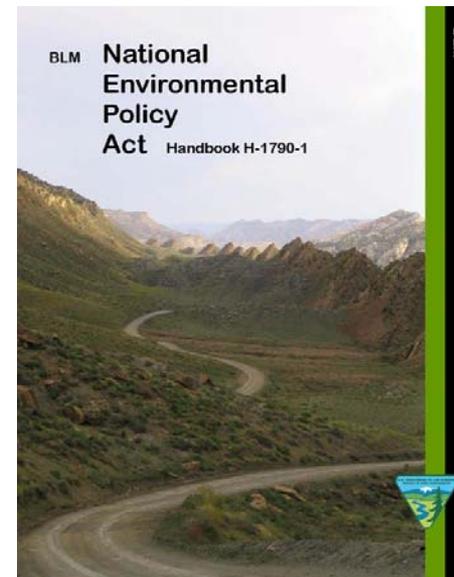
- No specific number of alternatives is required: “a reasonable range.”
- Alternatives must allow a true choice of ways to meet the purpose and need (vision/goals).
- No action alternative must be analyzed with the range of alternatives (typically continuation of existing plan).

No Action Alternative

- Is 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 an RMP, the no action alternative is current management or the existing plan.

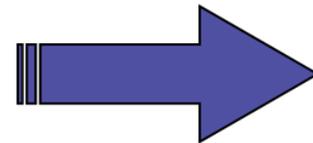
Alternatives Eliminated from Detailed Consideration

- Draft Plan/EIS must include explanations for why they were eliminated (usually related to screening factors).
- This explanation becomes an important part of the administrative record.
- BLM NEPA Handbook: section 6.6.3



Factors Used to Screen Alternatives

- Does the alternative meet the purpose and need?
- Does the alternative comply with applicable laws, regulations, proclamations, etc.?
- Does the alternative comply with planning criteria?
- Does the alternative comply with land health standards?
- Is the alternative feasible?



Factors Used to Screen Alternatives (Cont.)

- Can the alternative be monitored?
- Does the alternative include adaptive management?
- Is the alternative supported by collaborators?
- Does the alternative incorporate professional judgment or modeling?

