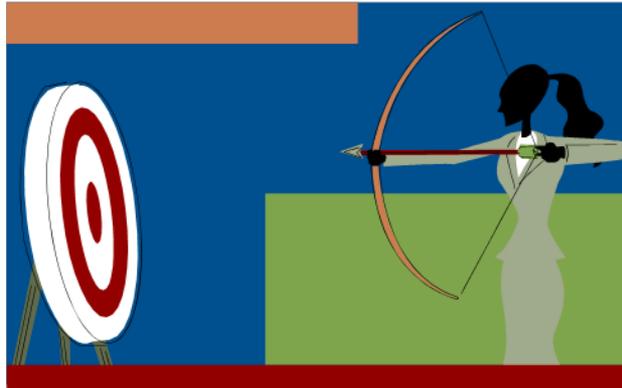


Effects Analysis and Comparison



Objectives

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



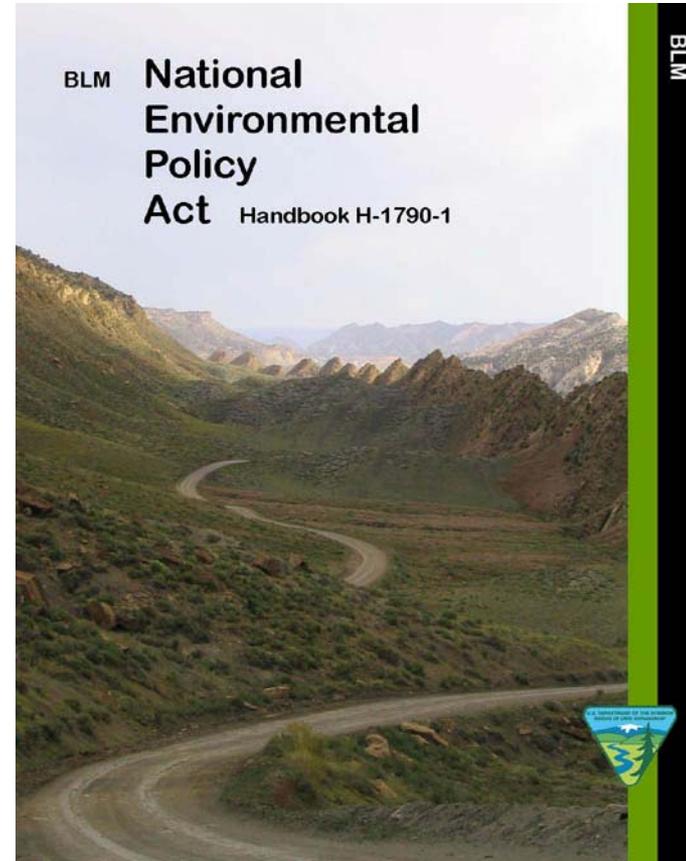
CEQ NEPA Regulations and BLM NEPA Handbook

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



Importance of Comparing Alternatives

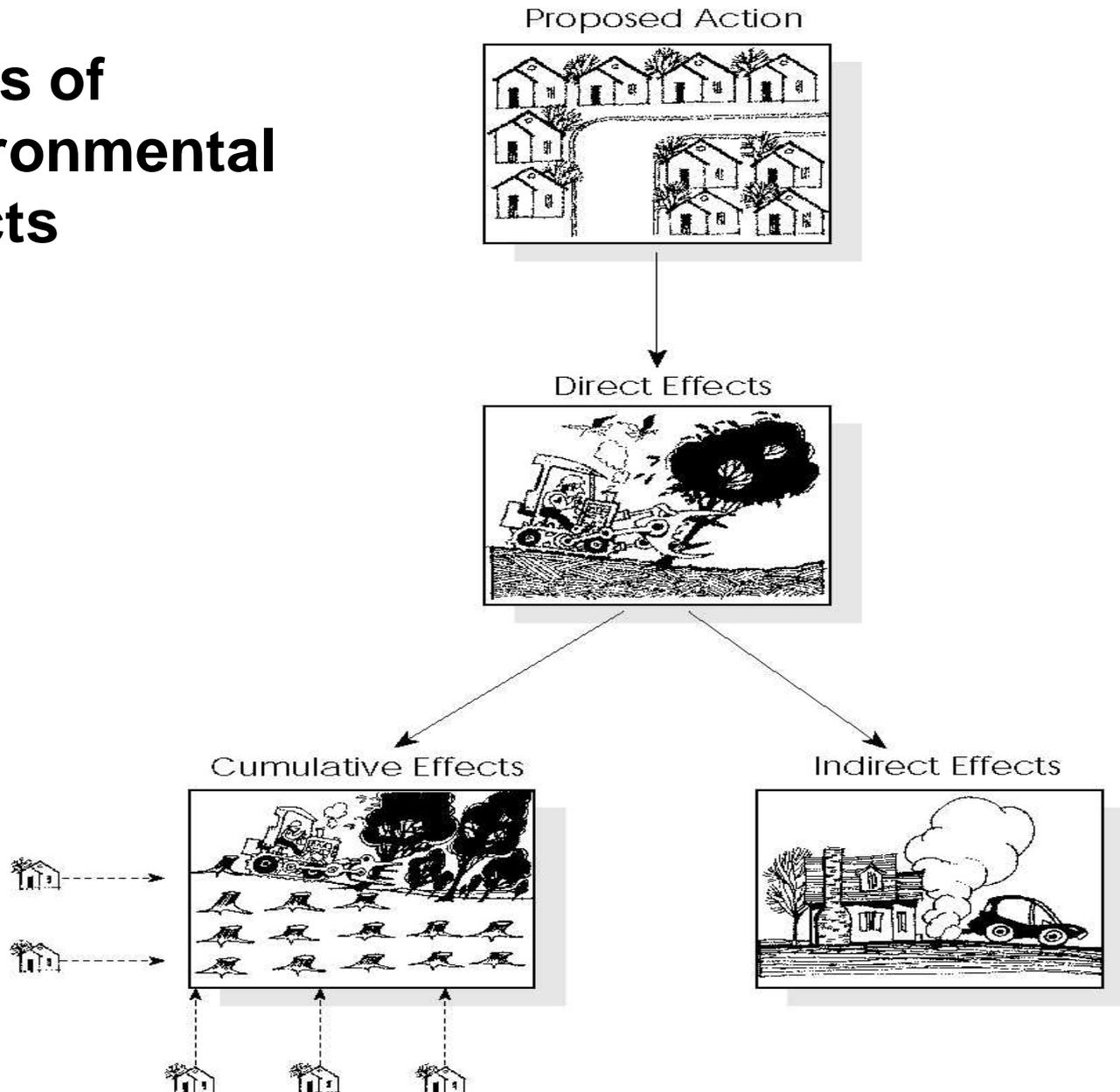
- NEPA requires comparative approach.
- Comparison helps the public and decision-makers understand differences among alternatives.
- Forms basis for comparative analysis of impacts of each alternative.



No Action Alternative

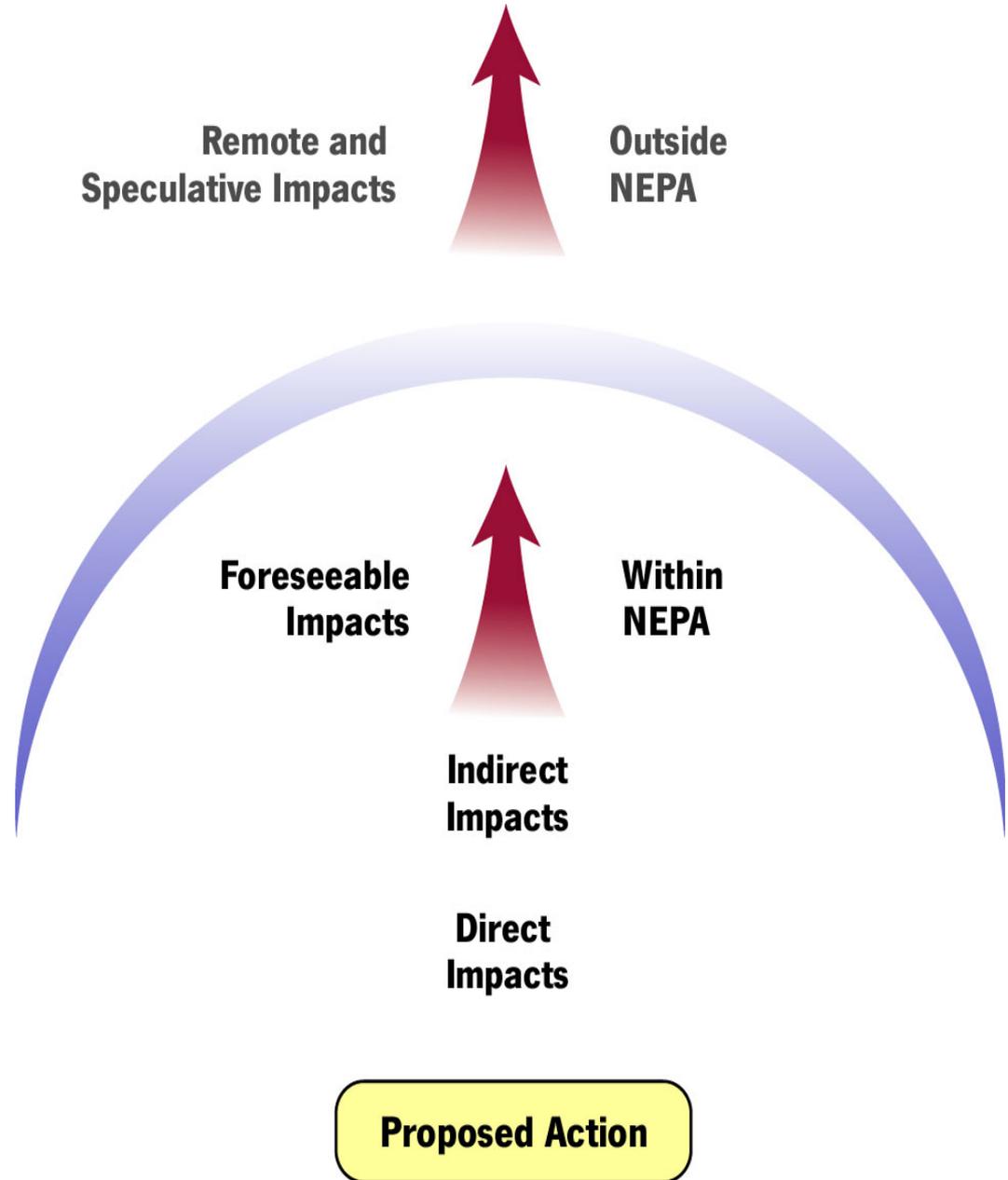
- According to CEQ, the no action alternative for a land use plan revision is:
 - “no change” from the current management direction or level of management intensity. Stated a different way, it is continuing with the present course of action until the action is changed.
- To construct an alternative that is based on “no management” would neither be helpful nor practical.
- Projected impacts of alternative management scenarios are compared to impacts projected for the current plan.

Types of Environmental Effects



CEQ NEPA Regulations 40 CFR 1508.8; BLM NEPA Handbook Section 6.8

Determining Which Impacts Are Reasonably Foreseeable



Growth-Inducing Impacts

- Estimate amount, location, and timeframe 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.
- Analyzed 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.

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.

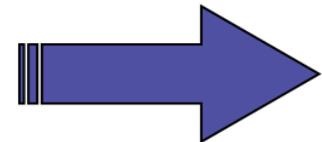
NTC has a broadcast on cumulative impacts (for BLM only):
http://web.tc.blm.gov/Cumulative_Effects/Cumulative_Effects1.swf

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

BLM Planning Regulations and Handbook Resource Considerations

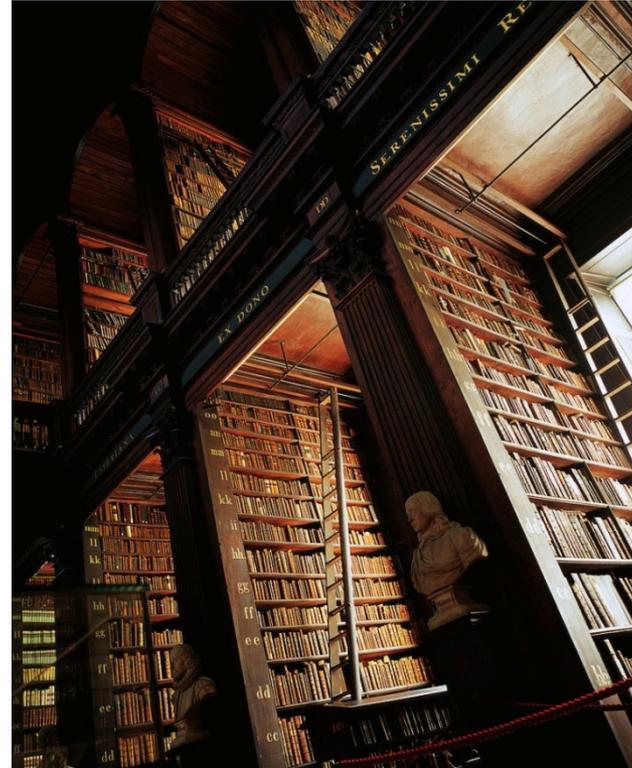
- Natural, biological, cultural resources:
 - Air
 - Soil and water
 - Vegetation (forests and woodlands, rangelands, riparian and wetlands)
 - Special status species
 - Fish and wildlife
 - Wild horses and burros
 - Cultural resources
 - Paleontology
 - Visual resources
 - Wildland fire management
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



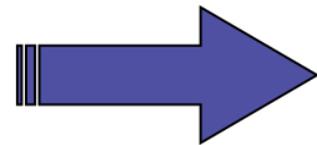
BLM Planning Regulations and Handbook Resource Considerations (Cont.)

■ 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, non-energy leasable minerals



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BLM Planning Regulations and Handbook Resource Considerations (Cont.)

■ Special Designations:

- Congressional designations
- Administrative designations

■ Support:

- Cadastral (boundary management)
- Interpretation and environmental education
- Transportation and facilities

NEPA Analysis of Social and Economic Conditions

- Land uses related to economic effects
- Social issues
- Environmental Justice
- Health and safety
 - Abandoned mines
 - Debris flows
 - Hazardous materials
- Indian Trust resources
- BLM Planning Handbook, Appendix D