

K. Bogdan: So now that we've prepared the cumulative impacts analysis, there still may be some additional steps in the NEPA process. Cumulative effects analysis can help you understand the context under which mitigation measures are appropriate, which is a necessary step in the NEPA process. The CEQ regulations require you to identify ways to mitigate adverse environmental effects if not covered in the alternatives. It can sometimes be easier to identify mitigation measures after knowing all the potential effects including the cumulative effects that you described in your analysis. The effects that remain after mitigation are known as residual effects. These residual effects should also be disclosed in your NEPA document.

R. Hardt: Let's consider this with an example. Consider that we're looking at the effects of cattle grazing on water quality along a stream. We also have a cumulative effect with wild horse grazing along that stream as well. Now we can consider a mitigation measure, perhaps of say, fencing the stream on the side in which there is cattle grazing, which we can remove that effect, but there still remains this residual effect of the impacts on water quality that is coming from the wild horse grazing. We need to consider that overall cumulative effect, the effectiveness of the mitigation measure of fencing the cows out, but then also describe that residual effect remaining from the wild horse grazing.

C. Humphrey: In module 1, Ken Bogdan and Richard Hardt described each step of the approach to analyzing cumulative effects as it is described in the BLM NEPA Handbook, and then in this module they went a step further by elaborating on some of the cumulative effects concepts, and we provided you with four examples of typical BLM actions that illustrate each step of the process. Now although these examples are only meant to be a sketch of a complete analysis, I think you can see their value in providing you with a starting point for when you do your own cumulative effects analysis. Now you've seen each piece of the example BLM actions. We've also included them in their entirety at the end of this module.

Now the final step of this course is an optional homework assignment. You have the opportunity to write a cumulative effects analysis likely demonstrated in this course, and then you can email it to me. We'll review it, we'll provide you with feedback, and we'll give you some suggestions for improvement. If you're not interested in doing the homework assignment, that's okay. You can still get credit for the class by just completing the quick posttest.

So in closing I'd like to review the course objectives. Now that you've finished this module, you should be able to consider cumulative effects throughout the NEPA process; that's including starting at scoping, going through alternatives, and all the way through environmental consequences. The second objective is you should be able to complete a cumulative effects analysis consistent with BLM and CEQ guidance, which will help you make good decisions and will also stand up to legal challenge.

If you're interested in more training on how to prepare one of these cumulative effects analyses, remember that we have an on-site workshop. Our instructors will come right to your office and they'll help your interdisciplinary team work through a cumulative effects analysis for one of your projects. Then by the end of that two-day workshop I am sure you will be well on your way to a solid analysis that you can be proud of, and one that you can hold up to others as a great example.

I am sure you're feeling more confident about conducting a cumulative effects analysis. I'd like to wish you good luck and thanks for doing your part to make the BLM the best NEPA agency in the world.