

K. Bogdan: So now we're on Step 6, and we need to put together the effects of past, present, and reasonably foreseeable actions with the effects of the proposed action and describe that interaction of the combined effects.

Cumulative effects are determined by adding and/or subtracting effects of past, present, and reasonably foreseeable actions with the effects of the proposed action. This is where the rubber hits the road. It's the important part of trying to combine the impact analysis that you did for your action and your action alternatives with that other piece of information you have related to the ongoing actions and the other pieces of information that you have related to the effects of these reasonably foreseeable future actions.

Each example goes through the no action and action alternatives adding and subtracting the effects. It's best to think about this when looking at an actual example.

C. Humphrey: So if we're talking about the no action alternative for project-specific NEPA, there would be no direct or indirect impacts from no action. Now Ken, you told us that if there are no direct or indirect impacts then we don't need to do cumulative effects, so do we need to analyze cumulative effects for a No Action alternative?

K. Bogdan: Yeah, you do. This is your baseline for analysis for your future condition, and it gives you a point of comparison for your effects of the action and the alternatives when projected out, and combined with the reasonably foreseeable future actions. We should look at Figure 6.3 of the NEPA Handbook.

Now in each example we showed you how the past, present, and reasonably foreseeable future actions are added to the baseline for each alternative.