



4. IMPACT ASSESSMENT WORLD CAFÉ: ALTERNATIVES ANALYSIS

Location · Month Year



GLOBAL ENVIRONMENTAL
MANAGEMENT SUPPORT

ALTERNATIVES ANALYSIS: FUNDAMENTALS

Alternatives are:

Means of accomplishing the project goal in such a way that the effects can be meaningfully evaluated

Why Alternatives Analysis:

1. To respond to potential issues identified in the scoping process
2. Inform decision-makers of options to achieve similar goals



Alternatives analysis is the heart of the environmental assessment process. It addresses issues and explores options for fulfilling the purpose and need while evaluating for potential impact.

ALTERNATIVES AND ASSOCIATED ACTIONS

The actions associated with any given alternative may or may not be the same as those in the original project plan. Therefore, the **connected actions** of each alternative must be explored.

Actions are connected if they:

1. Automatically trigger other actions which may require environmental impact statements

and/or

2. Cannot or will not proceed unless other actions are taken previously or simultaneously

and/or

3. Are interdependent parts of a larger action and depend on the larger action for their justification



ALTERNATIVES ANALYSIS PROCESS



ALTERNATIVES ANALYSIS: IDENTIFYING VIABLE ALTERNATIVES

Identify a reasonable range of viable alternatives to be evaluated, including the “No Action” alternative

Present the impacts in comparative, commensurate form for clearly defined issues

Examine alternatives based on technologies, project location, size, etc.

Explain why some alternatives were eliminated from consideration

Identify the preferred alternative

Justify the recommendation

Viability alternatives:

- Respond to the Purpose & Need
- Must not be substantially similar in design and effects to an alternative that is already analyzed
- Must not have remote or speculative implementation
- Must be economically & technically feasible
- Must be consistent with the basic objectives for management of the area (conformance with land use plans, country objectives, etc.)

NO ACTION ALTERNATIVE

- Two interpretations of the No Action Alternative:
 1. Proposed action does not occur and existing conditions continue as-is
 2. The current management scheme continues as-is
- Provides the baseline condition to compare effects
- Consider as a viable alternative that is evaluated equally with the other alternatives
- Required per 22 CFR 216 and Council on Environmental Quality regulations



ALTERNATIVES ANALYSIS: ELIMINATING ALTERNATIVES

Identify a reasonable range of viable alternatives to be evaluated, including the "No Action" alternative

Present the impacts in comparative, commensurate form for clearly defining issues

Examine alternatives based on technologies, project location, size, etc.

Explain why some alternatives were eliminated from consideration

Identify the preferred alternative

Justify the recommendation

Elimination of alternatives may use the following criteria:

- **Ineffective** (would not respond to purpose & need)
- Technically or economically **infeasible**
- **Inconsistent** with basic policy objectives of the area
- **Implementation** is remote or speculative
- Substantially **similar in design** to other alternatives
- Substantially **similar in effects** to other alternatives