

# Unit 7

## Alternatives



# Objectives

## Understand:

- ◉ Where alternatives come from
- ◉ How to develop alternatives to the Proposed Action
- ◉ How to describe alternatives
- ◉ How to compare the alternatives



# Importance of Alternatives

- ⦿ Heart of the document
- ⦿ Respond to issues
- ⦿ Compares impacts
- ⦿ Informs decision maker



# Alternatives

- ⦿ Develop Alternatives to:
  - ⦿ Address unresolved conflicts related to the proposed action
  - ⦿ Provide different ways to fulfill the purpose and need



# Where Do Alternatives Come From?

- ⦿ **Issues received during scoping of Proposed Actions from:**
  - ⦿ Interested and affected parties
  - ⦿ Other federal, state, or local agencies
  - ⦿ Indigenous groups
  - ⦿ Interdisciplinary Team
  - ⦿ Donors
  - ⦿ Others?



# How to Generate Alternatives

- ⦿ Brainstorm creative ways to address the unresolved conflicts identified in scoping
- ⦿ Drop actions completely or add new ones
- ⦿ Move the location or timing of actions

# How to Describe Alternatives

- ⦿ Indicate the issue(s) addressed by the alternative and describe how the alternative addresses the issue.
- ⦿ Use an unbiased, equal, and consistent format.
- ⦿ Include all specific direct and connected actions,
- ⦿ Describe how, where and when the actions would be implemented.
- ⦿ Include any BMPS, design criteria or mitigations and monitoring that would be included.
- ⦿ Describe each alternative as it “would” be not as it “will” be.

# No Action Alternative

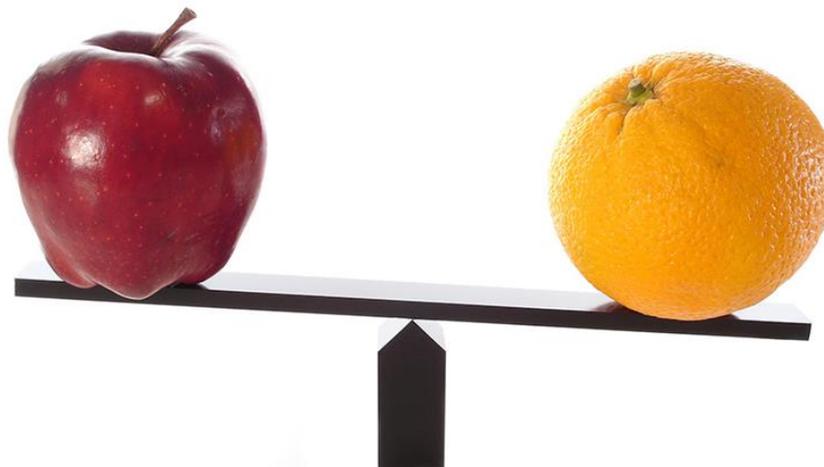
- ⊙ Required per CEQ Regulations
- ⊙ Provides baseline condition to compare effects
- ⊙ Two interpretations:
  - ⊙ Proposed Action does not take place - Existing Conditions continue
  - ⊙ Current management continues
- ⊙ Consider the No Action as a viable alternative.
- ⊙ Evaluate it equally to the action Alternatives.

# Alternatives Not Considered in Detail

- Ineffective (Would Not Respond to Purpose and Need)
- Technically/Economically Infeasible
- Inconsistent with Basic Policy Objectives of the Area
- Implementation is Remote or Speculative
- Substantially Similar in Design to Alternatives Analyzed in Detail
- Substantially Similar Effects to Alternatives Already Analyzed

# Comparison of Alternatives

- ⦿ All the Alternatives (No Action, Proposed Action, and any action alternatives) must be compared to show the differences between each of the Alternative Actions.



# So What is in the “Alternatives” Chapter versus the “Effects” Chapter?

- ⦿ **Alternative Section** – describe and compare the features of each alternative. Discussion of the environmental consequences is limited to a concise summary in comparative form usually limited to charts and tables.
- ⦿ **Effects Section** – description of the direct and indirect [and cumulative] environmental effects of the proposed action and of each of alternatives. It forms the analytic basis for the concise comparison in the alternatives section

See CEQ 40 Questions, #7, page 191

**Table II-2. Comparison of activities proposed under the Iron Honey project, by Alternative.**

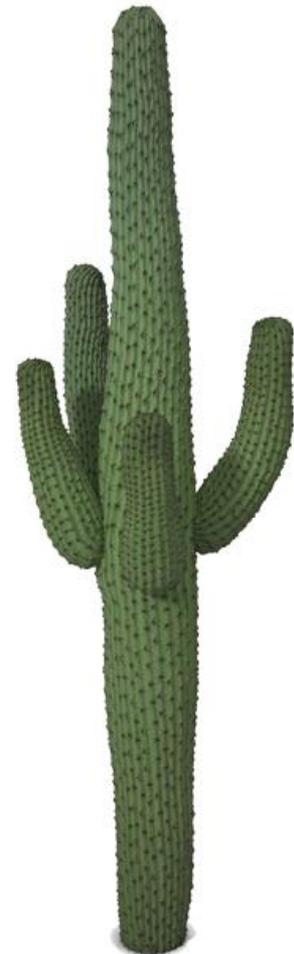
Feature	Alt. 1	Alt. 2	Alt. 3	Alt. 5	Alt. 6	Alt. 7	Alt. 8
<b>Watershed recovery treatments</b>							
Miles of Level 1 road obliteration	0	37	7	27	118	36	54
Miles of Level 2 road obliteration	0	10	1	11	26	11	19
Miles of Level 2 riparian road obliteration	0	2	0	1	3	2	3
Total miles of roadbed obliterated/recontoured	0	49	8	39	147	49	76
# of channel crossings removed	0	117	10	76	335	113	176
# of culverts upgraded	0	7	45	51	38	30	21
Miles of stream stabilization work	0	0	0	3	5	0	5
<b>Proposed harvest (acres)</b>							
Clearcut w/ Reserve Trees	0	0	190	680	0	40	0
Commercial Thinning	0	0	140	140	0	140	0
Shelterwood Harvest	0	1,100	0	3,520	0	1,100	1,900
Selective (for instream use)	0	0	0	0	380	0	230
Total acres of harvest proposed	0	1,100	330	4,340	380	1,280	2,130
<b>Yarding systems (acres)</b>							
Skyline	0	900	130	3,800	0	920	1,690
Tractor	0	200	70	400	380	220	440
Helicopter	0	0	140	140	0	140	0
<b>Estimated timber harvest volume*</b>							
Cunits (CCF) /	0	29,600	8,100	98,700	0	33,600	57,400
Million board feet (MMBF)	0	14.8	3.4	45.7	0	16.2	27.0
<b>Proposed Road Work (Miles)</b>							
Permanent road construction**	0	0.2	0	0.2	0.2	0.2	0.2
Temporary road construction	0	0.7	0.5	14	0.5	0.7	4.0
Road reconstruction	0	23	28	58	0	37	30
<b>Additional acres of allocated recruitment old growth</b>	0	1,380	0	800	1,380	800	1,380
<b>Fuel treatments</b>							
Underburning	0	1,100	192	4,200	0	1,140	1,340

\* CCF = 1 cunit (one hundred cubic feet)

\*\* To allow removal of the Moose Creek Road 1532 as part of the watershed restoration activities.

# Schoolhouse Exercise

- ⦿ **Demonstration** – Alternatives to address effects on cactus, dark skies, tour bus parking, and resort
- ⦿ **Carbone cactus:** Is there a another reasonable way to meet our purpose and need without impacting this sensitive species?
- ⦿ **County dark skies ordinance:** Do we need an alternative to address this? Or can we just add this into the project design?
- ⦿ **Parking lot:** Do we need an alternative to address this? Or can we just add this into the project design?
- ⦿ **Resort views:** Do we need an alternative to address this? Or can we just add this into the project design?

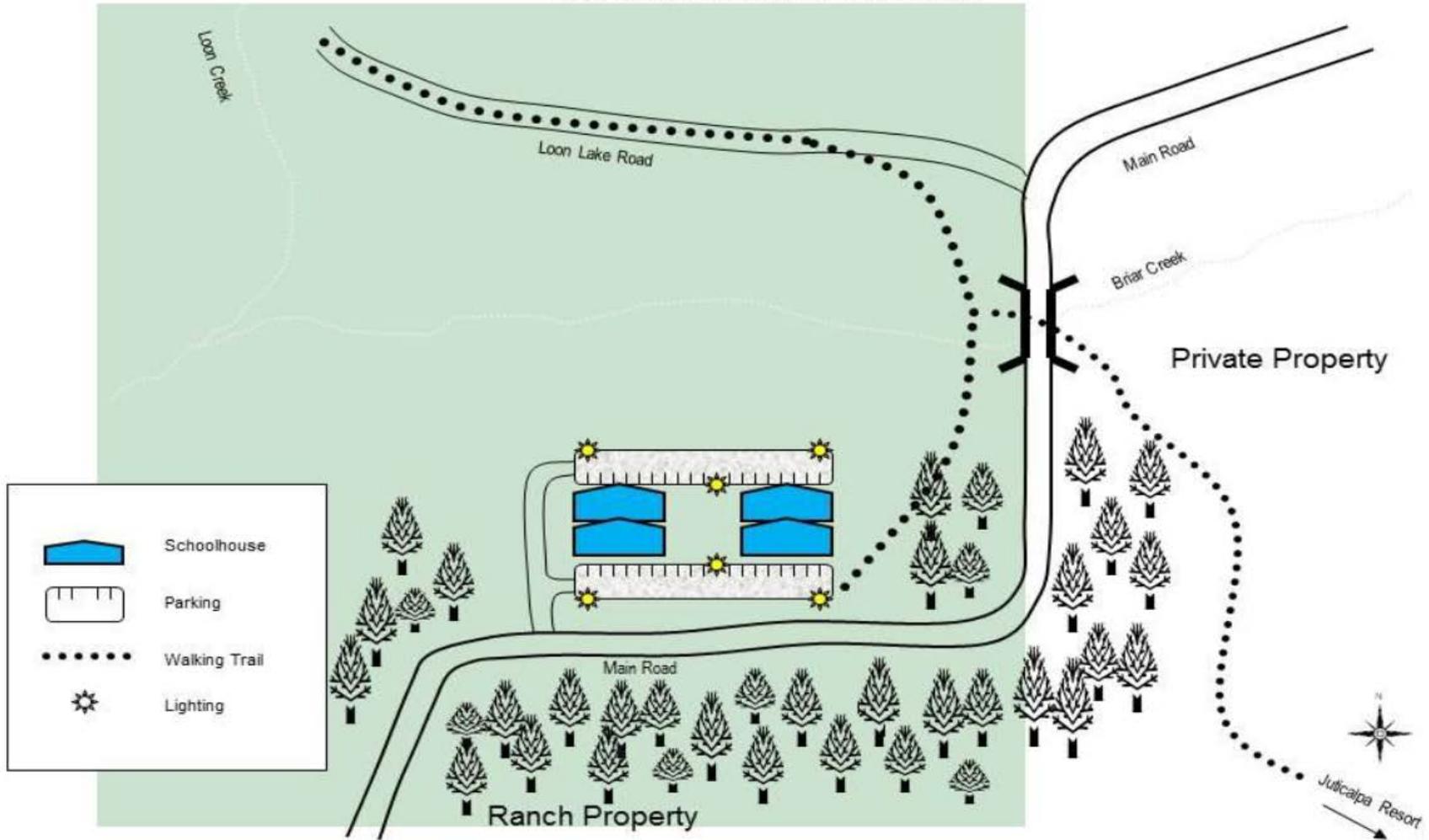


# Schoolhouse Exercise

- ⦿ **Scenario:** You have proposed an action to meet a specific purpose and need and have identified unresolved conflicts related to snowmobile parking and views.
- ⦿ The AOR asks you to develop one reasonable alternative to the proposed action (as per the TOR/SOW) to address the parking and view concerns.



## Proposed Schoolhouse



# Key Points

1. An \_\_\_\_\_ is a different way to fulfill the purpose and need and address unresolved conflicts related to the proposed action.
2. The No Action alternative provides a \_\_\_\_\_ for effects comparison.
3. Alternatives should be described in a \_\_\_\_\_ format.
4. The Responsible Official \_\_\_\_\_ the list of alternatives.

