



Purposes, Vision, and Goals Workshop

Date: November 7, 2017

Place: Red Lion Inn Hotel, Polson, Montana

Workshop Purposes

- Revisit and clarify the purposes for which the units of the National Bison Range Complex (Complex) were established
- Develop working list of Qualities and review Issues raised during scoping period
- Collaboratively generate a Vision Statement that is congruent with the Service's mission and values and the purposes of the units of the Complex
- Collaboratively develop a set of Goals that will assist in attaining the Vision

- 8:30 am Welcome, personal introductions, review agenda, logistics and workshop purposes
- 8:45 am Review Service's and Refuge System Missions, and Purposes for each unit of the Complex
- 9:15 am Group Discussion: What are the qualities that make the Complex/planning area special and unique?
- 9:45 am Group Discussion: Review (and update as needed) list of issues raised during scoping process
- 10:15 am SHORT BREAK
- 10:30 am Introduction to and Development of a Vision Statement
- Define a vision statement and review model statements
 - Discuss/vote on process for generating vision statement
 - Develop draft vision statement
 - Break into Small Groups – Each Group Creates a Draft Vision Statement
 - Small Groups Present Draft Vision Statements
 - Vote: Whole Group Provides Feedback and Selects Draft Vision Statement to use as a Base for Further Development
 - What did you like about the vision statement chosen? Are there definite "keeper phrases"?
 - What important ideas from other statements should also be included?
 - Refine draft Vision Statement and check if statement meets requirements
- 12:30 pm LUNCH BREAK (we plan to order-in from MacKenzie River Pizza)
- 1:00 pm Introduction to Goals
- Define goals, brainstorm list of necessary goals to develop, *and process for generating draft goals*
- 1:30 pm Break into Small Groups to Develop Draft Goals
- Small groups are assigned by duties/expertise to develop goals for specific topics
- 3:00 pm Small Groups Present Draft Goals
- 3:30 pm Refinement of Draft Goals
- Whole group comments on goals. Finalize most goals; get input for any future revisions
- 4:30 pm Recap and Next Steps
- Products from this workshop
 - Where do we go from here?
- 5:00 pm Adjourn Workshop



Alternative Development [Handout]

The next phase in the NBRC project is the development of alternatives. NEPA requires that the CCP/EIS includes a range of alternatives. Alternatives are defined as different management approaches or means of achieving refuge purposes and goals, helping fulfill the Refuge System mission, and resolving issues. Alternatives outline distinct management approaches and allow for the comparison of the impacts and effects of the various approaches. Each alternative will represent a specific management direction, and vary in levels of management intensity relevant to wildlife and habitat, refuge administration, public use, and degree of facility development.

Development of Management Alternatives

The purpose of this phase in the planning process is to develop a viable range of alternatives or different approaches to refuge management in order to:

1. achieve planning unit goals and refuge purposes;
2. help fulfill the Refuge System mission;
3. maintain and, where appropriate, restore the ecological integrity of each refuge and the Refuge System;
4. help achieve the goals of the National Wilderness Preservation System;
5. meet other mandates, and
6. resolve any significant issues identified.

Typically refuges develop 3-4 alternatives including the “No Action.”

STEP 1

Brainstorm potential alternative concepts. The “concepts” are the big ideas that explain the management direction or focus of the alternative. See the “alternatives examples” document for a number of examples of alternative concepts from other CCPs. In addition to the No Action, consider at least 2 other alternative concepts. Do not delve into the details at this point; just consider the big idea behind each alternative. Write down these concepts (2-3 sentences only) in the alternatives chart.

STEP 2

Identify the pertinent categories that each management alternative will need to address. Use the goal topics as a guide and identify more specific topic areas under each goal that you think should be addressed in the alternatives matrix. For example, under *habitat and wildlife* you may want to include *wetlands*, *re-introductions* and/or *endangered species* as topics. At the alternatives workshop we will add a sentence or two explaining how each of these topics are addressed under each of the alternative management scenarios.

STEP 3

Define the No Action Alternative. The No Action alternative preserves the existing management regime and provides an environmental baseline against which the impacts of the other alternatives are compared. Treat this alternative as a continuation of the current management approach and do not introduce any changes or new management actions.

STEP 4

Define the Action Alternatives. Fill out the topics in the alternative chart in order to clearly define the management approach for each alternative. Explain the management action for each category in general terms. We are not developing objectives and strategies at this point. For example, under *Research* you may write *Support landscape-level research to improve habitat management practices* or under *Environment Education/Interpretation* you may add *increase public presentations and programming*. NEPA requires an equal and full analysis of all alternatives considered for implementation. It is important to give equal effort to each alternative regarding these actions so that the decision maker can make an informed choice.

REFUGE PLANNING PROCESS

Here's a quick overview of the components of the CCP that shows where the alternatives fit into the planning process.

Refuge Purpose(s). The purposes specified in or derived from the law, proclamation, executive order, agreement, public land order, donation document, or administrative memorandum establishing, authorizing, or expanding a refuge, refuge unit, or refuge subunit.

Vision Statement. A concise statement of what the planning unit should be, or what we hope to do, based primarily upon the Refuge System mission and specific refuge purposes, and other mandates.

Goal. Descriptive, open-ended, and often broad statement of desired future conditions that conveys a purpose but does not define measurable units.

Alternatives. Different sets of management approaches or means of achieving refuge purposes and goals, helping fulfill the Refuge System mission, and resolving issues.

Objective. A concise statement of what we want to achieve, how much we want to achieve, when and where we want to achieve it, and who is responsible for the work. Objectives derive from goals and provide the basis for determining strategies, monitoring refuge accomplishments, and evaluating the success of strategies. Make objectives attainable, time-specific, and measurable.

Strategy. A specific action, tool, technique, or combination of actions, tools, and techniques used to meet unit objectives.