



Summary of BIA Alternatives

No Action Alternative:

In accordance with the Indian Affairs National Environmental Policy Act Guidebook (59 IAM 3-H; BIA 2012), the BIA is required to consider a No Action Alternative, which would continue current management, or business as usual. The BIA No Action Alternative would continue present management direction from practices contained in existing laws, regulations, policies, and standards.

Alternative A:

BIA Alternative A focuses on protecting and enhancing natural environments, while emphasizing the protection of sensitive wildlife areas and ecological resources. This alternative would establish the greatest number and extent of specific measures to protect or enhance resource values. Appropriate and allowable uses and restrictions would focus on minimizing impacts on natural resources.

Alternative B:

BIA Alternative B emphasizes the preservation and protection of the cultural and natural landscapes unique to northern New Mexico. Management priority under this alternative is given to protecting cultural resources, such as Chaco Culture National Historical Park and other traditional cultural properties. The appropriate development scenarios for allowable uses (such as mineral leasing) would emphasize protecting the natural and cultural landscape and associated viewshed and soundscape. Appropriate and allowable uses and restrictions would emphasize avoiding, minimizing, or otherwise mitigating impacts on natural, social, and cultural resources.

Alternative C:

BIA Alternative C focuses on allowing development to occur in harmony with the traditional, historical, socioeconomic, and cultural lifeways of the planning area. This alternative emphasizes the Tribal and local perspective of the landscape and traditional lifeways. At the same time, it prioritizes management with the fewest impacts on human communities from oil and gas development, such as increased traffic and crime or decreased human health, air, and water quality.

Alternative D:

BIA Alternative D focuses on making the most of resources that target economic outcomes, while protecting land health. Management direction would promote development of fluid mineral resources and would accommodate new uses to the greatest extent possible. The appropriate development scenarios for allowable uses would emphasize maximizing resource production and royalty income for the landowners—both Navajo Nation and individual Indian allottees—while avoiding, minimizing, or otherwise mitigating impacts in surrounding communities.