Unit 10
Recommended or Preferred Alternative Decisions
Objectives

- Develop adequate decision rationale
- IDT and Responsible Official roles
- What constitutes adequate decision rationale
Roles: ID Team and Decision Maker

- **ID Team**: Recommends a preferred alternative
- **Decision Maker for alternative selection (AOR/COR)**: Confers with the ID Team, MEO, and REA if needed, and based on their information chooses an alternative for implementation
- **Decision Maker for compliance with Reg 216 and technical oversight (BEO)**: Final approval
Considerations for Recommended Alternative and Justification

- How it meets Purpose and Need
- Comparison of impacts to other alternatives: summarized in table, elaborated in Environmental Effects chapter
- Explain why one alternative is recommended over others - in a narrative form and reference the chart that compares alternatives
- Consider public comments and concerns. i.e. reference how the Alternative addresses the issues.
- Explains how decision meets legal framework
- Weigh tradeoffs of impacts to different resources

These criteria shall be included in the Statement of Work for the preparation of recommended alternative justification
Remember

The EA should not be used to justify a pre-determined decision.
Review

- The ID team recommends a preferred alternative based on a USAID-approved protocol.
- Responsible Official makes decision based on analysis completed by the IDT.
- Decisions must be supported by adequate rationale/scientifically and economically justified.
Schoolhouse Exercise

**Scenario:** Your Responsible Official wants help writing the rationale for the schoolhouse decision.

- Review your purpose and need and effects analysis and develop rationale for selecting a preferred alternative.
Key Points

- What is the role of the IDT specialist, AOR/COR, Mission or Office Director, BEO in decision making? What type of decisions do each make?

- Who makes NEPA decisions/final decision for selection of the Alternative to implement?

- List three important factors that should be addressed in the recommendation