

Upper Rio Grande Water Operations Review & EIS: Decision-Making Process

Decision criteria were established prior to initiating the screening and detailed analysis of alternatives in order to disclose agency and steering committee values and preferences among competing and potentially conflicting requirements and mandates. The list of potential criteria was developed during public scoping and alternatives development meetings and from the statements of project purpose and need.

The joint lead agencies (JLAs) identified three minimum threshold criteria that had to be met in order for an alternative to be carried forward for detailed analysis. Threshold criteria were used as benchmarks by the Water Operations technical team in the preliminary screening of draft alternatives.

The remaining criteria were identified as key decision criteria used to distinguish between alternatives in identifying the preferred alternative. Each JLA and members of the Steering Committee provided rankings of these criteria using three different methods.

- Fixed Point (Numerical) – Assign points to each criterion up to a 100-point total
- Scaled (Independent) – On a scale of 1 to 10, rank each issue independently in importance
- Ordinal (Relative) – Rank from high (1) to low (9) the relative importance of each criterion

The results for the three joint lead agencies and steering committee were ranked of equal importance. The overall ranking was obtained by a simple averaging of scores among the three ranking methods. The results are provided below. Additional information concerning public scoping and alternatives development may be found at the following website: <http://www.spa.usace.army.mil/urgwops/>.

URGWOPS EIS DECISION CRITERIA

AGENCY or STAKEHOLDER: JLA & Steering Committees Combined

Date: 11/13/2003

Participants: COE, BOR, ISC & Steering Committee Participants

FINAL RANKINGS	DECISION CRITERION	Fixed Point Criterion Score (Numerical)			Scaled Criterion Rating (Independent)			Ordinal Criterion Rank (Relative)			OVERALL RANK
		JLAs	SC	RANK	JLAs	SC	RANK	JLAs	SC	RANK	
A	Meets Water Storage & Delivery Needs	Threshold			Threshold			Threshold			EQUAL EQUAL EQUAL
B	Meets Interstate Compact & Treaty Requirements										
C	Meets Flood Control & Safe Dam Operations										
1	Meets Ecosystem Needs	15	20	2	7.7	8.8	2	1.7	1	1	1
4	Provides Sediment Management	13	12	4	6.0	6.4	4	3.3	3	3	4
3	Preserves Water Quality	17	15	1	6.7	8.6	3	4.0	2	4	3
2	Provides System Operating Flexibility	15	12	3	8.7	8.1	1	2.7	5	2	2
7	Preserves Desirable Land Uses	4	8	8	4.7	6.9	6	7.7	4	7	7
8	Preserves Recreational Uses	9	6	7	4.0	5.4	8	7.3	9	8	8
6	Preserves Cultural Resources	12	7	5	4.7	4.8	7	6.0	8	6	6
9	Alternative is Fair and Equitable	4	9	9	3.3	5.4	9	8.7	7	9	9
5	Preserves Indian Trust Assets	11	9	6	5.3	6.3	5	3.7	6	5	5

ABBREVIATIONS:

URGWOPS = Upper Rio Grande Water Operations
 EIS = Environmental Impact Statement
 JLAs - Joint Lead Agencies

COE = U.S. Army Corps of Engineers
 BOR = U.S. Department of Interior - Bureau of Reclamation
 ISC = New Mexico Interstate Stream Commission
 SC - Steering Committee - input from participants in November 13, 2003 meeting choosing to participate in ranking