

Biological and Environmental Assessments of Sun Bear



Biological Assessment (BA)

BIOLOGICAL ASSESSMENT

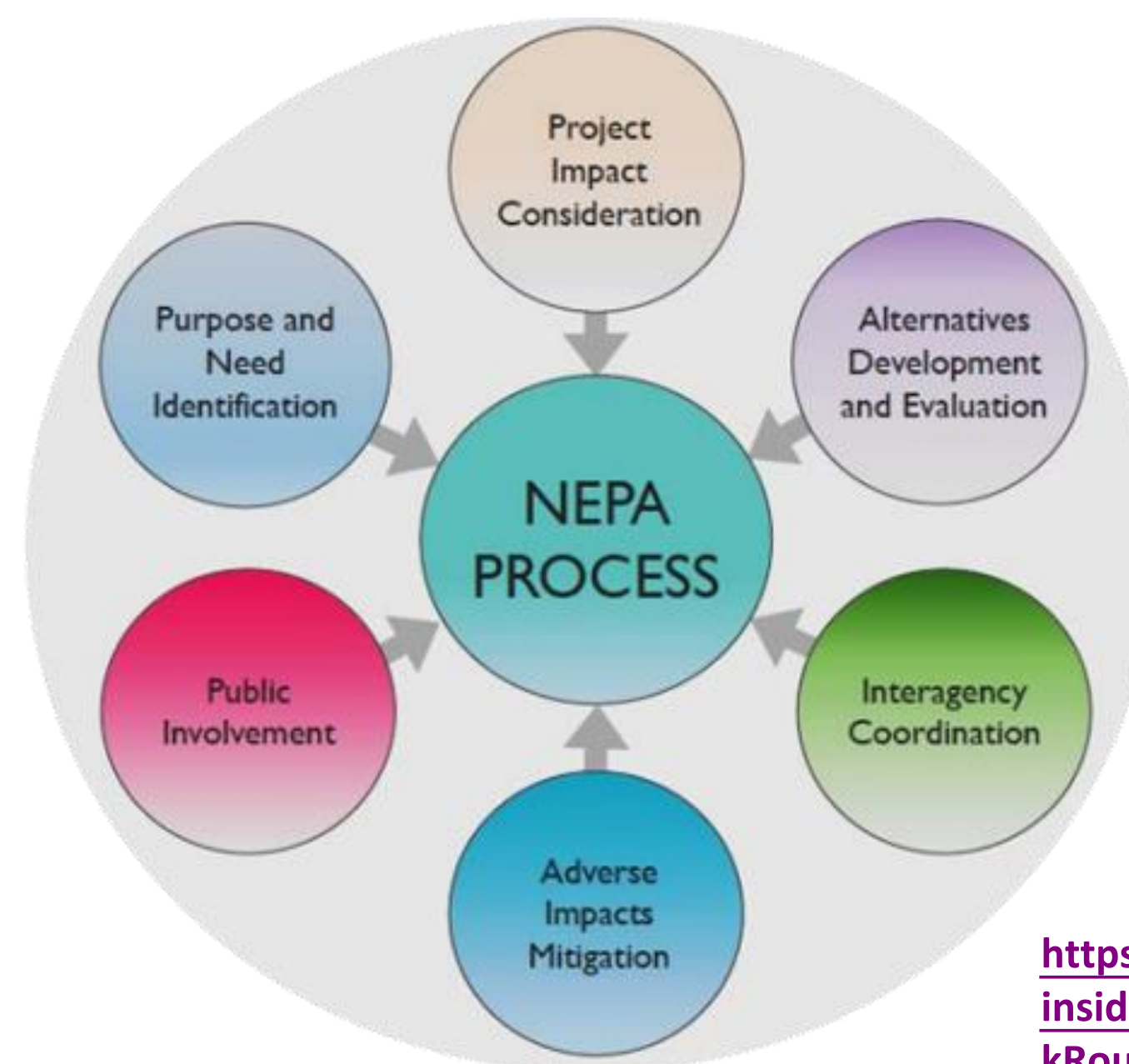
- Biological surveys were conducted from November 2021 to June 2022.
- Surveys covered: vegetation, soils, wildlife, watercourses, and protected species.
- A Biological Assessment (BA) with survey findings and **potential impacts to biological resources** was submitted to UMU Environmental Department, the Bureau of Indian Affairs (BIA), and the United States Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS).



National Environmental Protection Act (NEPA)

THE NEPA PROCESS

- NEPA was passed in 1970. It requires federal agencies (including tribes) to assess the **environmental** and **social** impacts of projects before they happen.
- NEPA documents include Categorical Exclusion (CatEx), **Environmental Assessment (EA)**, and Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) depending on the level of analysis required.



<https://www.scdot.org/inside/BishopvilleTruckRoute/NEPA.aspx>

THE SUN BEAR EA

- This project is being analyzed in an EA. If **significant** impacts are possible, the project would also be analyzed in an EIS.
- **Add your input:** Share your ideas and concerns with staff at scoping meetings or via email.

PUBLIC INVOLVEMENT

- Members of the public can make formal comments during the public review period. The BIA will post this online.
- Comments must be “substantive”, meaning it...
 - provides new information
 - identifies a different way to meet the need
 - points out a specific flaw in the analysis
 - suggests alternate methodologies



ISSUES IN SUN BEAR EA:

Analyzed in Detail

1. Soils
2. Water Resources and Quality
3. Air Quality
4. Greenhouse Gas Emissions
5. Vegetation
6. Wildlife and Aquatic Biota
7. Threatened, Endangered, and Special Status Species
8. Rangeland Resources
9. Socioeconomics
10. Visual Resources
11. Noise
12. Environmental Justice
13. Cultural Resources
14. Recreation

Analyzed in Brief

1. Lands and Realty
2. Paleontological Resources
3. Traffic and Transportation
4. Hazardous Materials
5. Health and Safety
6. Wetlands
7. Topography and Geology

Not Analyzed

1. Specially Designated Areas and Lands with Wilderness Characteristics
2. Wildland Fire
3. Military and Civilian Aviation
4. Mineral Resources