

LAC STEP 8 – EVALUATION AND SELECTION OF A PREFERRED ALTERNATIVE

The LAC group reached consensus that they wanted to move forward with Alternative 2 – Equal Emphasis on Balanced Recreation Use with Protection of Resources. The consensus was that this alternative strengthens recreational opportunities while adding additional environmental protection to other areas.

The key components of LAC that guide future actions are the delineation of the 5 opportunity zones throughout the RRG and the various LAC standards that go with those zones. There needs to be a mechanism through which the US Forest Service can utilize the opportunity zones and LAC standards to implement future management actions. The opportunity zones can be thought of as Forest Plan Prescription Areas and the LAC standards as Forest Plan Goals and Objectives.

A NEPA document can be prepared that analyzes two main alternatives – implement the findings of the RRG LAC process (including the zones and standards) or do not implement. These findings could be amended into the Forest Plan or left as a stand alone NEPA document.

See Strategy for Implementing Red River Gorge LAC for further explanation.