

## Chapter 4 • Environmental Consequences

### 4.1 General Methodology for Assessing Impacts

This chapter provides an overview of the potential impacts of each of the five alternatives described in Chapter 2, *Alternatives*, of the *Environmental Assessment for the Crossroads of the American Revolution National Heritage Area*. As described in Chapter 1, *Purpose and Need*, the following impact topics have been retained for impact analysis:

- Historic and Cultural Resources
- Natural Resources
- Recreational Resources
- Socioeconomic Environment
- Community Planning and Development
- Transportation
- Energy Conservation

The *Environmental Assessment and Management Plan for the Crossroads of the American Revolution National Heritage Area* is conceptual and programmatic in scope. As a result of the plan's broadly defined policies and programs, this discussion of environmental impacts focuses on the types of consequences that could be associated with certain strategies, policies, and action items, rather than site-specific or project-specific impacts. If individual projects within the Crossroads Heritage Area are undertaken in the future, they would need to comply with all applicable state and local requirements including but not limited to zoning statutes, wetlands and/or waterway permits, and floodplain regulations. Future projects that receive federal assistance would require additional compliance under such laws as the National Environmental Policy Act and Section 106 at the time they are undertaken.

The implementation of the management plan will depend upon the coordinated actions of a wide range of partner organizations and the public according to capacity, resources, and level of commitment and recognition. Therefore, while some of the impact topics discussed here may be analyzed quantitatively, the programmatic nature of the overall management plan and its implementation lends itself to a qualitative discussion of anticipated environmental consequences.

In this chapter, each impact topic will be described briefly, followed by an analysis of each alternative's anticipated environmental consequences associated with that impact topic.

Environmental impact analysis includes an assessment of beneficial and adverse impacts; direct, indirect, and cumulative impacts; and, to the extent possible, outlines the context, duration, and intensity of impacts. Environmental impacts are evaluated and described comparatively in this chapter, and the following terms are used to describe the general nature of an anticipated environmental impact:

- Beneficial – The impact is generally positive.
- Adverse – The impact is generally negative.

The following terms are used to describe the relative intensity of adverse environmental impacts:

- Negligible – The impact is barely perceptible or not measurable.
- Minor – The impact is slightly detectable and measurable but is either localized or would not adversely affect resources.
- Moderate – The impact is clearly detectable and could have appreciable adverse effect on resources
- Major – The impact is substantial and highly noticeable or measurable.

The following terms are used to describe the duration of anticipated environmental impacts:

- Short-term – The impact lasts less than one year.
- Long-term – The impact lasts one year or longer.

Environmental impacts of alternatives may also be direct, occurring in the same place and at the same time as the proposed action or alternative; indirect, occurring at a time or in a space somewhat removed from the proposed action or alternative; or cumulative, occurring as the result of multiple actions over time.

The majority of environmental impacts that result from the five potential alternative futures for heritage area management and implementation are expected to be positive because of the management plan’s focus on resource identification, protection, and enhancement. In the impact assessments outlined below, beneficial impacts are described but do not receive an intensity definition.

#### **4.2 Summary of Key Differences among the Alternatives**

Five potential alternatives for heritage area management have been developed. The alternatives, described in detail in Chapter 2, include one “Current Conditions” alternative and four “Action” alternatives:

- Alternative A, *Current Conditions Continue*
- Alternative B, *Revolutionary Legacies*
- Alternative C, *Welcoming Visitors*
- Alternative D, *Resource Stewardship*
- Alternative E, *Regions and Roads*.

Alternative A, *Current Conditions Continue*, represents the continuation of the heritage area’s current activities in supporting partner initiatives and providing an umbrella of heritage area-wide programming. Under this scenario, the Crossroads Association would continue to sponsor statewide marketing and programming, while partner organizations would take the lead in local and regional activities with the Crossroads Association providing support upon request. Projects undertaken under Alternative A might include marketing and financial support of community programs related to the American Revolution, or small grants to local interpretive sites or land trusts for Revolution-related programming or preservation.

Alternatives B, C, D, and E, all work to promote the following goals: providing opportunities for learning about the significance of New Jersey as the Crossroads of the American Revolution through the fostering of close working relationships and partnerships; identifying, protecting, and promoting historic and cultural resources; enhancing and promoting the region’s natural, recreational, and scenic resources; providing opportunities for interpretation, education, and

research of New Jersey's significant American Revolution history; and promoting heritage tourism and a positive visitor experience throughout the region. Though the alternatives have these shared goals, each of the four alternatives places varying degrees of emphasis on each of the goals and their associated strategies.

Alternative B, *Revolutionary Legacies*, focuses on presenting the ideas and ideals of the American Revolution to residents of New Jersey as a means of reflecting upon today's issues and challenges rather than upon interpretation of Revolutionary War events. Under this alternative, local communities will explore their historic and cultural identities and seek to understand how such identities relate to the themes of the American Revolution. Crossroads would implement this alternative through such activities as assisting with community revitalization plans and providing grants for local programming and events.

Alternative C, *Welcoming Visitors*, emphasizes heritage tourism for the purposes of economic development and community revitalization. This alternative prioritizes preserving and interpreting historic sites and landscapes in order to present New Jersey's nationally significant Revolutionary War story to national and regional audiences. Projects undertaken under this alternative could include a heritage area-wide interpretive plan linking attractions or grants for programming at primary attractions.

Alternative D, *Resource Stewardship*, focuses on the preservation of Revolutionary Era resources, including buildings, landscapes, archeological sites, and natural resources, over all other considerations. Types of projects that could be undertaken under Alternative D could include heritage area resource inventories or grants for the purchase of historic properties and conservation easements.

Alternative E, *Regions and Roads*, focuses upon telling the story of New Jersey's role in the American Revolution to residents as a means of raising public awareness, instilling pride, and achieving other community goals. Under Alternative E, the means of telling the Crossroads story occurs through a balance of resource protection and investment in the visitor experience. Projects undertaken through Alternative E could include theme-based regional interpretive plans linking sites and orientation exhibits at primary attractions.

Alternative B focuses on the exploration of the ideas and ideals of the American Revolution, while Alternatives C and E focus on telling the story of the American Revolution through its physical evidence extant across New Jersey's contemporary landscape. While both C and E focus upon interpretation, Alternative C emphasizes interpretation to visitors for the economic benefit of heritage tourism while Alternative E emphasizes interpretation to residents to enhance local quality of life. Alternative D focuses upon the protection, preservation, and stewardship of resources and is therefore identified as the Environmentally Preferred Alternative in Chapter 2, *Alternatives*.

### 4.3 Historic and Cultural Resources

The management, preservation, protection, and interpretation of historic and cultural resources is a primary purpose for which the Crossroads of the American Revolution National Heritage Area was created. Therefore, all of the alternatives described in the management plan seek to achieve this goal but do so with varying degrees of priority and effectiveness. This section discusses historic buildings and districts; battlefield, engagement, and related sites; archeological sites; monuments, parks, and commemorative sites; historic communities; and cultural landscapes..

#### 4.3.1 Historic Buildings and Districts

Under **Alternative A**, *Current Conditions Continue*, Crossroads would support programs of statewide historic preservation organizations and agencies but would not take a direct role in these activities, which could include the inventory and preservation of American Revolution resources. Alternative A would have a negligible impact on historic buildings and districts.

**Alternatives B**, *Revolutionary Legacies*, **Alternative C**, *Welcoming Visitors*, and **Alternative E**, *Regions and Roads*, would likely all have beneficial impacts for the historic buildings and districts throughout the heritage area. Alternative B, which focuses on historic community downtown centers as a means to address community development and social needs at the local level, would help preserve historic buildings and districts, which are often located in the heart of historic downtowns. Key interpretive sites and selected historic and visitor service communities significant to tourism, many of which are or include historic buildings and districts, are the focus of preservation efforts under Alternative C. Alternative E would likely have a minor beneficial impact on the historic buildings and districts in communities throughout the heritage area, as it would seek to commit equal resources to developing the visitor experience for residents as to the physical preservation of resources.

Historic buildings and districts would receive greater attention under **Alternative D**, *Resource Stewardship*. Funding for bricks-and-mortar preservation, broad-based historic resource inventories, and preservation planning initiatives supported by the heritage area would result in greater beneficial impacts than B, C, or E to the historic buildings and districts – the physical evidence of the Revolutionary Era – that are located in communities throughout the heritage area.

#### 4.3.2 Battlefield, Engagement, and Related Sites

**Alternative A**, *Current Conditions Continue* and **Alternative B**, *Revolutionary Legacies*, would have negligible impact on battlefield, engagement, and related sites. Under Alternative A, Crossroads would support the work of organizations and agencies working to protect these resources but would not have a direct role in preservation activities. Alternative B focuses on the ideas and ideals of the Revolution, rather than Revolutionary War events, and so is unlikely to contribute to the preservation of historic sites.

**Alternative C**, *Welcoming Visitors*, and **Alternative E**, *Regions and Roads*, would each have some beneficial impact upon battlefield, engagement, and related sites, though in different ways. Alternative C would invest in the preservation and interpretation of major battlefields as key heritage tourism attractions. Benefits would accrue to such battlefields as Princeton Battlefield, Monmouth Battlefield, Red Bank Battlefield, and Morristown National Historical Park. Little benefit, however, would be felt by lesser known sites under Alternative C. Conversely, Alternative E, *Regions and Roads*, would tend to have a beneficial impact on smaller community

related sites, not the major battlefields, including identification and interpretation of currently unprotected battlefield, engagement, and related sites.

**Alternative D, *Resource Stewardship***, would focus on the identification and preservation of authentic American Revolution sites as a priority over other activities. Such sites include battlefield, engagement, and related sites. Alternative D, therefore, would have a greater beneficial impact on these sites than either Alternative C or E.

### 4.3.3 Archeological Sites

**Alternative A, *Current Conditions Continue***, **Alternative B, *Revolutionary Legacies***, and **Alternative C, *Welcoming Visitors***, would have negligible impact on archeological resources. Alternative A casts Crossroads in a role of supporting others' preservation efforts, and Alternative B focuses on fostering community development activities. Alternative C focuses on major interpretive sites and historic and visitor service communities rather than local sites. The alternative's primary focus is on visitor experience and visual character rather than archeology.

**Alternative D, *Resource Stewardship***, and **Alternative E, *Regions and Roads***, both emphasize the preservation of archeological sites as one element of the physical presence of the Revolutionary Era in New Jersey that should be protected. Under both alternatives, archeological sites would be inventoried and integrated into local municipal preservation plans and programs. Alternative D would have the most beneficial impact on archeological resources because of its primary focus on and special funding for resource protection programs, including archeology. Alternative E would have a beneficial impact on archeological resources as an aside to its focus on community interpretation and planning.

### 4.3.4 Monuments, Parks, and Commemorative Sites

Under **Alternative A, *Current Conditions Continue***, monuments, parks, and commemorative sites would not receive special emphasis. Such sites that already receive attention and support through Crossroads partners will continue to receive indirect Crossroads support under this scenario, but this alternative would have a negligible impact on these resources.

**Alternatives B, C, D, and E** would have some beneficial impact on monuments, parks, and commemorative sites, though in different ways. Alternative B, *Revolutionary Legacies*, and Alternative E, *Regions and Roads*, suggest the preservation, enhancement, and interpretation of monuments, plaques, and other commemorative resources within communities as a means of using local stories to illustrate the ideals and stories of the American Revolution and to help residents connect to them in meaningful ways. Alternative B, in particular, would focus upon commemorative parks in urban areas. Preservation efforts under Alternative C, *Welcoming Visitors*, would focus on key interpretive sites that are accessible to the public. Although many local monuments and commemorative sites would not be considered key interpretive sites under this alternative, major state and national parks within the heritage area would serve as key attractions and interpretive sites. Preserving commemorative markers and monuments is a key element of Alternative D, *Resource Stewardship*, so it would have greater beneficial impact than Alternatives B, C, and E.

### 4.3.5 Historic Communities

**Alternative A** would have a negligible impact on historic communities. In Alternative A, *Current Conditions Continue*, the role of Crossroads would be one of supporting the efforts of such statewide organizations as the New Jersey Historic Preservation Office, the New Jersey Historic Trust, and Preservation New Jersey. Local preservation and planning programs in support of historic communities would be undertaken by Crossroads on a limited by-request basis.

**Alternative C and E** would have some beneficial impacts on historic communities. In Alternative C, *Welcoming Visitors*, community planning efforts would be limited to visitor service communities, many of which are historic, but most of which are affluent and already well-preserved. Assistance would also be provided to help additional communities become visitor-ready. Alternative E, *Regions and Roads*, focuses upon the interpretation of legacy communities associated with the Revolutionary Era. Revitalization plans providing beneficial effects would be developed for these communities to support interpretation and visitor services.

**Alternatives B and D** would have greater beneficial impacts on historic communities than Alternatives C and E. The revitalization of historic community downtown centers and neighborhoods would be a primary emphasis of Alternative B, *Revolutionary Legacies*. Under this alternative, Crossroads would encourage using historic preservation to support economic revitalization and strengthening of community character.

Community planning that preserves historic resources and landscapes and that revitalizes historic communities would be a primary focus of Alternative D, *Resource Stewardship*. Specific projects under Alternative D would include historic resource inventories, municipal preservation plans, and community revitalization programs, all of which have the potential to beneficially affect historic communities.

### 4.3.6 Cultural Landscapes

**Alternative A**, *Current Conditions Continue*, would have a negligible impact on cultural landscapes. **Alternative B**, *Revolutionary Legacies*, also would have negligible impact on cultural landscapes. Some minor beneficial impacts might occur at designated historic sites or where downtown historic centers are classified as cultural landscapes, but preservation efforts would focus primarily on community development and social needs.

**Alternatives C and E** would have some beneficial impacts on cultural landscapes. Alternative C, *Welcoming Visitors*, would fulfill the Crossroads mission by interpreting historic sites and landscapes to heritage travelers and telling the story of New Jersey during the American Revolution. Cultural landscapes would be preserved and interpreted as they support scenic byways, touring routes, and the visual character of significant Revolutionary Era attractions. Alternative E, *Regions and Roads*, supports preservation of landscapes at the local level through interpretation and community planning initiatives and might therefore also have a minor beneficial impact on cultural landscapes.

**Alternative D**, *Resource Stewardship*, focuses upon preserving the physical presence of the Revolutionary Era, including landscapes that are important to the story of the Revolution. Open space protection, land conservation, and community planning have led to the preservation of important sites and cultural landscapes in New Jersey where it is possible to imagine the Revolutionary Era. Programs under Alternative D supporting open space preservation,

community planning, and natural resource protection would all support cultural landscape identification, study, and protection. Alternative D would have a greater beneficial impact on cultural landscapes than any of the other alternatives.

#### 4.4 Natural Resources

The management, preservation, protection, and interpretation of natural resources, including policies and strategies for appropriate land and water resource management, is a primary purpose for which the heritage area was created. Each of the alternatives developed for Crossroads of the American Revolution seeks to achieve the goal of natural resource protection, but do so to varying degrees. Therefore, potential impacts that concern natural resources associated with proposed alternatives must be considered. Natural resources associated with landforms (including geology, topography, soils, and natural geographic features), water resources (including bays, estuaries, watersheds, wetlands, streams, and rivers), vegetation, and wildlife are discussed in this section.

The thrust of the Crossroads program is about cultural resources and providing a set of strategies and guidelines for interpretation and education about New Jersey's particular role in the American Revolution. With the focus on education, interpretation and tourism goals, potential impacts to the typical array of natural resource topics, as discussed below, are either not recognizable or would have a negligible effect.

As described in greater detail in Chapter 3 *Affected Environment*, the expansive Crossroads of the American Revolution National Heritage Area encompasses a large and diverse natural landscape. The chapter describes the presence of many significant natural resources that are protected and managed in accordance with many federal, state, and local laws and regulations as well as applicable regulatory guidance and management policies. However, none of the programmatic actions in any of the proposed alternatives would directly affect these natural resources.

If, at some point in the future implementation of any of the alternatives, a subsequent action would have a recognizable direct impact on a natural resource, the project sponsor or applicant involved in the action would conduct the site specific planning required for protection of the resources and would not implement that action until the appropriate environmental analyses were completed and the appropriate permits, if required, are obtained.

##### 4.4.1 Landforms

**Alternative A**, *Current Conditions Continue*, **Alternative B**, *Revolutionary Legacies*, **Alternative C**, *Welcoming Visitors*, **Alternative D**, *Resource Stewardship*, and **Alternative E**, *Regions and Roads*, each would have a negligible impact on landforms within the heritage area. Specific aspects of landforms upon which the alternatives would have a negligible impact include geology, topography, soils, and natural geographic features. Each of the alternatives outlined in the management plan describes broadly defined management policies and strategies rather than site-specific projects and proposals. These broad policies, guidelines, and strategies will, in general, support the protection of natural resources and 'best practices' stewardship. If site-specific projects are proposed following the adoption of the management plan, supplemental environmental assessments will be required to meet federal, state, and local requirements.

##### 4.4.2 Water Resources

**Alternative A, *Current Conditions Continue***, does not place high importance on developing recreational resources or on conserving natural resources related to water. Crossroads would continue to support local, regional, and partner programs and projects related to recreational and natural resources important to the American Revolution, but Crossroads activities under Alternative A would have a negligible impact on water resources.

**Alternative B, *Revolutionary Legacies***, would place importance on recreational resources and on conserving natural resources in urban and developing areas through creation of community parks and open space. Water-related resources would have a limited role in these initiatives. Although community parks and open space may incorporate water features, such as lakes, ponds, and even rivers, these features would not be a main focus of programs. Alternative B would therefore also have a negligible impact on water resources.

**Alternative C, *Welcoming Visitors***, would promote recreational amenities in natural areas as a supplement to the visitor experience along touring routes, at historic sites, and within historic communities. **Alternative E, *Regions and Roads***, would promote recreational opportunities as a way to engage residents in interpretive presentations. Recreational amenities and opportunities promoted under Alternatives C and E would include the use of water trails along New Jersey's rivers, streams, and other water resources. Such recreational uses of water resources have the potential for minor long-term beneficial impact through an infusion of resources and maintenance for water use; but these same opportunities also present the potential for short-term adverse impact due to increased use or construction that may occur during a potential project. Overall, however, these alternatives would have a negligible impact on water resources, because the potential beneficial impacts are minimal and short-term adverse impacts would be more fully assessed and mitigated as a result of site-specific projects that would be undertaken after the adoption of this management plan.

**Alternative D, *Resource Stewardship***, would have a beneficial impact on water resources due to the active role Crossroads would play in open space conservation and natural resource protection. Even in urban areas, Crossroads would promote the protection of the state's water resources by working to strengthen neighborhoods and community character through sustainable systems that manage stormwater and improve water quality.

#### 4.4.3 Vegetation

**Alternatives A, B, C, and E** would each have a negligible impact on vegetation within the heritage area. To varying degrees, all of the alternatives support the conservation of open space and park lands that, in turn, protect plant communities and strengthen ecological systems. As mentioned above, the management plan's broad policies, guidelines, and strategies will help support the protection of natural resources and 'best practices' stewardship under all of the alternatives. Where specific projects may be proposed after the adoption of the plan, supplemental environmental assessments, including impacts to vegetation, would be undertaken.

**Alternative D, *Resource Stewardship***, would have a beneficial impact upon vegetation through its focus on preserving cultural landscapes, open space, and natural resources.

#### 4.4.4 Wildlife

**All of the alternatives** would have a negligible impact on wildlife within the heritage area. As with vegetation, all of the alternatives support the conservation of open space and park lands that,

in turn, protect wildlife and wildlife habitats. These benefits would be, however, incidental and not a significant focus of the alternatives. As mentioned, the management plan's broad policies, guidelines, and strategies will help support the protection of natural resources and 'best practices' stewardship under all of the alternatives. Where specific projects may be proposed after the adoption of the plan, supplemental environmental assessments, including impacts on wildlife, would be undertaken. As with wildlife in general, no alternative would have any specific impact on threatened or endangered species.

#### 4.5 Recreational Resources

Parks, preserves, trails and other resources provide diverse opportunities for recreation throughout the heritage area for residents and visitors alike. While each of the alternatives presented in this plan would recognize the importance of appropriate recreational opportunities to the Crossroads mission, several of the alternatives make specific use of recreational activities as opportunities for interpretation.

**Alternative A**, *Current Conditions Continue*, would support local and regional recreation programs and projects related to Revolutionary War preservation and interpretation. However, because recreational initiatives would not specifically be a high priority of the heritage area under Alternative A, it would have a negligible impact on recreational resources overall.

**Alternatives B and E** would have some beneficial impacts upon recreational resources. Alternative B, *Revolutionary Legacies*, would feature passive recreation and supporting recreational infrastructure within communities, such as public parks, open space, walking trails, and touring routes. Interpretation in conjunction with recreational infrastructure would be developed and would cultivate community-building and dialogue about community history and identity. Similarly, Alternative E, *Regions and Roads*, would encourage historic sites with existing recreational opportunities to promote recreational uses and to integrate interpretive components into recreational resources to engage residents.

**Alternatives C and D** would have a greater beneficial impact upon recreational resources than Alternatives B and E. Under Alternative C, *Welcoming Visitors*, opportunities for recreation would be promoted to enhance the visitor experience, the primary focus of this alternative, along touring routes, at Crossroads attractions, and within historic and visitor service communities. This alternative would support the enhancement of existing recreational resources to create recreational destinations at some existing historic sites.

Alternative D, *Resource Stewardship*, promotes recreation as a means of raising public awareness for open space preservation. By encouraging New Jersey's growing population to use the region's existing system of parks and preserves, stewardship of the parks and preserves will become a community priority. Alternative D specifically supports outdoor recreational uses that are compatible with the natural landscape, such as walking, jogging, hiking, horseback riding, cross-county skiing, and water trails.

#### 4.6 Socio-economic Environment

The socio-economic environment within the Crossroads Heritage Area is varied and diverse, creating an important context in which to consider management goals, strategies, and alternatives for management and implementation. Each of the five alternatives is designed to generate positive economic development that is compatible with and sensitive to the heritage area's natural and

cultural resources. A specific goal of the heritage area is to engage ethnic, minority, and non-traditional communities whose personal and family histories begin after the American Revolution. Analysis of the environmental consequences of alternatives as they relate to the socioeconomic environment includes consideration of area demographics and economic and community development.

In **Alternative A**, *Current Conditions Continue*, the Crossroads Association would continue to serve as an umbrella organization focusing upon statewide programs and promotion. The primary audience for heritage area programs and activities would continue to be history enthusiasts and students. Crossroads would support existing destination marketing organizations and the state tourism office but would not have a direct role in marketing. Because of its support role, focus on the current primary audience, and limited involvement in community development, Alternative A would have a negligible impact on the socio-economic environment.

**Alternatives D and E** would have some beneficial impacts on the socio-economic environment within the region. Alternative D, *Resource Stewardship*, would focus on encouraging preservation action at the local and regional levels with organizations having preservation interests as the main audience. Preservation activities have the potential to create jobs for service workers and building trade professionals. Through preservation, local quality of life would be enhanced. Tourism, which would create economic benefits in the area, would be a secondary goal of this alternative and would not be emphasized. The focus of this alternative would be upon preservation of physical aspects of the historic and natural landscape rather than on community development. For all of these reasons, Alternative D would be expected to have a minor beneficial impact on the socio-economic environment.

Similar to Alternative D, in Alternative E, *Regions and Roads*, tourism and economic development would be secondary goals. Alternative E would focus upon telling the story of the American Revolution to local residents through interpretation and educational programming. It would also, however, emphasize community development and enhancement of local quality of life within communities. It would therefore be expected to have a minor beneficial impact on the socio-economic environment.

**Alternatives B and C** would have greater beneficial impacts upon the socio-economic environment within the region than Alternatives D and E. The primary audience for Alternative B, *Revolutionary Legacies*, would be the residents of local communities as they address today's issues and seek to revitalize their communities. This alternative would be particularly relevant and beneficial to minority communities who are new to the American experience and seek to understand its bearing on their lives. Improvements to community character and comprehensive revitalization plans would help enhance community quality of life, attract investment, and support local economies.

Alternative C, *Welcoming Visitors*, would emphasize using New Jersey's Revolutionary War story to attract national and regional heritage tourism, supporting local and regional economies. This alternative would focus on in-state and out-of-state visitors with interests and habits similar to traditional heritage tourists. Increased visitorship and visitor expenditures, as well as other efforts to support local community revitalization, associated with Alternative C would have moderate beneficial impacts on the socio-economic environment in the areas where interpretive attractions are located. These areas tend to be those that are already affluent and visitor-ready. It would not necessarily benefit other more needy areas that are difficult to market to heritage tourists.

## 4.7 Community Planning and Development

Planning efforts within the state of New Jersey range in scale from broad statewide planning programs to regional and local community planning initiatives. Community planning in New Jersey, however, is primarily undertaken at the local municipal level. State, regional, and county planning is not strong and tends to be incentive based. To be effective, therefore, Crossroads must engage planning partners at the local level. Although the Crossroads Heritage Area has national significance, the five alternatives for Crossroads management and implementation attempt to address more local community planning and development issues in different ways.

In **Alternative A**, *Current Conditions Continue*, Crossroads would support programs of organizations and agencies such as the New Jersey Historic Preservation Office and Preservation New Jersey in encouraging communities to undertake planning programs that relate to the preservation and interpretation of American Revolution resources. Crossroads would not have a direct role in these activities, and Alternative A would therefore be expected to have a negligible impact on community planning and development.

**Alternative C**, *Welcoming Visitors*, would have some beneficial impact on community planning and development within the region. In Alternative C, Crossroads would support a limited number of visitor service communities in enhancing their character and becoming visitor-ready. This process would include coordinating local planning efforts with heritage area-wide tourism priorities. Projects and investments that would support tourism and an enhanced visitor experience, including such projects as orientation centers, byway routes, interpretation, streetscape improvements, and historic downtown revitalization featuring local restaurants, shopping, and lodging, would be supported. However, these initiatives would be limited to communities that are significant to national and statewide heritage tourism marketing. Most of these communities are affluent and already familiar with such planning initiatives. Little if any impact would be felt on the large number of other communities within the heritage area, especially the most challenged.

**Alternatives B, D, and E** would each have a beneficial impact on community planning and development within the heritage area. Alternative B, *Revolutionary Legacies*, would focus on community history and evolution, directly supporting comprehensive revitalization plans and programs that address community needs. This alternative also emphasizes the development and use of community parks and public open space to enhance community character.

Alternative D, *Resource Stewardship*, focuses upon community planning that promotes the preservation of historic resources and landscapes as well as the revitalization of historic communities. Historic communities throughout the heritage area would benefit from programs that would be developed, including comprehensive historic resource inventories, community preservation plans, and revitalization plans. Similarly, in Alternative E, *Regions and Roads*, Crossroads would support the development of local and regional revitalization and open space plans as a means of raising public awareness of the stories of the American Revolution. The beneficial effects of these programs would be heritage area-wide and not limited to a few specific communities.

## 4.8 Transportation

The vast transportation network in New Jersey is a complex system that accommodates automobile, truck, bus, light rail, train, and air transportation within the most densely populated state in the nation. Because of size, complexity, and extensive nature of this transportation network, **the five alternatives** are likely to have a negligible impact on regional transportation within the heritage area.

One potential adverse impact on transportation within the heritage area would result from increased visitation to attractions, both over the long term and in the short term as a result of isolated events, such as festivals. This potential effect or impact is discussed in detail in Chapter 3, Section 3.6.4 Traffic Levels Associated with Crossroads Interpretive Sites. This discussion illustrates that even if doubled, increased visitation would have a negligible impact on vehicular transportation within the heritage area.

Of more concern to this management plan, however, is the impact of New Jersey's transportation network on visitor experience. Wayfinding is difficult within many portions of the heritage area due to the complexity of the road network and volume of traffic. Addressing this issue will be a challenge.

## 4.9 Energy Conservation

Energy conservation and sustainability are potential goals implied in the heritage area's enabling legislation through its emphasis on resource management policies, strategies, and techniques. However, the issue of energy conservation is a large and complex one within such a heavily populated and developed state as New Jersey. Each activity undertaken by organizations and individuals must take this issue seriously to achieve needed levels of energy conservation. While each of **the five alternatives** is likely to have a negligible impact upon overall energy needs or consumption in New Jersey, they must still do their part to help address the issue. Energy conservation will, therefore, be addressed in the Crossroads management plan.

Two of the alternatives for Crossroads do emphasize specific strategies related to sustainability. Alternative B, *Revolutionary Legacies*, and Alternative D, *Resource Stewardship*, specifically encourage the use of sustainable systems to address community development issues by lowering energy use, managing stormwater, and improving water quality. While these strategies are important in promoting energy conservation and should be included in the plan, they are unlikely to have a measurable beneficial impact upon overall energy conservation and sustainability within the state.

## 4.10 Adverse and Cumulative Impacts

As outlined above, there are no anticipated adverse impacts associated with the impact topics retained for detailed analysis. In large measure, this is due to the beneficial nature of the heritage area purpose and program as directed in Crossroads enabling legislation. Added to this is the highly developed condition of the New Jersey landscape, a condition in which the environmental issues and problems are overwhelming in comparison to the types of programming and initiatives related to the heritage area. The alternatives discussed above are related to broad programmatic initiatives, the details of which will be developed by local partners over time. The alternatives do not get into site-specific details

or recommendations. Should future initiatives be undertaken by heritage area partners with the potential for site specific impacts, all federal, state, and local laws, regulations, and review procedures will be followed by those partners with respect to those initiatives.

### **Cumulative Impacts**

Crossroads of the American Revolution National Heritage area is one of several current initiatives in the state of New Jersey that seeks to promote resource stewardship, community and economic development, and heritage tourism. The heritage area will be working in coordination with the programs of many local, regional, and statewide organizations which are described in Chapter 3 of this plan.

Examples of current initiatives related to the Crossroads mission include programs such as New Jersey's Heritage Tourism Master Plan (a planning effort led by the New Jersey Heritage Tourism Task Force and completed in June 2010 that provides statewide guidance for preserving historic sites and telling the stories of the state's past so that the state will generate increased revenue as it welcomes more visitors) and the Washington Rochambeau Revolutionary Route and National Historic Trail designated in March 2009 (a heritage tourism initiative that will educate the public and visitors about the American Revolution through a network of historic sites along a trail that extends over 600 miles, 80 of which are in New Jersey). Together with Crossroads initiatives, programs such as these will have a cumulative beneficial impact upon the region. No adverse cumulative impacts reacted to these types of cooperative programs are anticipated.

Table XX: Summary of Environmental Impacts of the Alternatives

	<b>Scenario A: Current Conditions Continue</b>	<b>Scenario B: Revolutionary Legacies</b>	<b>Scenario C: Welcoming Visitors</b>	<b>Scenario D: Resource Stewardship</b>	<b>Scenario E: Regions and Roads</b>
<b>Historic and Cultural Resources</b>					
Historic buildings and districts	<i>Negligible Impact</i>	<i>Beneficial Impact</i>	<i>Beneficial Impact</i>	<i>Beneficial Impact</i>	<i>Beneficial Impact</i>
Battlefield, Engagement, and Related Sites	<i>Negligible Impact</i>	<i>Negligible Impact</i>	<i>Beneficial Impact</i>	<i>Beneficial Impact</i>	<i>Beneficial Impact</i>
Archeological Sites	<i>Negligible Impact</i>	<i>Negligible Impact</i>	<i>Negligible Impact</i>	<i>Beneficial Impact</i>	<i>Beneficial Impact</i>
Monuments, Parks, and Commemorative Sites	<i>Negligible Impact</i>	<i>Minor Beneficial Impact</i>	<i>Beneficial Impact</i>	<i>Beneficial Impact</i>	<i>Beneficial Impact</i>
Historic Communities	<i>Negligible Impact</i>	<i>Beneficial Impact</i>	<i>Beneficial Impact</i>	<i>Beneficial Impact</i>	<i>Beneficial Impact</i>
Cultural Landscapes	<i>Negligible Impact</i>	<i>Negligible Impact</i>	<i>Beneficial Impact</i>	<i>Beneficial Impact</i>	<i>Beneficial Impact</i>
<b>Natural Resources</b>					
Landforms	<i>Negligible Impact</i>	<i>Negligible Impact</i>	<i>Negligible Impact</i>	<i>Negligible Impact</i>	<i>Negligible Impact</i>
Water Resources	<i>Negligible Impact</i>	<i>Negligible Impact</i>	<i>Negligible Impact</i>	<i>Beneficial Impact</i>	<i>Negligible Impact</i>
Vegetation	<i>Negligible Impact</i>	<i>Negligible Impact</i>	<i>Negligible Impact</i>	<i>Beneficial Impact</i>	<i>Negligible Impact</i>
Wildlife	<i>Negligible Impact</i>	<i>Negligible Impact</i>	<i>Negligible Impact</i>	<i>Negligible Impact</i>	<i>Negligible Impact</i>
<b>Recreational Resources</b>	<i>Negligible Impact</i>	<i>Beneficial Impact</i>	<i>Beneficial Impact</i>	<i>Beneficial Impact</i>	<i>Beneficial Impact</i>
<b>Socioeconomic Environment</b>	<i>Negligible Impact</i>	<i>Beneficial Impact</i>	<i>Beneficial Impact</i>	<i>Beneficial Impact</i>	<i>Beneficial Impact</i>
<b>Community Planning and Development</b>	<i>Negligible Impact</i>	<i>Beneficial Impact</i>	<i>Beneficial Impact</i>	<i>Beneficial Impact</i>	<i>Moderate Beneficial Impact</i>
<b>Transportation</b>	<i>Negligible Impact</i>	<i>Negligible Impact</i>	<i>Negligible Impact</i>	<i>Negligible Impact</i>	<i>Negligible Impact</i>
<b>Energy Conservation</b>	<i>Negligible Impact</i>	<i>Negligible Impact</i>	<i>Negligible Impact</i>	<i>Negligible Impact</i>	<i>Negligible Impact</i>

