NEPA Environmental Compliance & Public Lands Practicum Charter

Procedural Guide for Drafting Environmental Impact Statements under Federal Regulatory Standards

NEPA ENVIRONMENTAL COMPLIANCE PRACTICUM CHARTER

Statutory Authority & Core Mandate

The National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA, 42 U.S.C. § 4321 et seq.) requires federal agencies
to assess environmental impacts before undertaking major federal actions significantly affecting human environment.

The Five Interdisciplinary EIS Stages

1. Scoping & Notice of Intent (NOI): Public outreach to define project scope and significant issues.
2. Purpose and Need Statement: Concise articulation of why agency action is proposed.
3. Alternatives Development: Rigorous evaluation of 'No Action' and multiple build alternatives.
4. Affected Environment & Environmental Consequences: Rigorous baseline and predictive impact modeling.
5. Public Comment Period & Record of Decision (ROD): Responding to public submissions and final agency decision.

Academic Compliance Standards

Students author authentic Draft EIS chapters evaluated under Tenth Circuit federal judicial review precedent.