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Natural gas operations would affect government revenue, output, employment, and labor income in the regional economy but the change only represents a very small fraction of the economy as discussed under natural gas exploration and development.

## **Unavoidable Adverse Impacts**

### **Soils**

Areas that are not successfully reclaimed from surface-disturbing activities could have excessive soil erosion, which would be considered adverse when soil productivity is affected and sedimentation occurs to the extent that water quality is degraded. Unauthorized activities, such as off-road travel, could lead to soil compaction and a subsequent increase in surface runoff and soil erosion.

### **Vegetation – Native Plants**

There would be minimal impacts to vegetation that cannot be avoided with appropriate mitigation measures as included within the alternatives.

## **Short-Term Use versus Long-Term Productivity**

### **Soils**

Most surface-disturbing activities result in short-term localized soil impacts, except for areas of continual use (i.e. roads, recreational areas, natural gas production areas) that require a long-term commitment of soil resources. Soil impacts include soil erosion, sedimentation and site instability. After reclamation and revegetation, long-term soil productivity, stability and site production would return.

### **Vegetation – Native Plants**

Some short-term uses (roads, gas development facilities, and recreation activities) would influence vegetation on a localized basis; however, the long-term vegetation productivity does not differ from one alternative to the other.

### **Livestock Grazing**

There could be some short-term losses in forage available for livestock grazing and inconvenience to accommodate other activities (recreation, gas development, prescription burning, wildlife habitat, etc). These losses would be relatively small and with mitigation measures, in the long-term are likely to sustain or increase productivity.

## **Irreversible and Irretrievable Commitment of Resources**

### **Soils**

If mitigating measures are ineffective in controlling erosion, there would be an irreversible and irretrievable commitment of the soil resource. Excessive soil erosion resulting in sediment entering surface waters would be an irreversible and irretrievable impact.