

Northeastern NPR-A Compensatory Mitigation Actions Nominated by Stakeholders - Update

The following table lists the proposed compensatory mitigation actions that were nominated by interested parties at one of the Regional Mitigation Strategy (RMS) stakeholder workshops, or in writing during the comment period that followed the September 2015 workshop. The proposed actions vary in specificity. Generally, editing of nominations was kept to a minimum, so as not to inadvertently change the intent. Where similar actions were proposed by multiple parties, they were combined into a single entry.

The nominated actions were screened to ensure they are compensatory mitigation actions, as opposed to mitigation actions that could be implemented on-site via stipulations. The proposed actions that could be implemented on-site are presented in a separate list that follows the table. The nominated actions were also screened to ensure they were actions within the authority of the BLM to implement. Those requiring authority exceeding that of the BLM (such as “repeal the NPR-A”) are also listed separately. Otherwise, the proposed mitigation actions presented in this paper have not been screened or ranked. The number that appears in the ‘ID’ column is for reference only – it does not imply rank.

For convenience sake, the proposed mitigation actions have been grouped by the primary issue they appear to address: ENV = areas with important natural, subsistence, and/or cultural values; SUB = subsistence and food security; CULTURE = Inupiat culture and lifestyle; HEALTH = human health and safety; and COMM = community (including education, economy, and recreational opportunities. It is recognized that many of these actions will address multiple issues.

ID	Primary Issue	Mitigation Action
1	SUB	Facilitate access to areas with important subsistence or cultural resource values, including areas that currently have oil and gas activity. Examples include building a road to provide access from Nuiqsut to the Colville River or dredging the Niglaq channel. Potential locations include: Colville River Delta/Special Area, Colville River Watershed, Fish Creek, Nuiqsut, or Niglaq channel.
2	SUB	Reimburse hunters for the additional costs of subsistence hunting that are caused by development (e.g. fuel for longer trips, increased equipment maintenance costs, etc.).
3	SUB	Develop and implement programs to share food among North Slope communities.
4	SUB	Develop and implement programs to safely store food (e.g., community freezers and/or ice cellars).
5	SUB	Manage/control sport hunting. Potential locations: Colville River Delta/Special Area, Colville River Watershed, Teshekpuk Lake caribou herd migration corridors, river crossings, and insect relief areas, Teshekpuk Lake Special Area and vicinity.
6	SUB	Develop and implement programs to enhance production of local food sources
7	CULTURE	Construct cultural centers in impacted communities.
8	CULTURE	Fund cultural camps for youth, preferably through an endowment.

WORKING DRAFT – SUBJECT TO CHANGE

ID	Primary Issue	Mitigation Action
9	CULTURE	Support a whale captain apprentice program.
10	CULTURE	Support projects that document, teach, and protect culture, history, and language, such as updating the Nuiqsut Paisangich.
11	ENV	Acquire conservation easements or issue preservation leases for areas with important environmental, subsistence, or cultural resource values. Potential locations include: Colville River Delta/Special Area, Colville River Watershed, Teshekpuk Lake Special Area and vicinity.
12	ENV	Prohibit permanent non-subsistence infrastructure in areas with important environmental, subsistence, or cultural resource values.
13	ENV	Monitor annual survival of the Spectacled Eider on the North Slope.
14	ENV	Identify and protect high-value wetlands (for example, important waterfowl molting areas).
15	ENV	Fund programs to protect against the introduction and proliferation of invasive species. Potential locations: Colville River Watershed, Nuiqsut.
16	ENV	Buy out older lease tracts in areas with important environmental, subsistence, or cultural resource values. Potential locations: Teshekpuk Lake caribou herd migration corridors, river crossings, and insect relief areas, Teshekpuk Lake Special Area and vicinity, and Ikpikpuk Special Area.
17	ENV	Develop conservation or management plans for the NPR-A, for Special Areas, and/or for areas with important environmental, subsistence, or cultural resource values. Potential locations: Colville River Delta/Special Area, Colville River Watershed, Teshekpuk Lake caribou herd migration corridors, river crossings, and insect relief areas, Teshekpuk Lake Special Area and vicinity.
18	ENV	Develop and implement research and monitoring projects focused on improving the understanding of the effects of development infrastructure and activities on subsistence species.
19	ENV	Create/expand/enforce special management areas/buffers. Potential locations: Colville River Delta/Special Area, Colville River Watershed, Fish Creek, Teshekpuk Lake caribou herd migration corridors, river crossings, and insect relief areas, Teshekpuk Lake Special Area and vicinity, Ikpikpuk Special Area.
20	ENV	Restore/maintain water flow volume, protect surface water quality. Potential locations: Colville River Delta/Special Area, Colville River Watershed, Fish Creek.
21	ENV	Fund projects to control erosion. Potential locations: Colville River Delta/Special Area.
22	ENV	Collect baseline data and provide on-going monitoring of ecosystem health and function. Potential locations: Colville River Watershed, Fish Creek, Teshekpuk Lake Special Area and vicinity.
23	ENV	Evaluate and predict effects on Spectacled Eiders of environmental change in breeding areas.
24	ENV	Improve education efforts to eliminate take and the use of lead shot across the range of the Spectacled Eider.
25	ENV	Continue monitoring Spectacled Eider blood lead levels in areas where information is lacking, such as the North Slope, and monitor lead levels periodically throughout the range of the Eider.
26	HEALTH	Improve air quality monitoring – add more stations, upgrade stations to best available technology, monitor for a broader suite of pollutants.

WORKING DRAFT – SUBJECT TO CHANGE

ID	Primary Issue	Mitigation Action
27	HEALTH	Support health programs in impacted communities, including those designed to address need for drug/alcohol programs.
28	HEALTH	Develop and implement research and monitoring projects focused on improving the understanding of the effects of development infrastructure and activities on human health. Potential locations: Nuiqsut, and Anaktuvuk Pass.
29	COMM	Build recreation centers, teen centers, playgrounds, and/or picnic areas in and around impacted communities.
30	COMM	Provide parking in Deadhorse to facilitate North Slope residents' use of Dalton Highway for transportation.
31	COMM	Assist communities in communicating with levels of government to get issues of concern addressed and/or to obtain grants to help the communities deal with impacts.
32	COMM	Support the implementation/expansion of STEM (Science Technology Engineering Math) programs, such as the Alaska Native Science and Engineering Program (ANSEP) in impacted communities.
33	COMM	Support the development and implementation of job training programs in North Slope communities.
34	COMM	Develop and implement programs that support local entrepreneurial and economic development in impacted communities.
35	COMM	Fund increased local oversight/monitoring of development activities - e.g., staff, training, funding to contract for technical and scientific expertise.
36	COMM	Pay for engineering/architectural plans to secure sources of construction funding for facilities and infrastructure improvements in impacted communities.
37	COMM	Fund the development of long-term community development plans for impacted communities.
38	COMM	Build new housing to meet growing demand in impacted communities.

Proposed Actions that Could Be Accomplished via Lease Stipulations (On-Site Mitigation)

- Limit all ground work (research, stick-picking, etc.) to only one summer every three years.
- Limit ground-based disturbances to subsistence activities to only one summer every three years.
- Restrict development activities during sensitive life stages of subsistence wildlife.
- Minimize air and ground traffic during migration and calving.
- Restrict air traffic over important waterfowl and shorebird areas: nesting, brood rearing, and staging, including coastal areas from Nuiqsut to Barrow 3 miles in from coast.
- Increase monitoring and enforcement of environmental regulation compliance on lands that BLM is leasing.
- Hire local monitors to monitor environmental compliance.

Other Proposed Actions that Exceed the Authority of the BLM

- Repeal NPR-A.
- Allow the selection of new Native Allotments.
- Establish land trust with Nuiqsut.