

Overview of the Regional Mitigation Strategy for the Northeastern National Petroleum Reserve in Alaska

The Bureau of Land Management (BLM) is developing a Regional Mitigation Strategy (RMS) for the northeastern region of the National Petroleum Reserve in Alaska (NPR-A). **The purpose of this RMS is to identify a prioritized list of mitigation actions to compensate for unavoidable adverse impacts on important resources and resource uses in advance of future oil and gas development in the region.**

With regional mitigation strategies, the BLM has an opportunity to shift from the project-by-project mitigation approach that created a legacy of environmental conflict and backlogged permit applications to a new paradigm that will help development proceed in an efficient manner while safeguarding the resources that the public has entrusted the BLM to manage.

The Northeastern NPR-A Regional Mitigation Strategy will include:

- Geographic region addressed in the RMS
- List of unavoidable adverse impacts from oil and gas development projects that warrant mitigation
- Regional mitigation goals
- Criteria used to screen, select, and prioritize mitigation actions
- List of prioritized mitigation actions
- Explanation of how the RMS will be used for the Greater Mooses Tooth 1 project (GMT1) and future projects
- Monitoring and adaptive management plan, to ensure the mitigation actions are effective

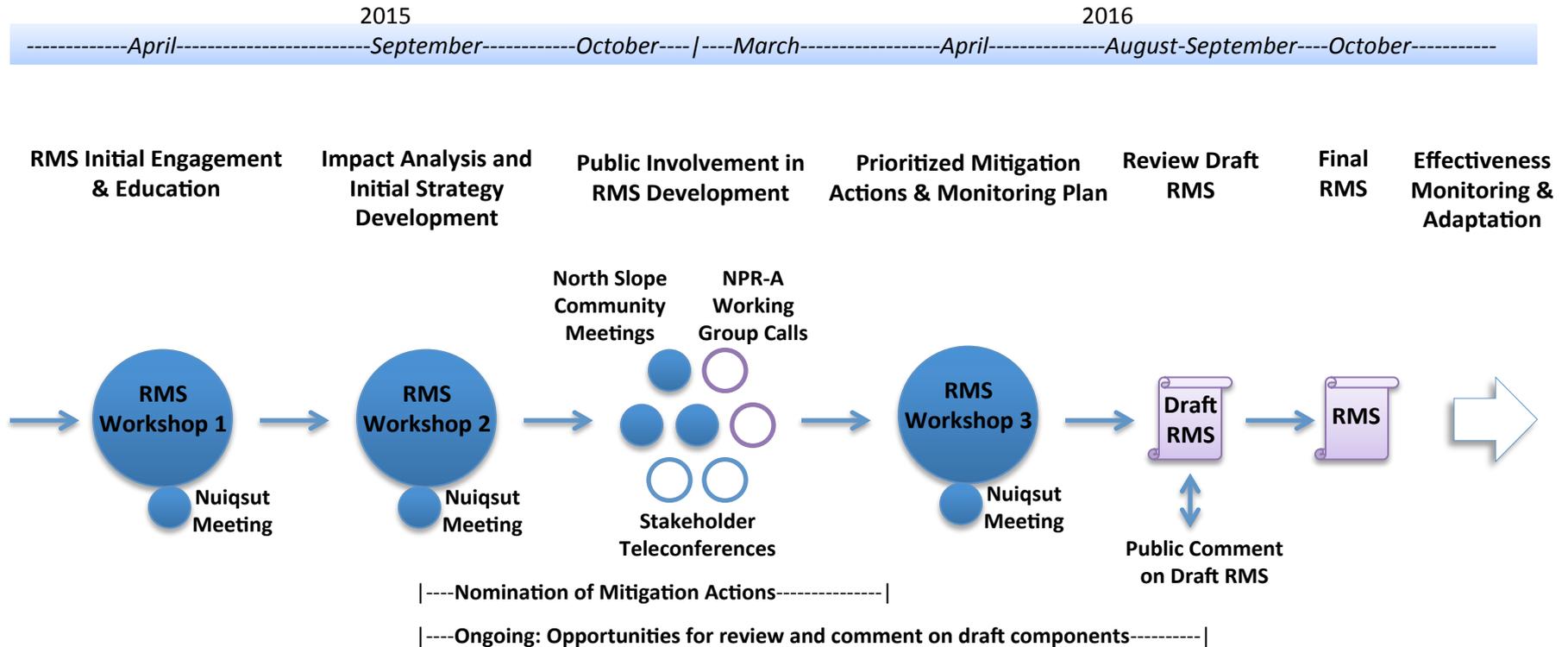
The development of a landscape-level Regional Mitigation Strategy for the northeastern NPR-A is required by the BLM's Supplemental Environmental Impact Statement and Record of Decision for the GMT1 project. It implements the Department of the Interior's direction on improving mitigation policies and practices, as well as BLM's national mitigation guidance. Further, it builds on mitigation planning that BLM has used in other states to avoid development conflicts and improve conservation, such as the 2014 RMS for solar energy zones in Arizona. The RMS will be developed at a landscape-scale; this provides an opportunity for other landowners, managers, and project applicants to use the strategy to achieve effective mitigation in this region of the NPR-A.

Schedule and Stakeholder Involvement Opportunities

The BLM plans to complete the RMS for the northeastern NPR-A by October 2016. The planning process will be transparent, with meaningful opportunities for active involvement and review by key stakeholders, including the NPR-A Working Group, North Slope residents and organizations, and others with interests in development and mitigation in the NPR-A. The project website provides more information and links to draft products, announcements, presentations, and workshop summaries.

<i>Spring 2015</i>	BLM hosted an initial two-day workshop on the RMS in Fairbanks, Alaska (March) and met with the community of Nuiqsut (May).
<i>Sept 2015</i>	BLM hosted a second two-day workshop on the RMS in Barrow, Alaska. Workshop topics included: geographic area to include in the RMS, unavoidable impacts to address, regional mitigation goals, potential mitigation actions, and criteria to use to prioritize mitigation actions.
<i>Mid-process</i>	Meetings with the NPR-A Working Group and North Slope communities, draft planning products presented, and opportunities for public input provided.
<i>March 2016</i>	BLM will host a third two-day workshop in Fairbanks, Alaska. Workshop topics will include: updates on prior topics, reasonably foreseeable future development scenario, compensatory fee development, monitoring and adaptive management.
<i>Summer 2016</i>	Draft RMS for public review and comment; public meeting schedule TBD.
<i>Oct 2016</i>	Final RMS

Regional Mitigation Strategy for Northeastern NPR-A



Outcomes:

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| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Education about Regional Mitigation • Initial discussion on residual impacts of concern and mitigation ideas | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Geographic boundary • Residual impacts that warrant mitigation • Mitigation goals • Mitigation actions • Criteria to evaluate options | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mitigation action nominations • Apply criteria and rank mitigation options | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Prioritized mitigation action list • RMS adaptive management approach | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Draft</i> Regional Mitigation Strategy | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Final</i> Regional Mitigation Strategy |
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