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|---|---|
| Oil & Gas Infrastructure (Pipeline & Road)    | Authorized O&G Lease Tract                  |
| Oil & Gas Exploration Well - Industry (NPR-A) | <b>Land Status</b>                          |
| Federal/ State Jurisdiction                   | Bureau of Land Management                   |
| NPR-A Boundary                                | Bureau of Land Management (Native Selected) |
| Regional Mitigation Strategy Boundary         | Native Lands (Patented or Interim Conveyed) |
| Oil & Gas Producing Unit                      | State (Patented or Interim Conveyed)        |

**WORKING DRAFT  
PROPOSED BOUNDARY**

0 6 12 18  
 Miles

## **Rationale for the Proposed Northeast NPR-A Regional Mitigation Strategy Boundary<sup>1</sup>**

1. **High potential for oil development:** The principal justification for the proposed boundary for the northeast NPR-A Regional Mitigation Strategy (RMS) is that it includes the area that the U.S. Geological Survey estimates has ‘high potential’ for economically recoverable oil. This proposed boundary includes approximately 90 percent of the modern exploratory wells in the NPR-A, and therefore includes the area in which future oil development is likely to occur.
2. **Includes area around Smith Bay.** BLM-managed uplands around Smith Bay are not available for leasing or exploratory drilling. However, development is currently planned for offshore state leases in Smith Bay. If these state leases or other similar offshore reserves are developed, they would require onshore infrastructure. The RMS would address mitigation for residual impacts from onshore infrastructure in the Smith Bay area.
3. **The RMS region is the “right size” to plan for effective mitigation of impacts.** It is important that the size of RMS region allow for an in-depth understanding of the resources and habitat, so that effective and durable mitigation actions can be identified and applied.
4. **The region includes a variety of land ownership status.** While the majority of the area within the proposed RMS boundary is managed by the BLM, private lands (Native Corporation and individual allotments), and state lands and waters are also included. Including state and private land within the boundary will allow for a wider variety of mitigation measures or options to be utilized (e.g., conservation easements).
5. **Includes much of the Itkillik River and the Kuparuk River Unit.** Although the BLM has no authority over the state-managed land to the east of the NPR-A, the area is used by Nuiqsut harvesters and encompasses already-developed areas that comprise the core of the Nuiqsut cultural landscape.
6. **Includes core Teshekpuk Lake Special Area, Teshekpuk Lake Herd habitat, and caribou corridors.** The TLH is a primary source of subsistence harvest in the northeast NPR-A region, and is a key resource for multiple communities.
7. **Does not include Umiat.** The Umiat area is classified as having medium potential for economically recoverable oil and companies have conducted exploratory drilling on leases at Umiat in recent years. If development occurs near Umiat, the BLM believes it would merit another, separate Regional Mitigation Strategy that would encompass areas used by Anaktuvuk Pass hunters as well as Nuiqsut hunters.

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<sup>1</sup> Note that this boundary is proposed for the Northeast NPR-A Regional Mitigation Strategy that will establish a framework for future mitigation within this region. The Compensatory Mitigation Funds from the Greater Mooses Tooth One (GMT1) project will specifically address impacts associated with the GMT1 project area, which is defined as within 2.5 miles of the GMT1 drill pad, road and pipeline and includes the city of Nuiqsut.