

Regional Mitigation Strategy for Northeastern NPR-A

Overview – Stacie McIntosh, Steve Cohn

Process and Schedule – Tahnee Robertson, Jan Caulfield

September 24-25, 2015

Note: In response to stakeholder comments concerning the term “residual impact,” the term “unavoidable” has been added since the September 2015 workshops.



Background

- Greater Mooses Tooth 1 (GMT1) identified unavoidable/residual impacts that could not be fully mitigated through avoidance or minimization
- Secretarial Order allows for compensatory mitigation for unavoidable/residual impacts
- BLM Policy requires development of Regional Mitigation Strategy (RMS)



Background

GMT1 Record of Decision requires BLM to create a RMS for Northeastern NPR-A:

- ✓ Plan for use of the GMT1 fund, for mitigation of unavoidable/residual impacts to the community of Nuiqsut.
- ✓ RMS for future development in Northeastern NPR-A, to proactively identify mitigation goals and actions.
- ✓ NPR-A Energy Impact Funds are not administered by BLM and are not related to the RMS.



Regional Mitigation Strategy Elements

- Identify natural resource functions and social values at risk
- Identify a range of mitigation actions
- Establish criteria to prioritize mitigation actions
- Explore ways to link development with conservation opportunities or social benefits



Benefits of RMS

- Address **wide-range of unavoidable/residual impacts** from oil/gas development (environmental, social, cultural, community needs)
- North Slope resident, agency, and broad stakeholder **involvement**
- **Proactive** – ahead of permitting decisions
- **Regional** scale – more effectively address impacts; cumulative effects
- **Certainty** – for industry & public



RMS Workshop Overview

- Geographic Area – Northeastern NPR-A
- Unavoidable/residual Impacts
- Mitigation Goals
- Mitigation Actions
- Criteria – which actions to take 1st, 2nd, etc.
- Work on maps – *Where* should specific mitigation actions occur?
- Next steps / comment opportunities



RMS Process and Schedule

- Spring 2015 RMS Workshop in Fairbanks
- May 2015 Meeting in Nuiqsut – GMT1 Fund
- Fall 2015 Meetings in Nuiqsut - GMT1 Fund
- **Sept 2015** **RMS Workshop in Barrow**
- Mid-process Teleconferences; NPR-A Working Group and community meetings
- Ongoing Draft products / public comments
- Spring 2016 RMS Workshop
- Summer 2016 Draft RMS - Public comment period
- October 2016 Final RMS

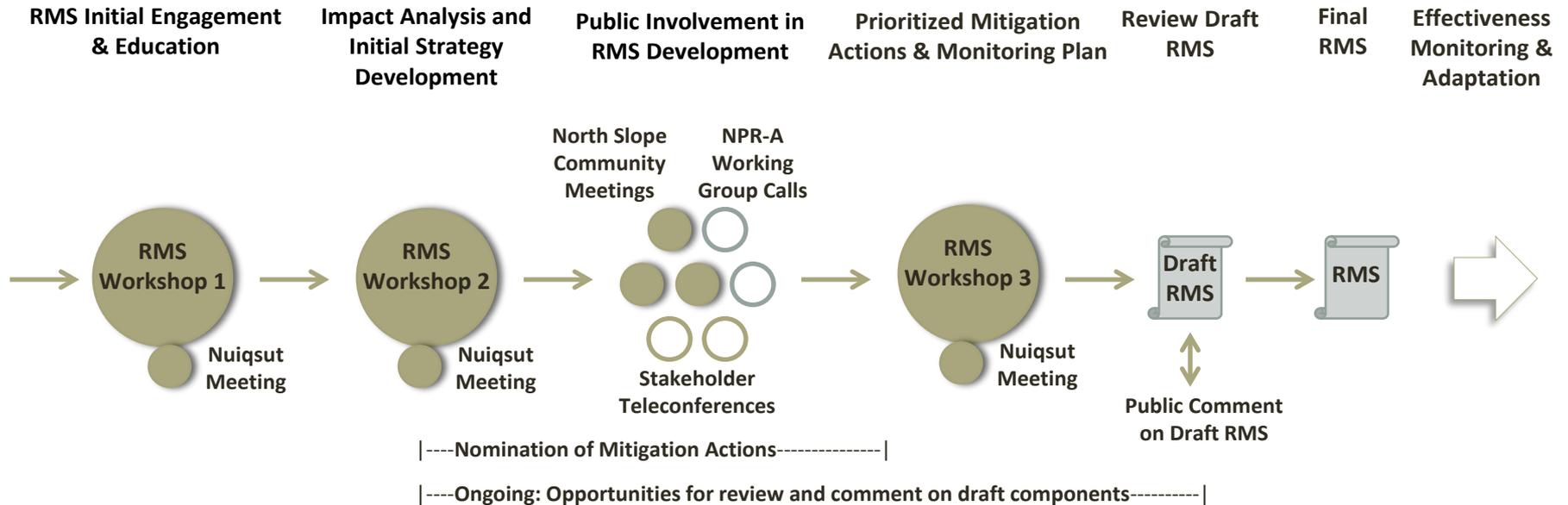


Regional Mitigation Strategy for Northeast NPR-A, including the GMT-1/Nuiqsut Element

2015

2016

-----April-----September-----October---|---March-----April-----August-September---October-----



Outcomes:

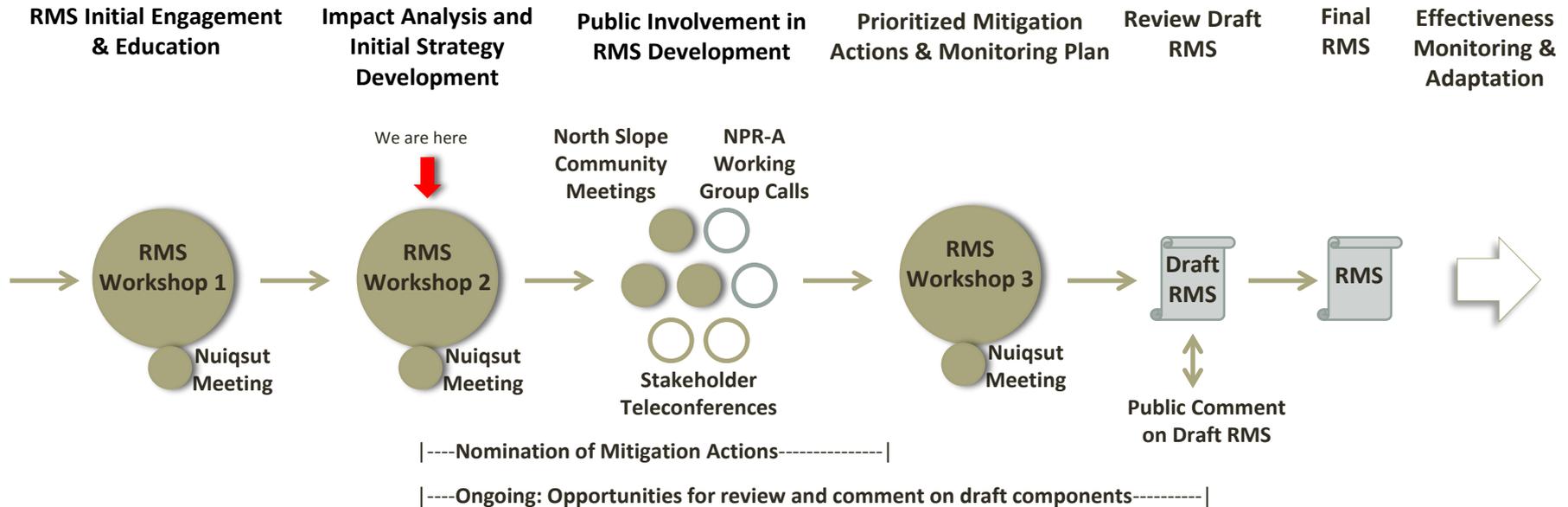
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|---|--|---|--|---|---|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Education about Regional Mitigation • Initial discussion on unavoidable/residual impacts of concern and mitigation ideas | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Geographic boundary • Unavoidable 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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Outcomes:

- Education about Regional Mitigation
- Initial discussion on residual impacts of concern and mitigation ideas

- Geographic boundary
- Residual impacts that warrant mitigation
- Mitigation goals
- Mitigation actions
- Criteria to evaluate options

- Mitigation action nominations
- Apply criteria and rank mitigation options

- Prioritized mitigation action list
- RMS adaptive management approach

- *Draft* Regional Mitigation Strategy

- *Final* Regional Mitigation Strategy

Questions?



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