

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

The Bureau of Land Management (BLM) is developing a Regional Mitigation Strategy (RMS) for the northeast section of the National Petroleum Reserve in Alaska (NPR-A). **The purpose of the RMS is to identify a prioritized list of mitigation actions to compensate for unavoidable impacts on important resources and resource uses from future oil and gas exploration and development in the northeast NPR-A.** The RMS will also include a section that specifically addresses compensation for impacts from the recently approved Greater Mooses Tooth 1 (GMT-1) development on the community of Nuiqsut.

The Regional Mitigation Strategy will include:

- Geographic region addressed in the RMS
- List of residual impacts from oil and gas exploration and development projects that warrant mitigation
- Mitigation goals for each type of impact
- Criteria used to select and prioritize mitigation actions
- List of prioritized mitigation actions
- Explanation of how the RMS will be implemented for GMT-1 and future projects
- Monitoring and adaptation plan, to ensure the RMS remains effective in the future

Development of a landscape-level Regional Mitigation Strategy for the northeast NPR-A is provided for in the BLM's Supplemental Environmental Impact Statement and Record of Decision for the GMT-1 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 that is not limited to just BLM-managed lands – providing the opportunity for other landowners, managers, and project applicants to use the strategy to achieve effective mitigation in this region of the NPR-A.

### Process, Schedule and Involvement Opportunities

BLM plans to complete the Regional Mitigation Strategy for the northeast 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 below 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>	Second RMS Workshop in Barrow, Alaska. Topics: Geographic area to include in the RMS, residual impacts to address, mitigation goals, mitigation actions to consider, criteria to use to prioritize mitigation actions.
<i>Mid-process</i>	Meetings will be scheduled with the NPR-A Working Group and North Slope communities. Draft planning products will be presented and discussed at stakeholder teleconferences, and opportunities for public input provided.
<i>Spring 2016</i>	Third RMS Workshop in Barrow, Alaska. Topics: Review proposed prioritized list of mitigation actions to include in the RMS, discuss adaptive management approach for the RMS.
<i>Aug-Sept 2016</i>	Public comment period for draft RMS.
<i>Oct 2016</i>	Final RMS

RMS Website - <http://www.blm.gov/ak/st/en/prog/NPR-A/RMS.html>

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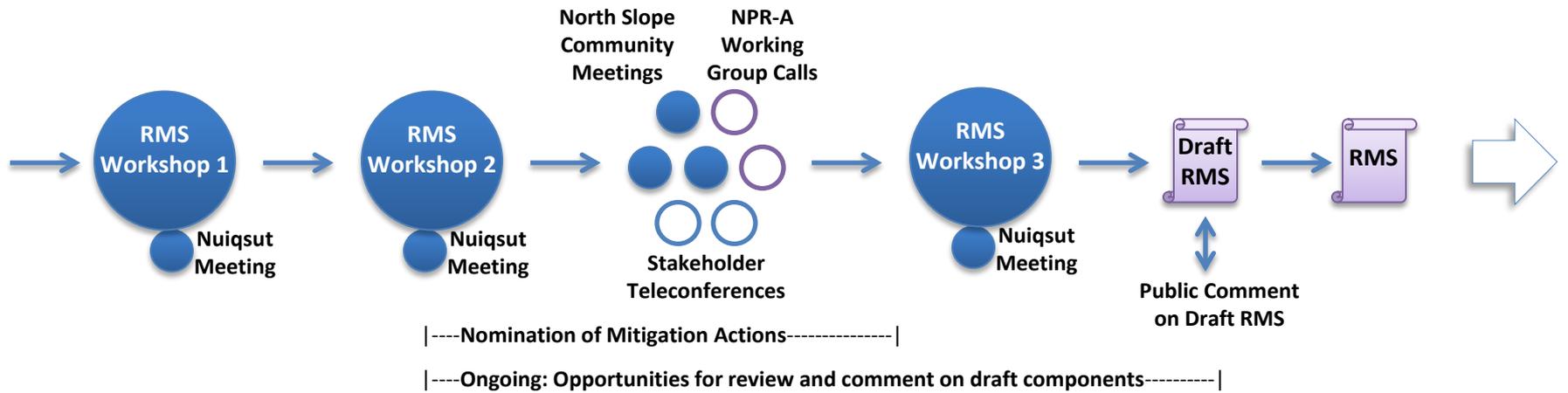
# Regional Mitigation Strategy for Northeast NPR-A, including the GMT-1/Nuiqsut Element

2015

2016

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

RMS Initial Engagement & Education      Impact Analysis and Initial Strategy Development      Public Involvement in RMS Development      Prioritized Mitigation Actions & Monitoring Plan      Review Draft RMS      Final RMS      Effectiveness Monitoring & Adaptation



## Outcomes:

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