

Monitoring and Adaptive Management

Northeastern National Petroleum Reserve in Alaska - Regional Mitigation Strategy

The Northeastern National Petroleum Reserve in Alaska (NPR-A) Regional Mitigation Strategy (RMS) will be used to inform future compensatory mitigation requirements and implementation of specific compensatory mitigation actions. To ensure success, it will be essential to monitor mitigation actions and outcomes and to revise or adapt those actions, if necessary, to achieve desired results.

The RMS will include guidelines for:

- Developing and implementing a cost-effective monitoring plan that assesses the success of the compensatory mitigation action(s) in achieving the desired outcome in the expected timeframe(s), and
- Developing an adaptive management plan that provides a foundation for revising (adapting) the mitigation action(s) where monitoring reveals unacceptable results.

Monitoring

Developing a monitoring plan involves determining what BLM should monitor to answer the question: *Did the mitigation actions achieve the desired outcome?* This requires articulating the desired outcome(s) in a way that can be observed and measured, and a developing a plan for carrying out the monitoring in a cost effective manner.

At the March 2016 RMS Workshop, participants will discuss: What can BLM observe (monitor) that will provide insight into the RMS's success in achieving the following regional mitigation goals?

- Maintain access to and use of traditional subsistence use areas
- Maintain opportunities for Alaska native peoples to live, practice, and pass-on Inupiaq culture and lifestyle
- Maintain the functionality of the ecological system, including landscapes that allow for sustainable populations of fish and wildlife and their natural movement and distribution
- Maintain and enhance the health and safety of the residents
- Maintain and enhance opportunities for economic and community development

Adaptive Management

Developing an adaptive management strategy involves:

1. Defining a method for comparing monitoring data with expected outcomes
2. Determining if the results are acceptable (in terms of achievement of or progress toward the desired outcome)
3. If results are unacceptable, revising the assumptions used to develop the projected outcome
4. Assessing possible changes in the implementation of the mitigation action using the revised assumptions
5. Implementing changes that will increase success