

North Slope Rapid Ecoregional Assessment



Alaska Natural Heritage Program
 Institute of Social and Economic Research
 Scenarios Network for Alaska & Arctic Planning

September 2015

Volume II, Issue 4

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Draft final and all detailed reports and other products available on the web

<http://aknhp.uaa.alaska.edu/landscape-ecology/north-slope-rea/final-report/#content>

Final community presentation

North Slope Borough Planning Commission meeting

Location: Barrow

Date: September 24, 2015

Final draft technical report and data now available

Full report and data available Spring 2016

REA Completed. The University of Alaska Team recently completed the North Slope Rapid Ecoregional Assessment (REA). Although some data developed in the project represents local information, the assessment is designed to provide a regional perspective on the current and future condition of the North Slope landscape. The draft final report and technical supplements are now available at:

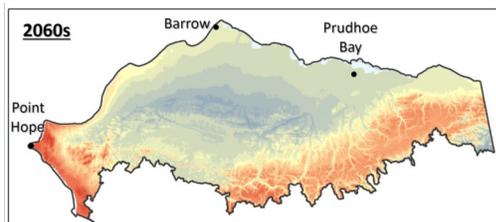
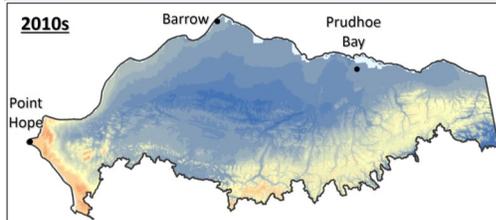
<http://aknhp.uaa.alaska.edu/landscape-ecology/north-slope-rea/final-report/#content>

In Spring 2016, the full final report and all data will be available on BLM's national "REA Data Portal" at:

http://www.blm.gov/wo/st/en/prog/more/Landscape_Approach/reas/dataportal.html

Findings. The assessment found the landscape condition and ecosystems in this region are functioning at a very high level. Even with climate and other changes the long-term projection (year 2060) is for the landscape condition to remain high. However, this does not mean there will not be changes within these ecoregions. The Change Agents: fire, climate, permafrost, invasive species, and human uses, and the cumulative impacts associated with these change agents are projected to be significant. For example, an increase in temperature could enhance the foraging habitat for moose. It's unclear how changes in vegetation and temperatures will may affect caribou habitat and movements. The assessment found there is a significant data gap in the information available about the magnitude and spatial distribution of future oil and gas development on the North Slope. Although the University of Alaska Team worked with industry data to identify this type of information, much is currently unknown or was unavailable for this project. Because of this, estimates in the final report about future landscape condition underestimate the possible impacts from future development.

January Temperature – Long-term Warming



New Baseline Data – such as caribou foraging and distribution maps.

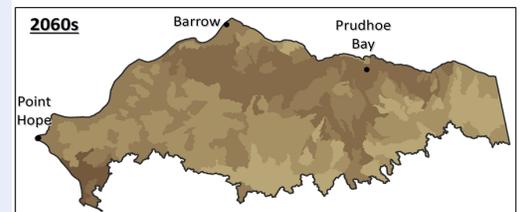
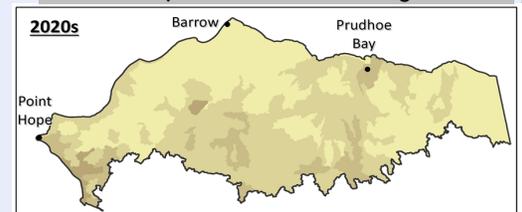
Identification of Crucial Data Gaps – such as a lack of data on fish populations and movements, lack of soil surveys, limited water temperature data, and many others found in the final report.

New Maps – hundreds of new maps – see insets as examples.

Analysis – such as a synthesis from 15 years of minutes and testimony from the North Slope's

Products. The UA Team developed many new products.

Projected Cumulative Change





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We're on the WEB!

aknhp.uaa.alaska.edu/landscape-ecology/north-slope-rea/#content



Past Events

Data Discovery
- January 2014

Work Plan
- Fall 2014

Preliminary Products
- Fall 2014

Draft Final Report
- Spring 2015

Upcoming Events

Final Report & Data
- Spring 2016

Rapid Ecoregional Assessment - Overview

The Bureau of Land Management's (BLM) Rapid Ecoregional Assessment (REA) for the North Slope of Alaska is one of four assessment projects in Alaska. An *ecoregion* is a large area of land that contains similar species and environments. The goal of an REA is to look across an ecoregion to more fully understand ecological conditions and trends; natural and human influences; and opportunities for resource conservation and restoration, as well as development. The REA provides scientific information for land and resource managers to use to help answer questions, address problems, and apply to future management actions.

BLM's Collaborative Approach

BLM's approach to the North Slope (NOS) REA is to work with other land and natural resource managers. Each decision about what is included in the REA and the type of analysis needed is made in a collaborative manner by the Assessment Management Team (AMT) consisting of multiple federal and state agency senior managers. Another working team that provides input into the process is made up of specialists from federal, state, local, and university representatives who have in-depth knowledge about a particular area, such as aquatics, wildlife, and vegetation.

Project Team

The Bureau of Land Management partnered with the University of Alaska (UA) to conduct the work associated with the North Slope REA. The University team includes the Alaska Natural Heritage Program with its significant expertise in landscape assessments; the Institute of Social and Economic Research, bringing social and human dimensions to the analysis; and the Scenarios Network for Alaska & Arctic Planning (SNAP) with its expertise in climate change modeling. Mr. Scott Guyer with BLM serves as the lead for REA's in Alaska; his email is sguyer@blm.gov if you would like to contact him with any questions or comments.