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Comments: Houston Regional Group

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Oil & Gas EIS Project

Mr. Robert Potts

Natural Resources and Planning Team Leader

National Forests and Grasslands in Texas

2221 North Raguet

Lufkin, Texas 75904

Dear Rob,

The Houston Regional Group and Lone Star Chapter of the Sierra Club (Sierra Club) provide this thirteenth set of comments for scoping for the U.S. Forest Service (FS) oil/gas leasing environmental impact statement (OGLEIS) under the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) for the National Forests and Grasslands in Texas (NFGT).

Although the official scoping period is over, the Sierra Club will continue to send the FS documents and articles that relate to the OGLEIS. The Sierra Club has been told in the past that although there is an official scoping comment period, that scoping extends from the beginning of the scoping comment period until the draft EIS is released. There are additional articles that the Sierra Club provides to the FS with this letter.

1. "3 energy firms cutting 600 jobs", Jordan Blum and Sergio Chapa, Houston Chronicle, January 10, 2020.

This article affirms the "boom and bust" cycle for oil/gas with more layoffs of workers when it states, "Modest oil prices and spending cuts have contributed to the loss of nearly 5,000 oil and gas jobs in Texas from June through November, according to the Texas Workforce [middot] .. Commission."

2. "Occidental starting widespread layoffs", Jordan Blum, Houston Chronicle, January 9, 2020.

This article reports on how when oil/gas merges occur that layoffs of workers soon follow. This is one of the impacts that oil/gas has on people economically and socially.

3. "Report ties rise of pollution to Texas", Perla Trevizo, Houston Chronicle, January 9, 2020.

This article states, "Oil and gas industry expansions could add as much greenhouse gas pollution as the equivalent of 50 coal plants by 2025 -with much of that increase coming from Texas and Louisiana -at a time when pressure to slow down global warming rises, a new report found".

4. "Will 13 million barrels a day be lucky for American oil industry?", Jordan Blum, Houston Chronicle, January 6, 2020.

This article states, "An interesting dichotomy is playing out with the rising production and falling U.S. shale activity. The number of rigs drilling for oil and gas plunged by about 25% in 2019 because of modest oil prices,

budget cutbacks and job reductions."

5. "2020 offers little promise for oil and gas", Chris Tomlinson, Houston Chronicle, January 6, 2020.

The article states, "The same supply and demand dynamics that crushed so many companies in 2019 show no signs of evolving, which is terrible news for the Texas economy."

6. "What does the future hold for the energy industry?", Rob Gavin, Business Editor, Houston Chronicle, January 6, 2020.

The article states, "The energy sector is coming off a year when prices stagnated, investors turned away and companies cut back".

7. "Earthweek 2019 Year in Review", Houston Chronicle, January 5, 2020.

This article reports that more than 11,000 scientists from 153 countries warned that "untold human suffering" is avoidable unless we make large and lasting lifestyle changes to curb global warming. The call to cut activities that contribute to climate change came as it became clear that the effects of global warming are worsening more rapidly than predicted ... the world can only avoid catastrophic effects of climate change by cutting carbon emissions by 7.6% each year until 2030."

The Sierra Club appreciates this opportunity to provide these additional initial scoping comments about the social, economic, and environmental impacts of the OGLE IS. Thank you.

Sincerely,

Brandt Mannchen

Forest Management Issue Chair

Lone Star Chapter of the Sierra Club Chair,

Forestry Subcommittee Houston Regional Group of the Sierra Club

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