

Data Submitted (UTC 11): 12/6/2019 6:00:00 AM

First name: Brandt

Last name: Mannchen

Organization: Sierra Club

Title:

Comments: SIERRA

CLUB

December 6, 2019

OH & 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 seventh 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. Climate change accelerating, scientists say, ", Henry Fountain, New York Times, Houston Chronicle, December 5, 2019.

This article states that climate change is accelerating and its effects are happening quicker than scientists thought. All the more reason for the FS to reduce or eliminate oil/gas exploitation from the NFGT.

2. "Frak to the future: It's looking like 1980s". Eri- Douglas, Houston Chronicle, December 6, 2019.

The article notes the economic outlook for a "boom and bust" industry like oil/gas is not good. "Fracking Bust: The Sequel. At least, that's how Greater Houston Partnership's lead economist Patrick Jankowski sees Houston right now. With an oversaturated real estate market, an overbuilt industrial market and a bleak outlook for oil and gas, history may not be repeating itself, but it looks pretty close, Jankowski wrote in his annual economic forecast report for the region."

3. "Crude prices hang in the balance as OPEC meets", Jordan Blum and Sergio Chapa, Houston Chronicle, December 5, 2019.

This article states "The fate of crude oil prices and the health of the U.S. energy sector heading in 2020 may be determined this week in Vienna when OPEC and its allies meet to determine whether to extend or deepen production cuts that have kept the market from crashing ... With crude supplies expected to keep outpacing waning demand growth in the months ahead, inaction from OPEC or even a decision to extend the existing cutbacks could send oil prices plunging toward \$40 a barrel by mid-2020, a level at which few U.S. companies

could make money and likely leading to layoffs in Houston and across the industry. With prices stuck in the \$50-to-\$60 range, energy companies already are cutting back and eliminating jobs." "Boom and bust" oil/gas has economic consequences that are also negative, not just positive, and must be revealed in the OGLEIS analysis and EIS.

4. "U.S. hits a milestone as petroleum exporter", DinoGrandoni, Washington Post, Houston Chronicle, December 4, 2019.

This article states that more oil will be on the market. This means the price will be driven down further.

5. "Gas flaring is under fire", Sergio Chapa, Houston Chronicle, December 4, 2019.

This article states that flaring wastes product and money and should not be allowed, in many cases.

The Sierra Club appreciates this opportunity to provide these additional initial scoping comments about the OGLEIS. 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
20923 Kings Clover Court
Humble, Texas 77346
281-570-7212
brandt.mannchen@comcast.net