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First name: Brandt

Last name: Mannchen

Organization: Sierra Club

Title:

Comments: SIERRA

CLUB

December 13, 2019

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 eighth 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. "Index signals Houston December 13, 2019. economy slowing", Erin Douglas, Houston Chronicle,

This article documents how oil/gas can slow the Houston economy and others who depend on it when it goes through its "boom and bust" cycle.

2. "Billions more in subsidies' for carbon capture may be needed", James Osborne, Houston Chronicle, December 13, 2019.

Carbon capture is one option the FS should discuss in the OGLEIS as a way to reach a zero foot-print emissions state to combat climate change that occurs from oil/gas exploitation in the NFGT.

3. "BLM pulls back on Utah leases to do climate reviews", Brian Maffly, The Salt Lake Tribune, December 11, 2019.

This article emphasizes that the potential impacts of fossil fuel development on climate [middle dot] change must be analyzed under the NEPA.

4. "Arctic Report Card Update for 2019, Executive Summary, J. Richter-Menge, M.L. Druckenmiller, and M. Jeffries, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, December 6, 2019.

The Arctic is warming quickly thus documenting how climate change is occurring much faster than anticipated.

S. "Experts agree: Houston's economy will slow with energy next year", Erin Douglas, Houston Chronicle, December 9, 2019.

Due to a fall in the oil/gas economy due to oversupply the Houston Area will have a slower economy in 2020.

6. "Output from non-OPEC oil producers to climb", Jordan Blum, Houston Chronicle, December 9, 2019.

This article documents that the oversupply of oil will continue due to increased output of oil from a variety of countries.

7. "Spanish oil giant's net-zero goal puts U.S. companies to shame on climate", Chris Tomlinson, Houston Chronicle, December 8, 2019. .

The need for net-zero operations by oil companies is emphasized here to reduce climate change impacts.

8. "Energy industry's roughnecks go digital", Sergio Chapa, Houston Chronicle, December 8, 2019.

This article emphasizes that the oil/gas industry is going toward more computerization . which eventually will result in fewer jobs.

9. "OPEC to cut another 500K barrels a day", Jordan Blum, Houston Chronicle, December 7, 2019.

This article documents in an attempt to stabilize oil prices OPEC will cut production again in an oversupply market which has driven the price of oil down.

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