

Data Submitted (UTC 11): 12/2/2019 6:00:00 AM

First name: Ted

Last name: Stevens

Organization:

Title:

Comments: From: Ted Stevens <tedstevens296@gmail.com>

Sent: Monday, December 2, 2019 7:13 PM

To: Potts, Robert S -FS

Subject: NFGT Oil and Gas Leasing Availability Analysis - Public Comment Card

Attachments: fseprd664757.pdf

Robert,

Please see my attached public comment card.

Thanks,

Ted Stevens

I oppose opening up more parcels of Texas national forest and grasslands to oil and gas exploration. This region already has extensive oil and gas development that has fragmented natural habitats, increased air pollution due to leaking equipment, added to water pollution from hydraulic fracturing fluid that is carcinogenic, also instances of earth quakes have sharply increased in East Texas since private hydraulic fracturing started. Also when oil and gas equipment catches on fire it can cause wildfires that could threaten local communities and homes since there is a lot of private inholdings within Texas national forest. Currently logging within Texas national forest has decreased because the USFS does not have enough personnel to monitor/administer its timber contracts so how would adding more oil/gas activity improve this situation when the currently there is not enough USFS staff to deal with pre-existing logging contracts. In conclusion, oil/gas exploration will negatively impact the natural resources and current USFS staffing levels are already too low to manage pre-existing extractive contracts.