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Comments: SIERRA

December 20,2019

Oil & Gas EIS Project

Mr. Robert Potts

Natural Resources and Planning Team Leader

National Forests and Grasslands in Texas

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Dear Rob,

The Houston Regional Group and Lone Star Chapter of the Sierra Club (Sierra Club) provide this ninth 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. "Local economy not as hot as thought", Erin Douglas, Houston Chronicle, December 20,2019.

This article documents that the energy market downturn has pulled down the performance of the Houston economy unlike previously thought.

2. "Oil field service sector changing", Sergio Chapa, Houston Chronicle, December 19, 2019

This article says, "Old field service companies are closing the year with asset sales, mergers and layoffs, which observers say are needed to protect the struggling sector from the boom-and-bust cycles of the industry."

3. "Top firm in Texas' birthplace of shale exists for \$770 million", Jordan Blum, Houston Chronicle, December 19, 2019.

This article. reports about the Barnett Shale, "But now the shale gas industry is a victim of its own[middot] success, The sector is producing vast 'amount of natural gas, which has led to supply gluts and falling prices. Drilling in the Barnett simply isn't economical anymore, analysts said -at least for now."

4. "WaterBridge snatching up Permian deals", Bloomberg News, Houston Chronicle, December 19, 2019.

The article says, "When you're in your early phase of exploiting your resource, it's very difficult to continue to grow at the pace you want by only drilling what your cash flow will allow ... It's pushing producers to sell their water midstream assets ... Despite the anticipated slowdown in the Permian next year ... sees water volumes in the shale patch rising from about 10 million barrels a day to about 25 million barrels over five years ... If you track the expectations for the growth in crude oil, you can basically multiply them by four to five in the Delaware and one-and-a-half to two in the Midland ... of projected water volumes in the Permian's two biggest sub-basins."

5. "Global climate talks end with few results", Brady Dennis and Chico Harlan, Washington Post, in Houston Chronicle, December 16, 2019.

This article documents how we are running out of time to reduce the impacts of climate change.

6. "Longest wells in Texas stretch miles across", Sergio Chaps, Houston Chronicle, December 16, 2019.

The article documents how the environmental impacts of one fracking well can be several miles underground in a horizontal as well as vertical direction.

7. "Here's a gift of caution: beware of grifters lurking in plain sight", Chris Tomlinson, Houston Chronicle, December 16, 2019.

This article emphasizes that one of the impacts of oil/gas development is fraudulent sales to investors about oil/gas well potential.

8. "Don't allow drilling in Texas' national forests, grasslands", Editorial, Houston Chronicle, December 15, 2019.

This editorial by the Houston Chronicle supports no leasing for development of federal oil/gas.

9. "OPEC + output cuts likely won't prevent crude surplus", Grant Smith, Bloomberg News, in Houston Chronicle, December 15, 2019.

This article documents that oil output cuts by OPEC and others will probably not prevent a surplus of oil on the market which means lower prices.

10. "Greenland melt", Earthweek, Houston Chronicle, December 15, 2019.

This article documents that the Greenland ice sheet is melting seven times greater than in the 1990's due to climate change.

11. "Fatal crashes are the dark side of the oil and gas boom", Corpus Christi Caller-Times, December 15, 2019.

This article shows one of the costs economically, socially, and environmentally is an increased number of fatal truck and car crashes due to oil/gas caused traffic.

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

Sincerely,

Brandt Mannchen

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