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Comments: •As you develop the regulations, please consider a wide range of alternatives, including that at least some areas have “no new leasing.”

•Strong lease restrictions must be included to protect resources in areas where leasing is allowed. Wildlife habitat; water quality; soils, municipal watersheds; eligible wild, scenic, and recreational river corridors; slopes over 40 percent; developed recreation areas; and locations with high scenic quality should all be considered for No Surface Occupancy (NSO) stipulations.

•Some areas should not be leased.

oRoadless areas: all upper tier roadless areas on the PSI should be no lease areas, and all non-upper tier roadless areas should be protected by NSO stipulations that are not subject to waivers.

oSpecial wildlife habitat: some species are particularly sensitive to the presence of oil and gas activities. Of particular concern is lesser prairie chicken habitat: these birds cannot tolerate the noise, traffic, habitat destruction and general disturbance associated with oil and gas development. Other species of concern that deserve specific protections in the EIS are: lynx, Mexican spotted owl, Pawnee montane skipper, and Preble's meadow jumping mouse habitat.

oExisting and potential Research Natural Areas (RNA) and Special Interest Areas (SIA): Oil and gas leasing would destroy the natural values for which RNAs are designated and undermine the values of SIAs such as Picketwire Canyon or the Santa Fe Trail.

•Impacts to wildlife habitat, water quality, air quality must be seriously considered in the EIS, and all leases must require complete reclamation after operations are finished.

•The Forest Service should not limit the EIS to just surface disturbing activities and should consider how new drilling technology affects the whole range of environmental concerns including earthquake potential.