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Comments: Thank you for the opportunity to comment on the PSICC Oil and Gas Leasing Analysis. Foremost to me is the issue of water needed to support oil and gas production in these areas. The Southwest is warming and drying due to climate change and it is not clear to me where/how that water is to be obtained, particularly if fracking is involved. The Colorado River is already over committed and the USFS report (rmrs_gtr295.pdf) indicates the possibility of lakes Mead and Powell going dry. It seems to me unconscionable that activities that exacerbate the warming and drying of the area would be considered.

Besides the major point above, the EIS must consider a wide range of alternatives including that at least some areas have "no new leasing." Currently virtually all lands are potentially open to leasing. Strong lease stipulations must be applied to protect resources. 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. Clearly much of the Pike and San Isabel Forests are on steep terrain. It is hard to imagine the damage that will be done to these slopes by drilling and the accompanying heavy truck traffic.

Some areas should simply not be leased. Colorado was short changed with the Roadless Rule and all that is left should be off limits to leasing. Certainly 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.

Special wildlife habitat should be protected. Some species, such as lesser prairie chickens, are particularly sensitive since they cannot tolerate the noise, traffic and habitat destruction that oil and gas development would bring. Other species of concern that the EIS should consider are lynx, Mexican spotted owl, Pawnee montane skipper, and the Preble's meadow mouse.

Existing and potential Research Natural Areas (RNA) and Special Interest Areas (SIA) should be off limits. There are too few wilderness quality areas left in Colorado and all potential areas should not be considered for exploration and drilling.

In general, impacts to wildlife habitat, water quality, and air quality must be taken into account and all leases must require reclamation after operations are finished. Actually, I'm not sure how this will be done since reclamation in semiarid Colorado (and getting worse) has been shown to be quite difficult. Finally, 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.