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Comments: The Back Country Horsemen of Texas strongly believes that the proposed Oil & Gas Leasing Availability Plan for the National Forests and Grasslands in Texas (Project 56882) is not appropriate for approval in its current form and should not be opened for expanded leasing as proposed.

The National Forests and Grasslands in Texas-including the Davy Crockett, Sam Houston, Angelina, and Sabine National Forests, along with the LBJ and Caddo Grasslands-are public lands held in trust for multiple uses, including hunting, horseback riding, camping, and quiet recreation. These uses are already under increasing pressure.

Opening additional acreage for oil and gas leasing presents unnecessary risks, including:

- Degradation of multi-use trail systems used by equestrians and hunters
- Increased industrial traffic, noise, and fragmentation of habitat
- Long-term impacts to soil stability, water quality, and stream crossings used by horses and livestock
- Reduced quality of experience for the public who depend on these lands for recreation and tradition

These forests represent some of the last accessible public riding and hunting areas in East Texas. Once industrial development is introduced or expanded, recreation access and backcountry character are permanently diminished or lost.

We respectfully request that the Forest Service:

- Withdraw or significantly scale back the proposed leasing availability map
- Prioritize recreation, wildlife habitat, and trail access protection
- Fully evaluate cumulative impacts to equestrian use and hunter access before any leasing decisions are made
- Engage directly with user groups such as Back Country Horsemen, hunters, and local recreation stakeholders

Public lands should remain multi-use landscapes where recreation and conservation are not secondary to industrial extraction.