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First name: Brandt

Last name: Mannchen

Organization: Sierra Club

Title:

Comments: Houston Regional Group

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January 3, 2020

Oil & Gas EIS Project

Mr. Robert Potts

Natural Resources and Planning Team Leader

National Forests and Grasslands in Texas

2221 North Raguet

Lufkin, Texas 75904

Dear Rob,

The Houston Regional Group and Lone Star Chapter of the Sierra Club (Sierra Club) provide this twelfth 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. "Pipeline competition to heat up", Sheela Tobben, Bloomberg, Houston Chronicle, January 3, 2020.

This article documents how "boom-and-bust" affects pipelines, "... already spurring midstream rate cuts ' and could' mean cutthroat competition ahead ... yearly growth slowing with older wells producing less and oil companies preparing' to curb spending this year to boost investor returns '" the difference between the price of crude on the [mid] coast when compared with Midland in the Permian has plummeted in the last year, making it more difficult for shippers to make money after paying the pipeline fees '" Oil producers are warning that they are preparing to curb spending this year to boost investor returns."

2. "Late rally masks a difficult 2019 for Big Oil", Jordan Blum, Houston Chronicle, January 1, 2020.

This article talks about the overall downturn in the oil/gas industry in 2019, " ... what was generally a disappointing year for the U.S. oil sector as drilling activity plunged and employment levels fell ... essentially a state of limbo -purgatory if you're less charitable -for the energy sector, allowing some companies to make limited profits while others descend into bankruptcy ... The international and offshore markets are decent, but North America is deteriorating ... Many analysts project natural gas to fall below \$2 i~ 2020 ... The huge supplies have driven the prices down."

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

. Forest Management Issue[middot]Chair
Lone Star chapter of the Sierra Club
Chair, Forestry Subcommittee
Houston Regional Group of the Sierra Club
20923 Kings Clover Court
Humble, Texas 77346
281-570-7212
brandt.mannchen@comcast.net

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