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Comments: This letter is in response to a request to review the Environmental Impact Statement for the National Forests and Grasslands in Texas. The project is titled "Oil and Gas Leasing Availability Analysis", project number 56882. As the authorized representative for NRCS Texas, I am providing comments based on our agency's technical expertise in soil survey data and soil interpretations. Our review covers the information in Chapter 3, Section 3.4 - Soils.

The Forest Service correctly used NRCS soils data and applied NRCS soil interpretations throughout the analysis. I confirm that the soil s information referenced in the EIS is current, accurate, and consistent with the official NRCS soil surveys for the project area.

The soil interpretations used, such as erosion hazard ratings, equipment limitations, hydrologic soil groups, and other management-related interpretations, are appropriate for evaluating the potential impacts of the proposed actions on all alternatives.