

**Allegheny National Forest**  
**SEIS for Reserved and Outstanding Oil and Gas Design Criteria**  
**April 27, 28 and 29 Public Meeting Handout**

**Preliminary significant issues (subject to change)**

1. *Water Quality*: Concern was expressed that the standards and guidelines (design criteria) as proposed are more restrictive than necessary to protect the water resources from increased sedimentation resulting from oil and gas development (i.e. road building, timing of erosion control measures, etc). Specifically, the issue was raised that as proposed the standards and guides go beyond what is required by the State best management practices which are specifically designed to ensure that the water resource is protected. Conversely, concern was expressed that certain methods of road construction result in increased sedimentation and therefore should not be permitted (construction during the winter)

2. *Visual resources*: Concern was expressed that the standards and guidelines (design criteria) as proposed do not adequately address concerns related to visual quality associated with special features on the forest (such as the North Country National Scenic trail).

3. *Hours of Operation or Seasonal Operating Restrictions*: Concern was expressed that proposed standards and guidelines (design criteria) regarding hours of operation or seasonal operating restrictions could create situations where drilling operations cannot be effectively implemented without causing risk of adversely impacting the social, economic and operational aspects associated with oil and gas development activities.

4. *Marcellus shale*: Concern was expressed that the standards and guidelines (design criteria) as proposed do not adequately address the level of road construction and stabilization needed to mitigate for increased sedimentation that may occur due to the level of activities associated with proposed Marcellus shale drilling (ie equipment transport). In addition, concern was expressed that since Marcellus shale drilling is new, standards and guidelines may not have adequately addressed the complexity of this new technology (ie water withdrawal, water transport, storage and treatment, potential for groundwater contamination).

5. *Restoration/reclamation*: Concern was expressed that the standards and guidelines (design criteria) as proposed do not adequately address concerns related to the need for short and long term restoration/reclamation needs.

6. *Fragmentation*: Concern was expressed that the standards and guidelines (design criteria) as proposed do not adequately address the concern of increased habitat fragmentation at the landscape scale. Specifically, concern was expressed that the design criteria needs to address the need of minimizing road systems for oil and gas development through effective transportation planning and layout.

**Preliminary alternatives (subject to change)**

Alternative 1	1986 Forest Plan standards and guidelines pertaining to privately owned OGDs
Alternative 2	All S&Gs from the 2007 Forest Plan
Two Action Alternatives	Both clarify wording of the 2007 Forest Plan S&Gs and delete from consideration, those S&Gs that do not apply to OGD
• Alternative 3	Adds S&Gs in response to Significant Issues 2, 4, 5 and 6
• Alternative 4	Deletes or reduces S&Gs in response to Significant Issues 1, 2, 3 and 6; and adds S&Gs in response to Significant Issues 4 and 5

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<b>What Alternative 3 includes:</b>	<b>What Alternative 4 includes:</b>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• S&amp;G's that are not applicable to OGD are deleted</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• S&amp;G's that are not applicable to OGD are deleted</li> </ul>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Process related S&amp;Gs for OGD are deleted (mainly from the 2800 section)</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Process related S&amp;Gs for OGD are deleted (mainly from the 2800 section)</li> </ul>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Process guidelines for scenery are removed</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Process guidelines for scenery are removed</li> </ul>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Guidelines for state and federal permits are removed</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Guidelines for state and federal permits are removed</li> </ul>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Clarifies resource related S&amp;Gs for OGD by rewording and consolidating</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Clarifies resource related S&amp;Gs for OGD by rewording and consolidating</li> </ul>
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Responds to SI 1 by rewording S&amp;Gs to conform with PA DEP standards for water quality</li> </ul>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Responds to SI 2 by including S&amp;G for North country trail scenic integrity level</li> </ul>	
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Responds to SI 3 by removing seasonal operating restrictions</li> </ul>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• SI 4 – will likely result in additional S&amp;Gs related to Marcellus drilling</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• SI 4 – will likely result in additional S&amp;Gs related to Marcellus drilling</li> </ul>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Responds to SI 5 by including S&amp;Gs for restoration and reclamation</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Responds to SI 5 by including S&amp;Gs for restoration and reclamation</li> </ul>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Responds to SI 6 by expanding transportation planning S&amp;Gs to OGD facilities such as roads, well pads, pipelines and tank batteries</li> </ul>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Removes S&amp;Gs related to use of pit run material</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Removes S&amp;Gs related to use of pit run material</li> </ul>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Removes reference to Federal OGD S&amp;Gs</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Removes reference to Federal OGD S&amp;Gs</li> </ul>

The second handout provided at the April meetings gives a side by side comparison of the standards and guidelines included in each alternative. The first column is the S&Gs from the 1986 Forest Plan that are applicable to OGD. The second column is all the S&Gs from the 2007 Plan. The third column (Alternative 3) is the 2007 Plan S&Gs that are applicable to OGD, with additions/changes in response to the significant issues described above. The fourth column (Alternative 4) differs from Alternative 3 as described above. If specific changes, additions or deletions to a particular standard or guideline are in response to a significant issue, SI # is included in bold print.

**Allegheny National Forest**  
**Supplemental Environmental Impact Statement for**  
**Reserved and Outstanding Oil and Gas Design Criteria**  
**April 27, 28 and 29, 2009 Public Meeting Handout**

**Examples of How Standards and Guidelines Vary by Alternative**

Resource Code	1986 Forest Plan (No Action)	2007 Forest Plan (Proposed Action)	Alternative 3 (Preliminary)	Alternative 4 (Preliminary)
<b>2600 - Wildlife, Fish and Sensitive Plant Habitat</b>	Prohibit disturbances within approximately 330 feet of each existing nesting location, except those necessary to protect the nest or colony.	Only those management activities with minimal human disturbance, such as occasional pedestrian use, shall be permitted during the nesting season.	Minimize use of oil and gas roads for access within 1320 feet of an active goshawk nest during the nesting season (April 1 through July 31).	Removed
<b>2500 - Watershed and Air</b>	No S&G	Permanent stream crossing structures should be designed and constructed to withstand a minimum of a 50-year storm event and should not constrict the channel width.	Permanent stream crossing structures should be designed and constructed to withstand a minimum of a 50-year storm event and should not constrict the channel width.	Permanent stream crossing structures should be designed and constructed to withstand a minimum of a 25-year storm event and should not narrow the existing stream channel. Changed SI 1
<b>7700 - Transportation System</b>	Road grades preferably should be kept to two to eight percent, with grades up to 15 percent acceptable on short pitches of 200 feet or less.	The grade of permanent and temporary roads should normally be between 2 and 8 percent, with grades up to 15 percent acceptable for short pitches up to 200 feet when sufficient stabilization is provided.	The grade of permanent and temporary roads should normally be between 2 and 8 percent, with grades up to 15 percent acceptable for short pitches up to 200 feet when sufficient stabilization is provided.	The grade of permanent and temporary roads should be kept below 10 percent. When absolutely necessary, grades of up to 15 or 20 percent may be used for short distances. However, where such a steep grade is necessary, at least 300 feet of road above and below the steep section should be less than 10 percent grade.