

## **ALLEGHENY NATIONAL FOREST**

### **TRANSITION ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT STATEMENT PART II AREA**

**September 16, 2009**

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On June 22, 2009, the Allegheny National Forest (ANF) published a Notice of Intent in the Federal Register to prepare an environmental impact statement (referred to as the Transition EIS) related to private oil and gas development (OGD). On the same day, Part I (site-specific oil and gas proposals) and Part II (process for approving future site-specific proposals) of the Proposed Action were posted on the ANF website.

Part II of the Proposed Action stated that "For purposes of scoping and analysis, it will be assumed that the ANF will experience shallow well development at a 500 foot spacing in the future in all Areas where: (1) oil and gas development does not currently exist, and (2) there is private subsurface ownership." This "analysis area" has now been refined to a more focused area for Part II of the Transition EIS. This refined area will now be referred to as the Part II Area.

The Part II Area covers approximately 327,700 acres of National Forest System lands (see map). Boundaries were delineated on a watershed level, for analysis purposes, and were determined based on the following criteria: (1) include large watersheds that cover at least 55% of oil and gas fields (as delineated by the Pennsylvania Department of Conservation and Natural Resources (DCNR)); (2) include additional large watersheds with a considerable amount of existing OGD and/or projected future OGD; (3) include small watersheds that cover at least 60% of oil and gas fields (as delineated by the DCNR); and (4) include additional small watersheds with a considerable amount of existing OGD and/or projected future OGD.

Part II of the Transition EIS will not cover future shallow well proposals outside of the Part II Area or proposals for Marcellus shale or deep well developments.