

APPENDIX A

NOI, Legal Notice, Press Release, Scoping Letter, Website Content, Scoping Handouts, and Scoping Meeting Posters

Notices

Federal Register

Vol. 71, No. 250

Friday, December 29, 2006

This section of the FEDERAL REGISTER contains documents other than rules or proposed rules that are applicable to the public. Notices of hearings and investigations, committee meetings, agency decisions and rulings, delegations of authority, filing of petitions and applications and agency statements of organization and functions are examples of documents appearing in this section.

DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

Forest Service

Newspapers Used for Publication of Legal Notice of Appealable Decisions for the Northern Region; Northern Idaho, Montana, North Dakota, and portions of South Dakota and Eastern Washington

AGENCY: Forest Service, USDA.

ACTION: Notice.

SUMMARY: This notice lists the newspapers that will be used by all Ranger Districts, Forests, Grasslands, and the Regional Office of the Northern Region to publish legal notices for public comment and decisions subject to appeal and predecisional administrative review under 36 CFR 215, 217, and 218. The intended effect of this action is to inform interested members of the public which newspapers will be used to publish legal notices for public comment or decisions; thereby allowing them to receive constructive notice of a decision, to provide clear evidence of timely notice, and to achieve consistency in administering the appeals process.

DATES: Publication of legal notices in the listed newspapers will begin with decisions subject to appeal that are made on or after January 2, 2007. The list of newspapers will remain in effect until another notice is published in the **Federal Register**.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Appeals and Litigation Group Leader; Northern Region; P.O. Box 7669; Missoula, Montana 59807, Phone: (406) 327-3696.

The newspapers to be used are as follows:

Northern Regional Office

Regional Forester decisions in Montana: The Missoulian, Great Falls Tribune, and The Billings Gazette.

Regional Forester decisions in Northern Idaho and Eastern Washington: The Spokesman Review and Lewiston Tribune. *Beaverhead/Deerlodge NF*—Montana Standard
Bitterroot NF—Ravalli Republic
Clearwater NF—Lewiston Tribune
Custer NF—Billings Gazette (Montana)
Rapid City Journal (South Dakota)
Dakota Prairie Grasslands—Bismarck Tribune (North and South Dakota)
Flathead NF—Daily Inter Lake
Gallatin NF—Bozeman Chronicle
Helena NF—Independent Record
Idaho Panhandle NFs—Coeur d'Alene Press
Kootenai NF—Daily Inter Lake
Lewis & Clark NF—Great Falls Tribune
Lolo NF—Missoulian
Nez Perce NF—Lewiston Tribune

Supplemental notices may be placed in any newspaper, but time frames/deadlines will be calculated based upon notices in newspapers of record listed above.

Dated: December 22, 2006.

Kathleen A. McAllister,

Deputy Regional Forester.

[FR Doc. 06-9926 Filed 12-28-06; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 3410-11-M

DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

Forest Service

Oil and Gas Leasing EIS on Lands Administered by the Dixie National Forest

AGENCY: Forest Service, USDA and Bureau of Land Management, USDI.

ACTION: Notice of intent to prepare an environmental impact statement.

SUMMARY: The Forest Supervisor of the Dixie National Forest gives notice of the intent to prepare an environmental impact statement (EIS) to document the analysis and disclose the environmental and human effects of oil and gas leasing on lands administered by the Dixie National Forest. The Federal Onshore Oil and Gas Leasing Reform Act of 1987 requires the Forest Service to evaluate National Forest System lands for potential oil and gas leasing.

The EIS would analyze all lands with a federally-owned mineral estate within the Dixie National Forest.

As the agency responsible for lease issuance and administration, the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) will participate as a cooperating agency.

DATES: Comments concerning the scope of the analysis should be received within 30 days from date of publication of this notice in the **Federal Register** to be most useful. The draft environmental impact statement is expected winter 2007/2008, and the final environmental impact statement is expected summer 2008.

ADDRESSES: Susan Baughman, Oil and Gas Leasing Project Manager, Dixie National Forest, 1789 N. Wedgewood Lane, Cedar City, Utah 84720; phone: (435) 865-3703; fax: (435) 865-3791; e-mail:

dixie_oil_gas_eis_comments@fs.fed.us. E-mailed comments must be submitted in MS Word (*.doc) or rich text format (*.rtf) and should include the project name in the subject line. Written comments may also be submitted at the above address during regular business hours of 8 a.m. to 5 p.m., Monday-Friday.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:

Susan Baughman, Oil and Gas Leasing Project Manager, Dixie National Forest, 1789 N. Wedgewood Lane, Cedar City, Utah 84720; *phone:* (435) 865-3703.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: The EIS analysis area includes the entire Dixie National Forest (approximately 1,710,677 acres), with the exception of designated wilderness areas (approximately 82,840 acres) for a total study area of approximately 1,627,837 acres.

The Department of Interior, BLM, acts as the onshore leasing agent for the Federal government. The Federal Onshore Oil and Gas Leasing Reform Act of 1987 states that the BLM cannot lease over the objection of the Forest Service and authorizes the Forest Service to regulate all surface disturbing activities conducted pursuant to a lease. Therefore, the Forest Service has established an incremental decision-making framework for the consideration of oil and gas leasing activities on National Forest System lands. In general, the various steps that are undertaken are: (1) Forest Service leasing analysis; (2) Forest Service notification to BLM of lands administratively available for leasing; (3) Forest Service review and verification of BLM leasing proposals; (4) BLM assessment of Forest Service conditions of surface occupancy; (5) BLM offers lease; (6) BLM issues lease;

(7) Forest Service review and approval of lessee's surface use plan of operations; (8) BLM review and approval of lessee's application for permit to drill; and (9) ensure final reclamation.

Based upon the Forest Service leasing analysis (step 1 from above), the Forest Service decides whether or not lands will be available for leasing and decides under what conditions (stipulations) the leases will be issued. This EIS will fulfill this step.

Purpose and Need for Action

The purpose of the proposed action is to complete a forest-wide leasing analysis, to comply with the Federal Onshore Oil and Gas Leasing Reform Act of 1987. This requires the Forest Service to analyze lands under its jurisdiction that are legally available for leasing to meet the federal regulatory requirements of 36 CFR 228.102 and in accordance with the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969. The need is to be responsive to requests for oil and gas leasing on the Dixie National Forest.

Since the Federal Onshore Oil and Gas Leasing Reform Act of 1987 was signed into law, no new oil and gas leases have been authorized on the Dixie National Forest. However the oil and gas industry continued to express interest in leasing and interest has recently escalated due to the increased demand for oil and gas, high prices, and discoveries of oil and gas reserves in other areas with similar geologic conditions. The BLM Utah State Office has received numerous written expressions of interest for leasing portions of the Dixie National Forest over the past several years.

Proposed Action

The Forest Supervisor of the Dixie National Forest and Utah State Director, Bureau of Land Management propose to conduct the analysis and decide which lands to make available for oil and gas leasing. The analysis area includes lands administered by the Dixie National Forest. As part of the analysis, the Forest Service will identify areas that would be available for leasing subject to the terms and conditions of the standard oil and gas lease form, or subject to constraints that would require the use of lease stipulations such as those prohibiting surface occupancy. The analysis will also: (1) Identify alternatives to the proposed action, including that of not allowing leasing (no action), (2) project the type/amount of post-leasing activity that is reasonably foreseeable, (3) analyze the reasonably foreseeable impacts of

projected post-leasing activity [36 CFR 228.102(c)], and (4) be used to develop an amendment to the Forest Plan if necessary.

Possible Alternatives

All alternatives studied in detail must fall within the scope of the purpose and need for action and will generally tier to and comply with the Dixie Forest Plan. Law requires evaluation of a "no-action alternative." Under the No Action/No Lease alternative, no oil and gas leasing would occur. Alternatives to be evaluated would range from the No Action/No Lease alternative (most restrictive) to the Standard Lease Terms alternative (least restrictive) where all lands legally open to leasing would be made administratively available for leasing with only the standard BLM terms and conditions contained on BLM Lease Form 3100-11. Other alternatives which fall somewhere between the No Action/No Leasing alternative and Lease with Standard Terms alternative would also be developed and evaluated, which would involve making some lands unavailable for leasing and other lands available for leasing with lease stipulations for the protection of other resources and interests.

The Forest is expecting that the public input will generate either thematic concerns or area-specific issues that may be addressed by modifying the proposed action to create a new alternative or alternatives.

Lead and Cooperating Agencies

The Forest Service is the lead agency. The Bureau of Land Management and State of Utah will participate as cooperating agencies.

Responsible Officials

Kevin Schulkoski, Acting Forest Supervisor, Dixie National Forest, 1789 N. Wedgewood Lane, Cedar City, Utah, 84720.

Nature of Decision To Be Made

The Forest Supervisor, Dixie National Forest, will decide which lands with federal mineral ownership administered by the Dixie National Forest will be administratively available for oil and gas leasing, along with associated conditions or constraints for the protection of non-mineral interests [36 CFR 228.102(d)]. The Forest Supervisor will also authorize the BLM to offer specific lands for lease, subject to the Forest Service ensuring that the required stipulations are attached to the leases [36 CFR 228.102(e)]. The Forest Service proposes to amend the Forest Plan to incorporate the leasing decision

and other site-specific changes as indicated in the analysis.

The BLM is responsible for issuing and administration of oil and gas leases under the Mineral Leasing Act of 1920, as amended, and Federal Regulations in 43 CFR 3101.7. The BLM Utah State Director must decide whether or not to offer for lease specific lands authorized for leasing by the Dixie National Forest and with what stipulations.

Scoping Process

The first formal opportunity to comment on the Dixie National Forest Oil and Gas Leasing Analysis Project is during the scoping process (40 CFR 1501.7), which begins with the issuance of this Notice of Intent.

Mail comments to: Susan Baughman, Oil and Gas Leasing Project Manager, Dixie National Forest, 1789 N. Wedgewood Lane, Cedar City, Utah 84720. The Forest Service requests comments on the nature and scope of the environmental, social, and economic issues, and possible alternatives related to oil and gas leasing on lands administered by the Dixie National Forest.

A series of public opportunities are scheduled to describe the proposal and to provide an opportunity for public input. Three scoping meetings are planned:

January 16: 5 p.m. to 7 p.m., Best Western Abbey Inn, 1129 South Bluff, St. George, Utah.

January 17: 11 a.m. to 2 p.m., 5 p.m. to 7 p.m., Cannonville Visitor Center, 10 Center Street, Cannonville, Utah.

January 18: 5 p.m. to 7 p.m., Heritage Center, 105 North 100 East, Cedar City, Utah. Written comments will be accepted at these meetings. The Forest Service will work with tribal governments to address issues that would significantly or uniquely affect them.

Preliminary Issues

Issues that may be analyzed in all alternatives include: the socioeconomic effects of oil and gas leasing and subsequent activities; effects on terrestrial and aquatic flora and fauna, including threatened and endangered species, sensitive species, and management indicator species; effects on both developed and dispersed recreation; effects on air resources; effects on water resources, including wetlands, floodplains, riparian areas, culinary and municipal water systems, and groundwater; effects on visual resources; effects of leasing stipulations and mitigation measures on oil and gas exploration and development activity; effects on soils and geologic hazards;

effects on cultural and traditional heritage resources; effects on transportation; effects on upland vegetation; effects on riparian vegetation; effects on inventoried roadless areas; effects on other mineral resource extraction activities; and effects on noxious weeds and invasive species. Specific issues will be developed through review of public comments and internal review.

Comment Requested

This Notice of Intent initiates the scoping process which guides the development of the environmental impact statement. The Forest has also received substantial input at public meetings held for the Forest Plan revision, including issues relative to mineral exploration and development. Through these efforts the Forest has an understanding of the broad range of perspectives on the resource issues and social values attributed to resource activities on the Dixie National Forest. Consequently site-specific comments or concerns are the most important types of information needed for this EIS. Because the Oil and Gas Leasing EIS is a stand-alone document, only public comment letters which address relevant issues and concerns will be considered and formally addressed in an appendix in the final environmental impact statement.

Early Notice of Importance of Public Participation in Subsequent Environmental Review

A draft environmental impact statement will be prepared for comment. The comment period on the draft environmental impact statement is expected to be 45 days from the date the Environmental Protection Agency publishes the notice of availability in the **Federal Register**. The Forest Service believes, at this early stage, it is important to give reviewers notice of several court rulings related to public participation in the environmental review process. First, reviewers of draft environmental impact statements must structure their participation in the environmental review of the proposal so that it is meaningful and alerts an agency to the reviewer's position and contentions. *Vermont Yankee Nuclear Power Corp. v. NRDC*, 435 U.S. 519, 553 (1978). Also, environmental objections that could be raised at the draft environmental impact statement stage but that are not raised until after completion of the final environmental impact statement may be waived or dismissed by the courts. *City of Angoon v. Hodel*, 803 F.2d 1016, 1022 (9th Cir. 1986) and *Wisconsin Heritages, Inc. v.*

Harris, 490 F. Supp. 1334, 1338 (E.D. Wis. 1980). Because of these court rulings, it is very important that those interested in this proposed action participate by the providing comments during the scoping comment period and during the comment period following the draft EIS so that substantive comments and objections are made available to the Forest Service at a time when it can meaningfully consider them and respond to them in the final environmental impact statement.

To assist the Forest Service in identifying and considering issues and concerns on the proposed action, comments should be as specific as possible. Reviewers may wish to refer to the Council on Environmental Quality Regulations for implementing the procedural provisions of the National Environmental Policy Act at 40 CFR 1503.3 in addressing their points.

Comments received, including the names and addresses of those who comment, will be considered part of the public record on this proposal and will be available for public inspection.

(Authority: 40 CFR 1501.7 and 1508.22; Forest Service Handbook 1909.15, Section 21).

Dated: December 19, 2006.

Kevin R. Schulkoski,

Acting Forest Supervisor.

[FR Doc. E6-22038 Filed 12-28-06; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 3410-11-P

DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

International Trade Administration

A-357-812

Honey from Argentina: Preliminary Results of Antidumping Duty Administrative Review and Intent Not to Revoke in Part

AGENCY: Import Administration, International Trade Administration, Department of Commerce.

SUMMARY: In response to requests by interested parties, the Department of Commerce (the Department) is conducting an administrative review of the antidumping order on honey from Argentina. The review covers four firms, one of which was selected as a mandatory respondent (see "Background" section of this notice for further explanation). The period of review (POR) is December 1, 2004, through November 30, 2005.

We preliminarily determine that sales of honey from Argentina have not been made below the normal value (NV) for the respondent firm, Seylinco S.A. (Seylinco). In addition, we will

preliminarily apply the *de minimis* rate calculated for Seylinco as the review-specific rate for those companies subject to this review but not selected as respondents (*i.e.*, Mielar S.A./Compania Apicola Argentina S.A. (Mielar/CAA) and El Mana S.A.). For more detail, see the "Background" section below; see also "Preliminary Results of Review," below. If these preliminary results are adopted in our final results of administrative review, we will instruct U.S. Customs and Border Protection (CBP) to assess antidumping duties based on the difference between the export price (EP) and NV. Interested parties are invited to comment on these preliminary results. Parties who submit argument in these proceedings are requested to submit with the argument: (1) a statement of the issues, (2) a brief summary of the argument, and (3) a table of authorities.

EFFECTIVE DATE: December 29, 2006.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:

Maryanne Burke, Deborah Scott, or Robert James, AD/CVD Operations, Office 7, Import Administration, International Trade Administration, U.S. Department of Commerce, 14th Street and Constitution Avenue, NW, Room 7866, Washington, DC 20230; telephone (202) 482-5604, (202) 482-2657, or (202) 482-0649, respectively.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

Background

On December 10, 2001, the Department published the antidumping duty order on honey from Argentina. See *Notice of Antidumping Duty Order: Honey from Argentina*, 66 FR 63672 (December 10, 2001). On December 1, 2005, the Department published its opportunity to request a review. See *Antidumping or Countervailing Duty Order, Finding, or Suspended Investigation; Opportunity to Request Administrative Review*, 70 FR 72109 (December 1, 2005). On December 30, 2005, the American Honey Producers Association and the Sioux Honey Association (collectively, petitioners) requested an administrative review of the antidumping duty order on honey from Argentina for the period December 1, 2004, through November 30, 2005. Petitioners requested that the Department review entries of subject merchandise made by 42 Argentine producers/exporters. In addition, the Department received individual requests for review from four Argentine exporters, all of which were named in the petitioners' request for review. On January 6, 2006, petitioners withdrew their request for review with respect to 23 of the companies listed in their

SPECTRUM

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PUBLICATION

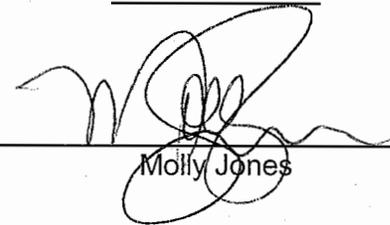
STATE OF UTAH SS.
COUNTY OF WASHINGTON

Molly Jones, being duly sworn,
deposes and says that she is
an accounting representative, at
the daily newspaper published at
St. George, Washington County,
State of Utah, also distributed in
Iron County, and that the notice

PUB # : L9016

is a true copy of which is here to
attached, was published in its issue
dated the 30 day of
DECEMBER 2006
and was published again in the
issues of said newspaper dated:

_____ for
a total of 1 insertion(s).



Molly Jones

Subscribed and sworn before me
this 27 day of
Jan 2007.



NOTARY PUBLIC RESIDING
AT WASHINGTON COUNTY

LEGAL NOTICES

used to develop an amendment to the Forest Plan if necessary.

As the responsible official, the Forest Supervisor will decide which lands will be administratively available for oil and gas leasing along with associated conditions or constraints, and will authorize the BLM to offer specific lands for lease. The Dixie National Forest also proposes to amend the Forest Plan, if necessary, to incorporate the leasing decisions and other changes as indicated in the analysis. The BLM, Utah State Director, will decide whether to offer for lease those National Forest System lands authorized for leasing by the Forest Service. The responsible officials of the Forest Service and BLM will release separate Records of Decision based on the Final EIS. These Records of Decision will not approve any specific surface disturbing activities. Environmental impacts of future oil and gas exploration and development activities would undergo future, project-specific NEPA analyses.

The Forest Service requests comments on the nature and scope of the environmental, social, and economic issues to be evaluated and possible alternatives related to oil and gas leasing on lands administered by the Dixie National Forest. To assist the Forest Service in identifying and considering issues and concerns on the proposed action, comments should be as specific as possible so they can be effectively addressed. Written com-

LEGAL NOTICES

ments may be sent to: Susan Baughman, Oil and Gas Leasing Project Manager, Dixie National Forest, 1789 N. Wedgewood Lane, Cedar City, Utah, 84720; phone: (435) 865-3703; fax: (435) 865-3791; e-mail: dixie_oil_gas_eis_comments@fs.fed.us. Public comments should be sent by January 29, 2007 to be most useful. E-mailed comments must be submitted in MS Word (*.doc) or rich text format (*.rtf). Comments received, including the names and addresses of those who comment, will be considered part of the public record on this proposal and will be available for public inspection. If you would like to receive a copy of the Draft EIS, specifically mention in your letter that you would like to receive either an electronic or hard copy of the Draft EIS. An electronic copy of the Draft EIS will be available on the Dixie National Forest website.

The public is also invited to meet with representatives of the Agencies at open houses scheduled at the following locations and times to provide information, answer questions, and receive written comments:
January 16: 5:00 PM to 7:00 PM, Best Western Abbey Inn, 1129 South Bluff, St. George, Utah;
January 17: 11:00 AM to 2:00 PM, 5:00 PM to 7:00 PM, Cannonville Visitor Center, 10 Center Street, Cannonville, Utah;
January 18: 5:00 PM to 7:00 PM, Heritage Center, 105 North 100 East, Cedar City, Utah.

Pub#L9016 published on December 30, 2006.

LEGAL NOTICES

The Spectrum
UPAXLP

PUBLIC NOTICE Environmental Impact Statement LEGAL NOTICE

Oil and Gas Leasing EIS on Lands Administered by the Dixie National Forest

The Dixie National Forest will prepare a forest-wide environmental impact statement (EIS) to decide which Forest lands to make available for oil and gas leasing. As the agency responsible for Federal lease issuance and administration, the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) will participate as a cooperating agency. The State of Utah will also be cooperating on the EIS.

The EIS analysis area includes the entire Dixie National Forest, with the exception of designated wilderness areas. As part of the analysis, the Forest Service will identify areas that would be available for leasing subject to the terms and conditions of the standard oil and gas lease form, or subject to constraints that would require the use of lease stipulations such as those prohibiting surface occupancy. The analysis will also: 1) identify alternatives to the proposed action, including that of not allowing leasing (no action); 2) project the type/amount of post-leasing activity that is reasonably foreseeable; 3) analyze the reasonably foreseeable impacts of projected post-leasing activity [36 CFR 228.102(c)], and 4) be

ST. GEORGE OFFICE
275 E. St. George Blvd. - St. George, UT 84770
Office (435) 674-6200 FAX 674-6265
CEDAR CITY OFFICE
2071 N. Main St. #2 - Cedar City, UT 84720
Office (435) 586-7646 FAX 586-7471



Notary Public
CRYSTAL SCHMUTZ
275 E. St. George Blvd.
St. George, UT 84770
My Commission Expires
November 11, 2008
State of Utah



File Code: 1950-3/2820-2

Date: December 19, 2006

Dear Interested Citizens:

The Dixie National Forest will be conducting a forest-wide environmental analysis for oil and gas leasing, *Oil and Gas Leasing EIS on Lands Administered by the Dixie National Forest*. Since it is likely that the analysis will address controversial issues and alternatives, and could involve significant effects, the analysis will be documented in an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS). As the agency responsible for Federal lease issuance and administration, the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) will participate as a cooperating agency. The State of Utah will also be cooperating on the EIS.

Proposed Action

The Forest Supervisor of the Dixie National Forest and Utah State Director, Bureau of Land Management propose to conduct the analysis and decide which lands to make available and offer for oil and gas leasing. The EIS analysis area includes the entire Dixie National Forest, with the exception of designated wilderness areas (map included). As part of the analysis, the Forest Service will identify areas that would be available for leasing subject to the terms and conditions of the standard oil and gas lease form, or subject to constraints that would require the use of lease stipulations such as those prohibiting surface occupancy. The analysis will also: 1) identify alternatives to the proposed action, including that of not allowing leasing (no action), 2) project the type/amount of post-leasing activity that is reasonably foreseeable, 3) analyze the reasonably foreseeable impacts of projected post-leasing activity [36 CFR 228.102(c)], and 4) be used to develop an amendment to the Forest Plan if necessary.

Background

The Federal Onshore Oil and Gas Leasing Reform Act of 1987 requires the Forest Service to evaluate National Forest System lands for potential oil and gas leasing and establishes Forest Service consent authority for leasing prior to the BLM offering National Forest System lands for lease. Since the Federal Onshore Oil and Gas Leasing Reform Act was signed into law, no new oil and gas leases have been authorized on the Dixie National Forest. However the oil and gas industry continued to express interest in leasing and interest has recently escalated due to the increased demand for oil and gas, high prices, and discoveries of oil and gas reserves in other areas with similar geologic conditions. The BLM Utah State Office has received numerous written Expressions of Interest for leasing portions of the Dixie National Forest over the past several years.

Decision Framework

As the responsible official, the Forest Supervisor will decide which lands will be administratively available for oil and gas leasing along with associated conditions or constraints, and will authorize the BLM to offer specific lands for lease. The BLM Utah State Director will decide whether to offer for lease, those National Forest System lands authorized for leasing by the Forest Service. The responsible officials of the Forest Service and BLM will release separate Records of Decision based on the Final EIS. These Records of Decisions will not approve any specific surface disturbing activities. Environmental impacts of future oil and gas exploration and development activities would undergo future, project-specific NEPA analyses.



Providing Comments

The Forest Service requests comments on the nature and scope of the environmental, social, and economic issues to be evaluated and possible alternatives related to oil and gas leasing on lands administered by the Dixie National Forest. To assist the Forest Service in identifying and considering issues and concerns on the proposed action, comments should be as specific as possible so they can be effectively addressed. Reviewers may wish to refer to the Council on Environmental Quality Regulations for implementing the procedural provisions of the National Environmental Policy Act at 40 CFR 1503.3 in addressing their points.

For your convenience, the enclosed comment form may be used to provide comments. Alternately, written comments may be sent to: Susan Baughman, Oil and Gas Leasing Project Manager, Dixie National Forest, 1789 N. Wedgewood Lane, Cedar City, Utah 84720; phone: (435) 865-3703; fax: (435) 865-3791; e-mail: dixie_oil_gas_eis_comments@fs.fed.us. Please include "Oil and Gas Leasing Analysis Project" on the subject line. E-mailed comments must be submitted in MS Word (*.doc) or rich text format (*.rtf). Comments received, including the names and addresses of those who comment, will be considered part of the public record on this proposal and will be available for public inspection. If you would like to receive a copy of the Draft EIS, please check the appropriate box on the comment form or specifically mention in your letter that you would like to receive either an electronic or hard copy of the Draft EIS. An electronic copy of the Draft EIS will be available on the Dixie National Forest website.

Public Meetings

You are also invited to meet with us at Public Open House meetings scheduled at the following locations and times to provide information, answer questions, and receive written comments:

January 16: 5:00 PM to 7:00 PM, Best Western Abbey Inn, 1129 South Bluff, St. George, Utah

January 17: 11:00 AM to 2:00 PM, 5:00 PM to 7:00 PM, Cannonville Visitor Center,
10 Center Street, Cannonville, Utah

January 18: 5:00 PM to 7:00 PM, Heritage Center, 105 North 100 East, Cedar City, Utah

Contact

For more information about this project, please contact Susan Baughman, Oil and Gas Leasing Project Manager, (435) 865-3703.

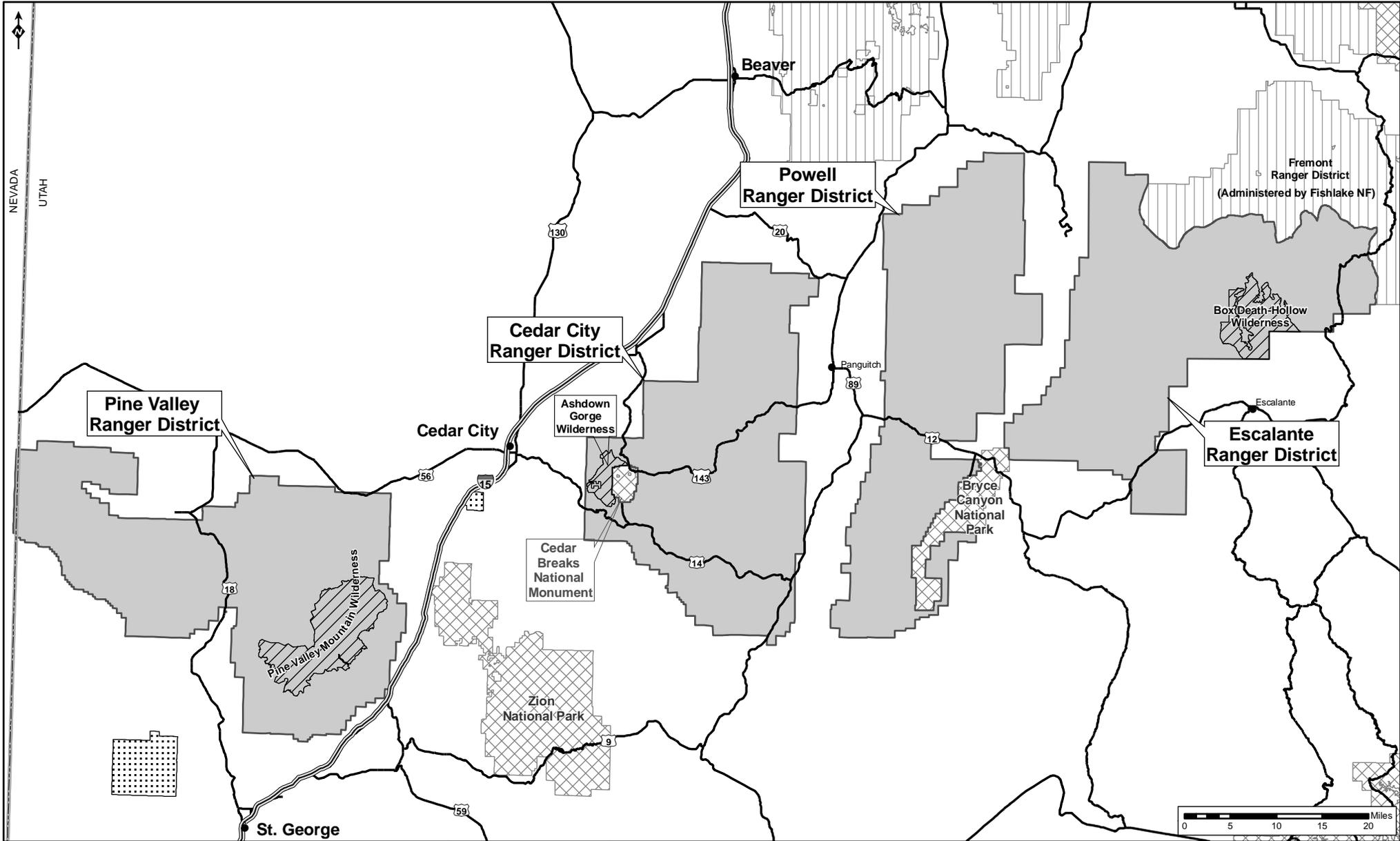
Sincerely,



KEVIN R. SCHULKOSKI
Acting Forest Supervisor

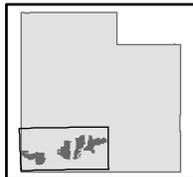
Enclosures:

Comment Form
Map



Oil and Gas Leasing EIS on Lands Administered by the Dixie National Forest

Ranger Districts & Major Travel Routes



Legend

- | | | |
|---------------|-------------------------------------|-----------------------------|
| ● Cities | National Forest System Lands | Other Land Ownership |
| ~ Major Roads | ■ Dixie National Forest | ▨ National Park Service |
| ~ Freeways | ▨ NFS Wilderness Areas | ▤ Tribal |
| ▭ State Lines | ▨ Fishlake National Forest | |

Original data was compiled from multiple source data and may not meet the U.S. National Mapping Accuracy Standard of the Office of Management and Budget. For specific dates and/or additional digital information, contact the Forest Supervisor, Dixie National Forest, Cedar City, Utah. This map has no warranties to its contents or accuracy. THIS MAP IS A PRELIMINARY DRAFT FOR SCOPING PURPOSES ONLY.

Oil and Gas Leasing EIS on Lands Administered by the Dixie National Forest

PROJECT DESCRIPTION

The Dixie National Forest will be preparing a forest-wide environmental impact statement (EIS) for oil and gas leasing. As the agency responsible for Federal lease issuance and administration, the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) will participate as a cooperating agency. The State of Utah will also be cooperating on the EIS.

Reasons for the Analysis

The Federal Onshore Oil and Gas Leasing Reform Act of 1987 requires the Forest Service to evaluate National Forest System lands for potential oil and gas leasing and establishes Forest Service consent authority for leasing prior to the BLM offering National Forest System lands for lease. The oil and gas industry continues to express interest in leasing portions of the Dixie National Forest and interest has increased due to the demand for oil and gas, high prices, and discoveries of oil and gas reserves in other areas of Utah with similar geologic conditions.

The National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) of 1969 requires an environmental review of major federal actions that have the potential to significantly affect the quality of the environment. Since it is likely that the analysis of future oil and gas leasing in the Dixie National Forest will address controversial issues and future oil and gas activities could have significant environmental effects, the Agencies have decided to prepare an EIS for this Proposed Action.

Proposed Action

The EIS analysis area includes the entire Dixie National Forest, with the exception of designated wilderness areas. As part of the analysis, the Forest Service will identify areas that would be available for leasing subject to the terms and conditions of the standard oil and gas lease form, or subject to constraints that would require the use of lease stipulations such as those prohibiting surface occupancy. The analysis will also: 1) identify alternatives to the proposed action, including not allowing leasing (no action), 2) project the type/amount of post-leasing activity that is reasonably foreseeable, 3) analyze the reasonably foreseeable impacts of projected post-leasing activity [36 CFR 228.102(c)], and 4) be used to develop an amendment to the Forest Plan if necessary.

Method of Analysis

The Agencies will review input received from the public during the scoping comment period and combine this with other information to develop issues and a range of alternatives to be evaluated in the EIS. The Agencies will prepare a Reasonably Foreseeable Development Scenario (RFDS) for future oil and gas exploration and development activities that will be based on available information related to occurrence and development potential of oil and gas. The RFDS will describe the scope of exploration activity for the next 15 years for seismic surveys or other remote exploration methods, and access roads and facility development for exploratory drilling. It will also describe facilities, activities, and disturbance related to the development of one producing field on the National Forest over this same time.

To make the analysis as site-specific as possible, the baseline environmental conditions within each Ranger District on the Forest will be described using existing resource information. The environmental impacts will be evaluated for each Ranger District by superimposing the RFDS onto the baseline environmental conditions and describing the potential environmental impacts that would occur. Environmental impacts will be described on a direct and indirect basis and also in a cumulative manner with other past, present, and reasonably foreseeable actions occurring within the cumulative effects analysis area.

The baseline conditions and environmental impacts will be described in a series of technical reports, one for each environmental resource that is evaluated in the EIS. This baseline description and impact analysis will then be summarized in the Draft EIS along with other information related to: purpose and need, applicable permits and authorizations, issues, proposed action and alternatives, consultation and coordination, list of preparers and reviewers, references, glossary, and index.

The Draft EIS will be distributed for public comment and the comments received will be considered and responded to by the Agencies. Changes as necessary will be made to the EIS to reflect the input from the public and a Final EIS will be prepared. The Agencies will use the Final EIS to prepare separate Records of Decision as described in the following section. The Final EIS and the Records of Decision will be distributed for public review and comment. Members of the public who disagree with the decisions will be able to appeal the decisions following the appeal processes of the Agencies.

Decisions to be Made

The Dixie Forest Supervisor will decide which lands will be administratively available for oil and gas leasing along with associated conditions or constraints, and will authorize the BLM to offer specific lands for lease. The Dixie National Forest will also propose to amend the Forest Plan, if necessary, to incorporate the leasing decisions and other changes as indicated in the analysis. The BLM Utah State Director will decide whether to offer for lease, those National Forest System lands authorized for leasing by the Forest Service. The responsible officials of the Forest Service and BLM will release separate Records of Decision. The Records of Decision will decide which lands will be administratively available for oil and gas leasing along with associated conditions or constraints. The Records of Decision will not approve any specific surface disturbing activities. Environmental impacts of future oil and gas exploration and development activities would undergo future, project-specific NEPA analyses.

Agency Contact

To obtain more information on this project, or provide input on the analysis, members of the public may contact: Susan Baughman, Oil and Gas Leasing Project Manager, Dixie National Forest, 1789 N. Wedgewood Lane, Cedar City, Utah 84720; phone: (435) 865-3703; fax: (435) 865-3791; e-mail: dixie_oil_gas_eis_comments@fs.fed.us.

Oil and Gas Leasing EIS on Lands Administered by the Dixie National Forest

NEPA PROCESS

What is NEPA?

The National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) of 1969 requires an environmental review of major federal actions that have the potential to significantly affect the quality of the environment. The purpose of NEPA is to ensure that environmental considerations are incorporated into Federal decision-making. The two primary objectives of NEPA are: (1) Agencies must have available and fully consider detailed information regarding environmental effects at the time a decision is made; and (2) Agencies must make the same information available to interested and/or affected persons, agencies, and organizations before decisions are made and before actions are taken. In some instances, in order to comply with NEPA, an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) must be prepared in order to analyze the environmental effects of a proposed project.

Why Does NEPA apply to this Proposal?

The Dixie National Forest determined that implementation of oil/gas leasing and subsequent exploration and development activities could have a significant impact on the environment, requiring an EIS.

What are the NEPA Process Steps for this Project?

- 1) The Federal Onshore Oil and Gas Leasing Reform Act of 1987 requires the Forest Service to evaluate National Forest System lands for potential oil and gas leasing. The Department of Interior, Bureau of Land Management (BLM) acts as the leasing agent for the Federal government. In compliance with this legislation, the Dixie National Forest is evaluating the potential for future oil and gas leasing on the Forest including reasonably foreseeable development scenarios for oil and gas exploration and production activities, which might occur as a consequence of the leasing decisions. The Dixie National Forest also proposes to amend the Forest Plan, if necessary, to incorporate the leasing decisions and other changes as indicated in the analysis.
- 2) The Dixie National Forest determined that the Proposed Action could have a significant impact on the environment, and an EIS must be prepared in order to comply with NEPA requirements. The BLM and the State of Utah will be cooperating agencies for this EIS.
- 3) The EIS process started in December 29, 2006 with publication of a Notice of Intent (NOI) in the Federal Register, notifications in local newspapers, and direct mailings to persons and agencies on an initial EIS mailing list. The NOI was published on December 29, 2006.
- 4) The publication of the NOI began a 30-day public scoping comment period during which open houses are being held in St. George, Cedar City, and Cannonville, Utah. The open houses will include displays explaining the project and a forum for commenting on the project.
- 5) Public scoping comments can be provided in person at one of the open houses or via US Mail or e-mail to Susan Baughman, Oil and Gas Leasing Project Manager, Dixie National Forest, 1789 N. Wedgewood Lane, Cedar City, Utah 84720; dixie_oil_gas_eis_comments@fs.fed.us. Public comments should be sent by January 29, 2007 to be most useful.
- 6) This input will be used by the Agencies to develop a range of alternatives, issues, and indicators to be used in the EIS. A Scoping Summary Report will be prepared describing: the public scoping input, major issues to be evaluated in the analysis, alternatives considered, and alternatives to be evaluated in the EIS. This document will be made available to the public via posting on the Dixie National Forest website.

Persons who commented during scoping will be included on the EIS mailing list for future actions and notices.

- 7) The Agencies will evaluate potential environmental effects to a wide range of environmental and social resources. Effects will be identified for the individual components of the Proposed Action and all the alternatives. The cumulative effects of the Project, when combined with past, present, and reasonably foreseeable actions, will also be evaluated. Written descriptions of the Proposed Action and alternatives, required agency actions, baseline conditions, environmental impacts, mitigation measures to reduce impacts, and consultation and coordination efforts will be included in the Draft EIS. The Agencies estimate the Draft EIS will be completed late in 2007 or early in 2008, but this is subject to change.
- 8) A Notice of Availability (NOA) will be published in the Federal Register to begin a 45-day public comment period on the Draft EIS. Copies of the Draft EIS will be made available through direct mailings to the EIS mailing list and via posting on the Dixie National Forest website. The NOA will also be published in the *Spectrum* (St. George, Utah). During this period, a public meeting will be held on the Draft EIS in Cedar City, Utah.
- 9) The Agencies will review comments on the Draft EIS received from other agencies and the public during the comment period and prepare the Final EIS. The Agencies will incorporate substantive comments, changes, corrections, and revisions into the Final EIS. The Final EIS will identify the preferred alternative selected by the Agencies after consideration of all public input. The Agencies currently estimate the Final EIS will be completed in the summer of 2008, but this is subject to change.
- 10) Copies of the Final EIS will be made available via mailings and on the Internet. A 30-day public availability period will begin with publication of a NOA in the Federal Register and local newspapers. During the public availability period, the public can provide comments, if any, on the Final EIS.
- 11) The BLM and Dixie National Forest will prepare separate Records of Decision (RODs) related to future oil and gas leasing including any standard stipulations that would apply. The RODs will discuss the Agency Preferred Alternative, the Environmentally Preferable Alternative, and any stipulations developed during the analysis. The Agencies currently estimate the RODs will be completed in the summer of 2008, but this is subject to change.
- 12) The RODs will be made available through direct mailings and posting on the Dixie National Forest website. Separate appeal periods for the RODs will commence with publication of Notice of Decisions (NODs) of the RODs in the *Spectrum*. Members of the public aggrieved by the decisions in the RODs can file written appeal statements with the BLM and Dixie National Forest within the appeal periods described in the NODs. Consideration of any appeals will follow specific policies and procedures of the Agencies.
- 13) Following the close of the ROD appeal periods, and completion of any subsequent appeal processes, the Agencies will take actions as appropriate on their decisions. The earliest this would likely occur is summer of 2008, but this is subject to change.

How Can I Stay Involved?

Attend a scoping meeting in your area. Be sure to add your name to the Project mailing list. Fill out a comment form and return it to the Dixie National Forest (instructions can be found on the comment form). Stay informed on the Dixie National Forest website: <http://www.fs.fed.us/r4/dixie/>.

Who Can I Contact if I Have Any Questions?

If you have any questions or need additional information, contact: Susan Baughman, Oil and Gas Leasing Project Manager, Dixie National Forest, 1789 N. Wedgewood Lane, Cedar City, Utah 84720, phone (435)-865-3703, Attn: Oil/Gas Leasing EIS. E-mail: dixie_oil_gas_eis_comments@fs.fed.us.

Oil and Gas Leasing EIS on Lands Administered by the Dixie National Forest

Reasonably Foreseeable Development Scenario

What is a Reasonably Foreseeable Development Scenario? A Reasonably Foreseeable Development Scenario (RFDS) for oil and gas is a long-term projection of oil and gas exploration, development, production, and reclamation activities and facilities that may reasonably be expected to occur if an area is leased. The RFDS predicts the oil and gas activities and facilities in a defined area for a specified period of time.

How will the RFDS be used in the Dixie National Forest Oil and Gas leasing analysis? In the Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) for the Dixie National Forest's oil and gas leasing analysis, the RFDS will be used to predict the potential "on-the-ground" environmental effects that may occur following leasing. The RFDS will be used as a basis for analyzing environmental effects in the EIS and to identify measures that should be included in leases as stipulations to mitigate environmental impacts. The RFDS will be adjusted under each EIS alternative to reflect varying levels of administrative designations, management practices, and mitigation measures. Under each alternative, the new, adjusted level of projected oil and gas activity then leads to an analysis of related environmental effects in the "Environmental Consequences" section of the EIS.

How is the RFDS developed? The Bureau of Land Management (BLM) in cooperation with the Dixie National Forest is developing a RFDS based on the assumption that all potentially productive areas can be open under standard lease terms and conditions, except those areas designated as closed to leasing by law, regulation, or executive order. The RFDS is based primarily on geologic potential for oil and gas occurrence and on past exploration and development activity in and near the Dixie National Forest. The scenario is also developed with consideration of other factors such as economics, technology, physical limitations on access, existing or anticipated infrastructure, and transportation. It includes all lands within the boundaries of the Dixie National Forest, regardless of ownership, and adjacent non-Forest lands where oil and gas activity may impact Forest lands.

What are the findings of the RFDS for the Dixie National Forest? The RFDS for the Dixie National Forest's oil and gas leasing analysis is still being developed, but some preliminary findings can be shared at this point. The Pine Valley Ranger District and the northern half of the Cedar City, Powell, and Escalante Ranger Districts were determined to have a low potential for oil and gas development. The southern parts of the latter three districts have a high potential for development and a thin zone near their centers has moderate potential for development.

It is estimated that 60 exploration wells could be drilled during the next 15 years, possibly resulting in the discovery of one new oil field, which would contain 20 production wells. The final RFDS will describe the number and amount of activities and facilities that would occur including seismic lines, temporary and permanent roads, well pads, wells, pipelines. It will also estimate the amount of surface disturbance that would occur from these activities and facilities over the 15-year period.