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Date: February 8, 2010

Dear Interested Citizens:

This announces the availability of the Supplemental Information Report (SIR) for the Dixie National Forest (Forest) Oil & Gas Leasing Environmental Impact Statement (EIS). The Draft EIS for this project was issued for public comment on October 17, 2008. During the 60-day comment period a number of comments were received relative to the impact analysis for air resources. In their comments, the Environmental Protection Agency requested that a more rigorous air-quality modeling study be completed for inclusion in the Final EIS. They recommended that this study use different air emission factors for the subject facilities-based emission limitations, which would become effective in the future. This revised modeling was conducted in collaboration with the EPA and the Utah Division of Air Quality and the report on this modeling was revised and is hereby being made available for public review.

In January 2009, the U.S. Forest Service issued guidance requiring that climate change be included in the environmental analyses for future planning decisions. In compliance with this direction, the Forest has prepared a new appendix to the EIS that considers the effects of the proposed oil and gas leasing on climate change and the effects of climate change on the proposed action. This appendix is hereby being made available for public review.

As a result of the two new sources of information described above, the Dixie National Forest has modified the Air Resources sections of the EIS to incorporate the revised air quality impact modeling results and the evaluation of climate change. These revised air resources sections of the EIS are being made available for public review at this time as the main body of the SIR, with references to the revised Air Quality Modeling Report and the Climate Change Report. The SIR does not address any other issues or analysis.

The complete SIR is available for review and downloading on the Dixie NF website (http://www.fs.fed.us/r4/dixie/projects/oil_gas/index.shtml). CDs containing the SIR are available upon request to Susan Baughman, EIS Project Manager, 1789 N. Wedgewood Lane, Cedar City, Utah 84721; 435-865-3703.

All public comments submitted by December 15, 2008 on the DEIS are still applicable and have been reviewed by the Forest. The Forest is preparing responses to those comments and using them to develop the Final EIS. Comments regarding the SIR should be directed to the issues of air resources and climate change and are for additional analysis purposes only. You must have commented during the 60 day DEIS comment period to be eligible to appeal the upcoming decision. Comments should be submitted no later than 30 days from the publication of the NOA in the Federal Register.

Sincerely,

ROBERT G. MACWHORTER
Forest Supervisor

