

REQUEST FOR COMMENTS SEISMIC MAPPING

Southwestern Energy Production Company is proposing subsurface geophysical mapping on the Big Piney Ranger District, Ozark St. Francis National Forests. This underground geologic mapping would consist of 1 seismic line totaling 9 miles crossing both National Forest (5 miles) and private land (4 miles). This request for comments pertains only to the National Forest portion of this proposal.

Comments or concerns for the 4 mile portion of this proposal affecting private land should be directed to Southwest Energy Production Company C/O Rick Miller, P.O. Box 907, Clinton AR, 72031 Phone # (501) 588-0881.

The seismic line would be located in Township 09 North, Range 16 West, Sections 6, 7 & 18 in Conway County and Township 10 North, Range 16 West, Sections 6, 7, 18, 19, 30 & 31 in Van Buren County. The procedure would consist of drilling holes every 110 feet along this line. Minimal brush cutting would also be required. The holes would be 3" in diameter by 20 feet deep. An explosive charge would be placed in each hole, which would then be capped. Once all charges are installed, they would be detonated sequentially with the results recorded on seismic receivers placed along the line. All flagging and wires from the operation would be removed.

This notice requests project-specific information and comments regarding the activities proposed within the project area on National Forest land. I am particularly interested in identifying any extraordinary circumstances that may exist in the project area and/or any activity that when implemented would negatively affect the environment and/or its inhabitants.

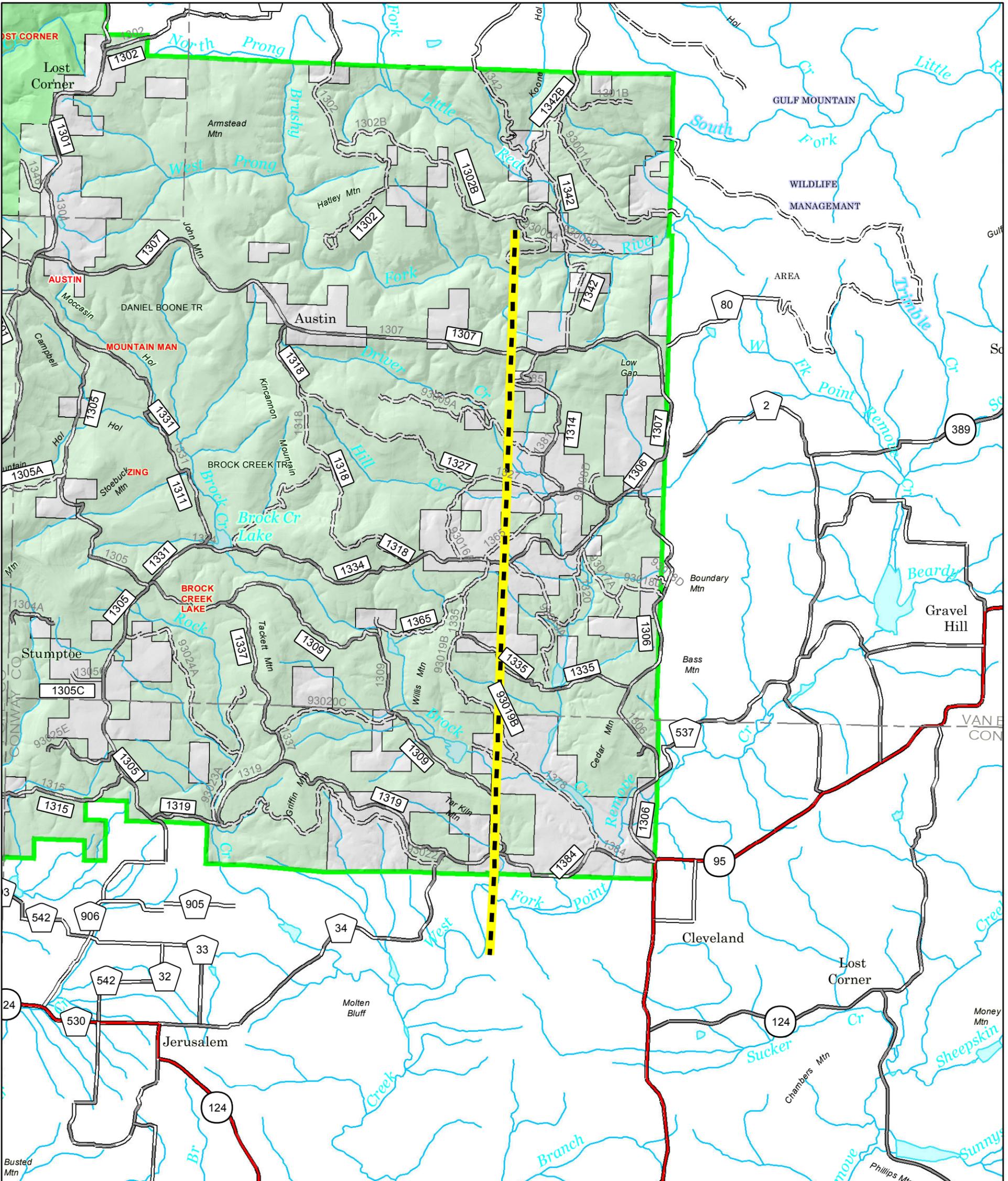
This activity falls under 36 CFR 220.6(e) Category 8 (*Short-term (one year or less) mineral, energy, or geophysical investigations and their incidental support activities that may require cross-country travel by vehicles and equipment.*) If no extraordinary circumstances are discovered during analysis of the area, this project would be categorically excluded from an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) or Environmental Assessment (EA).

This will be the only opportunity to comment on this project proposal. This decision may be appealable, in light of a 2012 court ruling (Sequoia ForestKeeper v. Tidwell, 11-cv-00679-LJO-DLB (E.D. Cal.)): The Forest Service will provide public notice, comment, and opportunity for administrative appeal for projects and activities documented with a "Decision Memo" (36 CFR 220.6(e)) until new instructions are issued by the Washington Office, or the Agency issues regulations addressing the Court's ruling. Only those who provide comment or express interest in this proposal during this comment period will be eligible to appeal the decision pursuant to 36 CFR part 215 regulations.

To ensure your continued participation in this process, and to be eligible to appeal, your comments must be project-specific and postmarked or received within 30 days beginning the day after publication of this notice in Russellville's *The Courier*. You may mail your comment(s) to Jimmie L. Dixon, Big Piney Ranger District, 12,000 SR 27, Hector, AR 72843. Verbal or hand-delivered written comments must be received during our normal business hours of 8:00 a.m. to

4:30 p.m., Mon-Fri. Comments may be mailed electronically to our office, in a common digital format, at: comments-southern-ozark-stfrancis-bayou@fs.fed.us.

Additional information including maps may be obtained by contacting Mike Mulford at the Big Piney Ranger District office in Jasper, AR (phone #: 870-446-5122 x5136) or by email at mmulford@fs.fed.us.



Legend

- Planned Seismic Line
- National Forest Lands



0 0.5 1 2 Miles

The Forest Service uses the most current and complete data available. GIS data and product accuracy may vary. They may be developed from sources of differing accuracy, accurate only at certain scales, based on modeling or interpretation, incomplete while being created or revised, etc. Using GIS products for purposes other than those for which they were created, may yield inaccurate or misleading results. The Forest Service reserves the right to correct, update, modify, or replace GIS products without notification. For more information contact: Ozark - St. Francis NFs, 605 W. Main St, Russellville, AR 72801 (479)-964-7211. lth 05/17/2011