



National Forests and Grasslands in Texas

## Forest Service News Release

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### **Forest Service prepares environmental impact statement for potential oil and gas leasing in Texas**

**(Lufkin, TX, April 23, 2026)** — Today, the Forest Service published a notice of intent in the Federal Register identifying lands on the National Forests and Grasslands in Texas for potential oil and gas leasing and initiating a 5-day public comment period.

The forest will be preparing an environmental impact statement to ensure future leasing opportunities are processed in accordance with applicable federal regulations, while balancing conservation and resource needs.

This project is a priority for the Administration, and it supports Executive Order 14156 Declaring a National Energy Emergency. It promotes the responsible development of domestic energy resources and addresses the national energy emergency through strategic land use planning and resource management.

Comments on the project may be submitted via email to: [SM.FS.r8nfgtshcom@usda.gov](mailto:SM.FS.r8nfgtshcom@usda.gov). Email attachments will only be accepted in common digital formats such as PDF, Microsoft Word, or rich text format. Comments may also be faxed to (936) 639-8588.

Written comments may be mailed to:

National Forests and Grasslands in Texas, Oil and Gas Leasing

Natural Resources and Planning Staff Officer

2221 N. Raguet St.

Lufkin, Texas 75904

Although comments are welcome throughout the Environmental Impact Statement process, the deadline to provide input as part of the public comment period is April 28, 2026. Comments received in response to this solicitation, including names and addresses of those who comment, will be part of public record. Comments submitted anonymously will still be accepted and considered.

For additional information regarding this project, contact Juanita Garcia, Public Services Staff Officer at [Juanita.garcia@usda.gov](mailto:Juanita.garcia@usda.gov) or (936) 639-8501.

## **About the process**

The Bureau of Land Management and the Forest Service share responsibility for oil and gas leasing on National Forest System lands. The Forest Service manages surface resources and use, while the Bureau of Land Management manages the federal mineral estate. Both agencies work with tribal nations, collaborators and members of the public to balance conservation and resource needs.

Before oil and gas leases can be issued, the Forest Service is required to decide which lands are available for leasing, as well as any lease stipulations that would be applied to protect natural and cultural resources on the National Forests and Grasslands in Texas. The decision on the availability of lands is supported by preparing an environmental impact statement of the effects of reasonably foreseeable development if leases were to be issued.

The analysis process follows the National Environmental Policy Act, National Forest Management Act, Endangered Species Act, National Historic Preservation Act, Mineral Leasing Act, 36 CFR 228.103 and other applicable laws, regulations and policies that guide the Forest Service in determining lands that are available for oil and gas leasing.

**About the Forest Service:** The Forest Service has, for more than 100 years, brought people and communities together to answer the call of conservation. Grounded in world-class science and technology — and rooted in communities — the Forest Service connects people to nature and to each other. The Forest Service cares for shared natural resources in ways that promote lasting economic, ecological, and social vitality. The agency manages 193 million acres of public land, provides assistance to state and private landowners, and maintains the largest wildland fire and forestry research organizations in the world. The Forest Service also has either a direct or indirect role in stewardship of about 900 million forested acres within the U.S., of which over 130 million acres are urban forests where most Americans live.

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