



News Release

Fishlake National Forest



For Immediate Release

Date: June 30, 2006

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FISHLAKE NATIONAL FOREST TO CONSIDER OIL AND GAS LEASING

RICHFIELD, Utah--The Fishlake National Forest, in cooperation with the Richfield Bureau of Land Management (BLM) Field Office, will begin a forest-wide analysis to determine whether or not certain parcels on the forest may be appropriate for oil and gas leasing. Under the mineral leasing act of 1920, the BLM is the responsible agency for leasing mineral rights on all federally-managed land.

As part of the analysis, the Fishlake will identify areas that would be open to development under the terms and conditions established by public law. Some areas may be suitable for development, but the lease may prohibit surface occupancy. In those cases, exploration would take place by directional drilling from a more appropriate location. The foreseeable impacts of leasing will also be studied in this analysis which may, in the end, indicate that no action should be taken on the forest authorizing oil and gas leasing.

Public meetings have been scheduled to explore this topic with all those who are interested. All meetings will begin at 7:00 p.m.:

- July 17, 2006 Beaver Ranger District Headquarters, Beaver, Utah
- July 18, 2006 Piute Event Center, 180 W. 500 N., Junction, Utah
- July 19, 2006 Loa Civic Center, 95 W. Center, Loa, Utah
- July 20, 2006 Millard High School, 35 N. 200 W., Fillmore, Utah
- August 1, 2006 Snow College, Room 147C, 800 W. 200 S., Richfield, Utah
- August 2, 2006 American Legion Hall, 50 S. State St., Salina, Utah

The Forest Service is required to evaluate lands for potential oil and gas leasing. Until recently, however, there has been little industry interest in leasing the lands administered by the Fishlake. But due to the increased demand for oil and gas, high prices, and discoveries of oil and gas reserves in other areas with similar geology, industry has begun to inquire about the possibility of exploring reserves that may lie beneath the national forest.

The Fishlake requests comments from the public about the nature and scope of the proposed action. Please be as specific as possible so that your comments can be effectively addressed. Send written comments to: Carter Reed, Oil and Gas Team Leader, Fishlake National Forest, 115 East 900 North,

(more)

Oil and Gas Leasing on Forest 2-2-2-2-2-2

Richfield, UT 84701, or e-mail them to comments-intermtn-fishlake@fs.fed.us. Please include "Oil and Gas Leasing Analysis Project" on the subject line. Comments may also be faxed to (435) 896-0347.

The Fishlake National Forest is always interested to hear what others have to say about this proposed action, but comments received by August 10, 2006 will be the most helpful. Comments received, including names and addresses of those who comment, will be considered part of the public record for this project and will be available for public inspection.

For more information about this proposal, please contact Carter Reed, (435) 636-3547, or Davida Carnahan, (435) 896-1070.