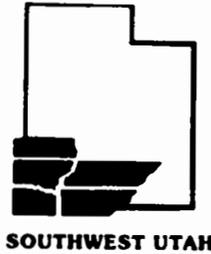


# Five County Association of Governments

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July 5, 2006

Cater Reed  
Oil and Gas Team Leader  
Fishlake National Forest  
115 East 900 North  
Richfield, UT 84701

Dear Mr. Reed:

Thank you for the recent notice regarding the forest-wide oil and gas leasing environmental impact statement. The Five County Association of Governments requests that our agency be placed on the notification list in order to stay informed as the EIS process unfolds.

Please consider asking that Beaver County (as well as other affected counties) is offered Cooperating Agency status for this process. Such designation will allow county officials to participate in the development of alternatives, and will provide an important government-on-government relationship.

The EIS process must include more refined and detailed social and economic analysis than is typically included in an EIS. The Utah State Public Lands Policy Coordination Office has contracted with Utah State University to prepare detailed socio-economic data and analysis. The USU work should be incorporated into the EIS.

What is most important, the EIS must acknowledge oil and gas leasing, and future development, as a legitimate and proper use of public lands. We look forward to and balanced analysis that evaluates proposed oil and gas leasing in a balanced and rational fashion.

Sincerely,



Kenneth L. Sizemore  
Executive Director

cc: Beaver County Commission