

## Social and Economic Components for the Dixie/Fishlake National Forest Plan Revision FOREST-WIDE: Sustainable Multiple Use Option

### RESOURCE: Oil, Gas and Mining

<p><b>Desired Condition</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The Forest Plan implements withdrawals and non-waivable NSO lease stipulations to protect highly valued and special interest lands, including roadless and riparian areas, and to safeguard areas with special features such as steep slopes and sensitive soils.</li> <li>• .In areas open to surface occupancy, various non-discretionary protective measures – either special stipulations or standard stipulations – are enforced to protect wildlife habitat, soils, water quality, air quality, cultural and scenic resources, and other natural resource values.</li> <li>• Disturbed sites are reclaimed to native, natural condition consistent with potential natural condition.</li> <li>• As mandated by MUSYA, the relative scarcity of the values involved and the availability of alternative sites for those values must be considered in all management decisions.</li> <li>• Some areas currently leased are removed from leasing. The leases simply expire without incident or are not reissued, or, should the leaseholder file an APD, are suspended pending further consideration of the area’s resource values.</li> <li>• The national interest in certain lands, the importance of their preservation, and their unique beauty and wildlife habitat result in the purchase or exchange of overlapping lease parcels.</li> <li>• All of these conditions, and management decisions leading to them, are based in complete analysis, prepared under provisions of the National Environmental Policy Act with extensive public review and comment, of projected levels of oil, gas, and mining activities in the forest, of potential impacts from those activities, and of means of limiting and mitigating those impacts. No new oil or gas leases or drilling permits are issued before such analysis is completed.</li> </ul>
<p><b>Objectives (to move from existing to desired)</b></p>	<p><b>Obj. 1:</b> The following areas will be closed, upon implementation of the Forest Plan, to any exploration, leasing and development related to mineral extraction (<i>e.g.</i> oil, gas, coal and hardrock minerals):</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. municipal watersheds</li> <li>2. designated wilderness</li> <li>3. recommended wilderness</li> <li>4. designated critical habitat</li> <li>5. roadless areas</li> <li>6. archeologically rich areas (areas with high concentrations of sites)</li> <li>7. reference areas, Research Natural Areas, Special Interest Areas</li> </ol>

	<p>8. eligible Wild And Scenic River corridors</p> <p>9. critical wildlife habitat</p> <p>10. areas where recreational, scenic, wilderness and/or wildlife values outweigh marginal oil and gas resources.</p> <p><b>Obj. 2:</b> The following areas will be closed, upon implementation of the Forest Plan to hardrock mining and will be open to other mineral development subject to non-discretionary NSO stipulations:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. developed recreation sites</li> <li>2. semiprimitive recreation sites</li> <li>3. springs, riparian areas, wetlands, meadows, streams (including a 660 foot buffer)</li> <li>4. slopes greater than 30%</li> <li>5. areas above tree line</li> <li>6. areas characterized by sensitive soils or where a geologic or erosion hazard is high</li> <li>7. areas of high scenic value.</li> </ol> <p><b>Obj. 3</b> The following wildlife areas will be subject to non-discretionary wildlife-related stipulations as well as to the standard stipulations listed below. Seasonal restrictions should only be used where adequate field staff is available for monitoring and enforcement.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. key winter range for large ungulates: surface occupancy not allowed from 12/1 to 4/15);</li> <li>2. general winter range for large ungulates: surface occupancy not allowed from 12/1 to 4/15)</li> <li>3. sage grouse leks: no surface occupancy within 3 miles of sage grouse leks</li> <li>4. habitat for listed, candidate, and vulnerable species. Institute NSO buffer as necessary to ensure the continued occupancy of the species</li> <li>5. seasonal restrictions as necessary to assure secure habitat on winter range, fawning/calving areas and/or habitat for pronghorn antelope, desert bighorn sheep, rocky mountain bighorn sheep, and raptors</li> </ol> <p><b>Obj. 4</b> All other areas are subject to non-discretionary standard stipulations, including:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. require non-negotiable best management practices that require directional drilling where necessary to avoid surface impacts, minimized drilling facility size, limited construction of new roads and rehabilitation of roads not needed after drilling is completed, air pollution control, and prohibition on gas flaring</li> <li>2. accommodate the public's increasing sensitivity to development within currently natural landscapes</li> <li>3. reduce vehicular access for oil and gas development and</li> </ol>
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	<p>ORV recreation during prolonged drought conditions</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>4. mitigate the spread of invasive and noxious weeds on oil and gas leases relating to,</li> <li>5. minimize habitat fragmentation</li> <li>6. emphasize pollution prevention over pollution containment and clean-up</li> <li>7. ensure exploration, development and extraction is consistent with Forest Desired Conditions</li> <li>8. close to ORV use any roads and tracks not designated open for public use and require reclamation of any such roads and tracks once production ends</li> <li>9. require posting of bonds that ensure adequate reclamation including long term monitoring</li> <li>10. prevent contaminated operation water entering either ground or surface water.</li> </ol> <p><b>Obj. 5</b> Before specific lands are open for exploration or leased for mineral development, an environmental analysis is conducted with opportunity for full public participation, to assess:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. the regional and national need for such mineral production</li> <li>2. the economic feasibility of development</li> <li>3. the extent to which other sources and means to meet the mineral extraction needs exist</li> <li>4. the cumulative impacts from full development of a structure or field</li> <li>5. the economic benefits (to whom) and costs (to whom) that full development would entail.</li> </ol> <p><b>Obj. 6</b> Off-site mitigation in lieu of avoiding adverse impacts to natural resource values or on-site mitigation is not allowed.</p> <p><b>Obj. 7</b> Any exploration activities must be restricted to existing designated roads to the maximum extent practicable. Lines off existing designated roads should be placed on foot.</p> <p><b>Obj. 8</b> Site-specific environmental review of any proposal to lease particular lands for mineral extraction is required.</p> <p><b>Specific Objectives (Coal Bed Methane):</b></p> <p><b>Obj. 1</b> Before any leasing or development activities associated with coal bed methane occurs, a complete environmental review is undertaken with full opportunity for public participation, of the impacts of such development, including a consideration of alternatives, cumulative impacts, and effects on water quality, air quality, wildlife and other natural values. From this process, standards and monitoring that will protect water quality, air quality, wildlife, and other natural values based on sound science are adopted by the Forest with public input.</p> <p><b>Obj. 2</b> Air contaminant emissions are controlled by requiring the use</p>
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	<p>of electrified compressor stations associated with coal bed natural gas development.</p> <p><b>Obj. 3</b> Protection of surface and groundwater resources, including quality and quantity, are protected by prohibiting surface disposal of water and by requiring treatment of water before reinjection into ground water</p> <p><b>Obj. 4</b> Prior to approval of proposed operations, the collection flow and quality baseline information for any surface and sub-surface waters that could be affected by mineral extraction is documented.</p>
<p>Guidelines (sideboards for future activities)</p>	<p><b>Gdlne. 1</b> All disturbed areas should be reclaimed and bonding that protects taxpayers from all liability and clean up costs should be required.</p> <p><b>Gdlne. 2</b> A base bond per well of \$20,000 or more, corresponding to potential damage and resulting restoration of natural features, for oil and gas leasing should be imposed and should implement the following terms:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. The required bond amount will reflect the probable difficulty of reclamation considering such factors as the severe and prolonged drought in southeast Utah, global warming, topography, geology, hydrology, vegetation, wildlife populations, and evidence from past leasing operations reclamation.</li> <li>2. The amount of the bond will be sufficient to ensure the completion of the reclamation plan if the work had to be performed by the Forest in the event of forfeiture</li> <li>3. The Forest can adjust the amount of the bond as affected land acreages increase or decrease, or where the cost of future reclamation changes.</li> <li>4. Bond amounts will be based on worst case scenarios.</li> <li>5. Bonds will cover the cost of plugging wells and restoring sites around wells; and the cost of reclaiming roads, compressor station sites, produced water containment ponds and all other associated facilities and impacts for which a bond is not otherwise provided.</li> </ol> <p><b>Gdlne. 3</b> Environmental impacts of oil and gas drilling should be reduced by use of “closed loop” drilling techniques. Solid well cuttings should be removed</p>

	<p>from the drilling fluid and the fluid stored in tanks and reused rather than being dumped in a waste pit.  <sup>1</sup> Further reduce environmental impacts by requiring use of directional drilling, maximized use of drill pad sites, and other evolving technologies, by limiting access to existing roads, and by requiring sequential reclamation of well pad sites, limited total simultaneous surface disturbance within geographic areas, and, where possible, implementation of federal units and use of a single operator in each federal unit.</p>
<p><b>Monitoring</b></p>	<p>Desired Conditions: Monitoring Elements</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Water quality and quantity upstream and downstream of mines</li> <li>• Air quality in mine vicinity</li> <li>• Number of leases issued and retired.</li> <li>• Success of reclamation to native, natural condition</li> <li>• Number of miles and locations of oil, gas, and mining roads constructed and decommissioned.</li> <li>• Areas of Forest available and not available for mineral operations.</li> </ul> <p>Objectives</p> <p><b>Mon. 1</b> Identification and measurement of all effects to water flow and quality are required downstream of the site.</p> <p><b>Mon. 2</b> Before any exploration, leasing and development activities related to mineral extraction begins, all historic properties within the area of potential effects are identified in cooperation with all consulting parties. Where eligible sites are found, measures are developed and implemented to avoid any adverse effects of the undertaking, in cooperation with all consulting parties.</p> <p><b>Mon. 3</b> Before any exploration, leasing and development activities related to mineral extraction can occur, all listed, candidate, and vulnerable plant and animal species are identified within the affected region. Where such species are found, measures to avoid any adverse effects to these species are developed and implemented.</p> <p><b>Mon. 4</b> The efficacy of special stipulations relative to wildlife are assessed. Once 10,000 acres subject to special stipulations are developed, whether and how the special stipulations are adequately protecting the wildlife and habitat they are designed to protect is assessed within two years. If the assessment does not occur within the two years, the agency will not allow development on additional areas subject to</p>

<sup>1</sup> By eliminating the waste pit, closed loop systems lower construction, closure and waste management costs and reduce liability by eliminating the possibility of contamination from a leaking waste pit.

	special stipulations.
<b>Suitable Uses</b>	<p>Mineral and energy leasing, and related mining and drilling operations are closed on the following Forest lands</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"><li>1. designated wilderness</li><li>2. recommended wilderness</li><li>3. designated critical habitat (ESA) and other important wildlife habitat</li><li>4. roadless areas</li><li>5. areas with high concentrations of archeological sites</li><li>6. Reference areas, Research Natural Areas, and Special Interest Areas</li><li>7. eligible Wild and Scenic River corridors</li><li>8. areas where recreational, scenic, potential wilderness, or wildlife values outweigh oil, gas, or mineral values</li></ol>