Extractable Energy Resources: Domestic Options for the Next Two Decades

USDA Forest Service

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MINERALS & GEOLOGY MANAGEMENT

• National Forest System Lands
  – 193 million acres
  – 155 Forests & 20 Grasslands

• Land Management Agency
  – Works with BLM and other Interior agencies
  – Decides what lands are available for leasing and under what conditions
POLICIES

- Exploration and development of extractable energy mineral resources is an important part of the management program of the USDA Forest Service.

- To foster and encourage the development of domestic mineral resources in compliance with environmental regulations is the policy of the Forest Service.

- Production of extractable energy mineral resources is compatible with and complementary to other uses of Forest Service lands.
TRENDS

• Continued rapid population growth near National Forests

• Increased interest in energy resources from National Forests near energy corridors

• Demand for economical and reliable electricity

• Increased development of renewable energy resources
USDA FOREST SERVICE ACTIONS

• Final Geothermal Programmatic EIS

• Energy Corridors Programmatic EIS
  – West wide
  – East wide

• Pilot Offices established
  – Four out of the seven offices have USDA Forest Service staff
CHALLENGES AND OPPORTUNITIES

• Balancing energy demand with environmental values
  – Air quality
  – Water management and availability
  – Wildlife
  – Financial Resources
• Working through the Public Process
• Collaboration with other agencies to improve data collection and analysis
• Other partnerships