

Talking Points for Environmental Impact Statement  
National Forest Service – April 2010

Location: The proposed well and drill site are off of Forest Service Road (FSR) 4209 which leads to Fisherman's Chapel on the banks of the Au Sable River.

Road/Traffic Impact: The Fisherman's chapel, donated to the state by George Mason, and popular Mason Tract are accessed off the same road (FSR 4209) as would be the proposed well. What is now a quiet, winding dirt road would become a much more heavily traveled road used by trucks, etc involved in the construction of a drilling pad and subsequent drilling. A pipeline would be added. FSR 4209 leads to a landmark -- the chapel -- visited by many people annually, for everything from quiet visits to weddings.

Recreational Impact: The Mason Tract is a beloved property for fishing, hunting, skiing, canoeing and hiking: all quiet sports. The proposed well -- and any additional production facility -- would disrupt these activities both visually and audibly. The Mason Tract is one small, very special spot to many, many people. There are areas across Crawford County where gas exploration occurs without incident or large comment. Proposed Well 1-8 is overwhelmingly opposed by residents and visitors alike, as evidenced by over 500 comments that previously opposed the drilling.

Economic Impact: Crawford County depends on recreation as a source of commercial income. Visitors from all over Michigan and adjoining states visit this area for the quiet activities only held in nature. Their visits to the county bring revenues.

Environmental Impact: Proposed Well 1-8 would create a significant disturbance in the flora and fauna of the area even if the exploratory hole proved to be empty. The proposed well pad would be located in a designated old growth National Forest.

Additional wells: If gas is discovered, it's our understanding that additional wells would be constructed in the immediate area as well as a production facility. This would prolong the time of heavy impact and would significantly disrupt recreational activities, along with local wildlife.

Technology: An up-river well and production facility 1-16, which is now nearly 20 years old, has a longer hole than proposed well 1-8, yet it has been said that 1-8 can't be pushed back further from the river because a longer hole can't be drilled. This argument implies that technology has regressed in the last twenty years. The company in question, Savoy, needn't receive the cheapest option to drill. In fact, technology has improved significantly for drilling and pumping over the last 20 years. This improved technology should be used.

**We don't oppose Savoy getting their legally leased minerals - we just want them to drill from a technologically feasible location, which won't bother visitors to the Chapel and River.**