

Cecchini, Rose Marie

The combined impacts from the two uranium mining projects would result in continual drilling, blasting, and removal of hundreds of thousands of tons of rock, detrimentally affecting an area that should be recognized and preserved for its cultural properties and natural scenic beauty.

In the "dewatering" process, millions of gallons of water will be discharged daily from underlying aquifers: the Gallup and Dakota Sandstones, the Westwater Canyon aquifers, vital source drinking water for the region. The aim is to lower aquifer water level to reach dry strata and enable the companies to dynamite blast for uranium. These mines leak contaminants into groundwater, release radon into the air, and create further health problems for residents in nearby communities, as well as the natural habitat.

The radioactive, hazardous materials will be unsafely transported by truck, with tons of radioactive material going through our local communities and public highways every day. Roads and pipelines will be constructed, destroying valued forestry lands and vegetation, thereby contributing to global climate change.

The multi-species community of life and vital water reserves in Cibola National Forest are a sacred trust. Once destroyed, they will be gone forever. We trust that the revised Cibola National Forest Management Plan will adequately protect and preserve this national forest so that future generations may continue to enjoy and celebrate the beauty and goodness revealed through this unique expression of God's Creation.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Rose Marie Cecchini, MM".

Rose Marie Cecchini, MM  
Coordinator