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Comments: The stunning landscapes of the Cibola National Forest, the elk, pronghorn, and birds I hope to find there, and the scenery and wildlife I photograph to remember these beautiful locations: all of that is what this proposed underground uranium mine puts at risk. I oppose the Roca Honda Mine Project and urge the agency to address the concerns below before any decision moves forward.

Wildlife is central to why this place matters to me. I visit hoping to see elk, pronghorn, and birds, including Mexican Spotted Owls. The EIS must rigorously assess how mine development and operations would disturb those animals and their habitat across the National Forest System and BLM-administered lands affected by this project. The agency should explain in full what mitigation measures, if any, would actually prevent harm to species like the Mexican Spotted Owl, and it should put a direct answer to that question in the record.

Water is the other issue I cannot set aside. Local towns, Indigenous communities, rural settlements, and wildlife all depend on clean water that flows from this forest. An underground uranium mine carries obvious risks of contamination to those sources. The EIS needs to model how mine operations could affect groundwater and surface water quality, and what would happen to those dependent communities and to wildlife if contamination occurred. I want the agency to state plainly how it will protect those water sources and what monitoring or enforcement would be in place if something goes wrong.

More broadly, this land needs to remain unspoiled. My tax dollars fund the stewardship of the Cibola National Forest, and responsible management means weighing whether industrial uranium extraction belongs inside a national forest at all. The EIS should honestly account for the irreversible character of any impacts from mine development and consider whether the public interest is actually served by approving this plan of operations. The agency owes a clear answer to that question.