

Data Submitted (UTC 11): 9/16/2026 7:26:54 PM

First name: Lorie

Last name: Staffan

Organization:

Title:

Comments: The animals of the Cibola deserve to live without harassment. Seeing them delights visitors and reconnects us to our natural heritage, and that is precisely what this proposed uranium mining project threatens to destroy.

The Roca Honda Mine Project would bring developmental drilling, new roads, and industrial infrastructure onto the Cibola National Forest. My concern for the wildlife that depends on this ecosystem is direct: no mining, no additional roads, and no infrastructure to support mining belong in this forest. This ecosystem should be unaltered and protected for the enjoyment of the public and the preservation of wildlife. I ask the agency to explain, specifically, how it intends to assess harassment and displacement of wildlife from surface disturbance on NFS lands, and to address that analysis in its review.

Water contamination is my second concern. Everyone needs clean water in order to survive. If this project goes forward, the water will become contaminated. Water is a precious resource and not to be squandered. The project description acknowledges, in the Project Overview, that "These activities will support the underground uranium mine and water treatment plant proposed on adjacent state and private lands." A uranium mine and a water treatment plant on lands immediately adjacent to a national forest raise serious questions about groundwater integrity that do not stop at a property line. The agency must explain how potential contamination pathways crossing from the mine onto NFS lands will be modeled and mitigated, and must answer that question directly in the environmental review.

The notice also fails to identify which federal, state, or tribal agencies will serve as cooperating agencies on the Environmental Impact Statement, and it does not explain how the impacts of the mine itself, which sits off NFS lands, will be folded into the EIS scope. Connected actions must be analyzed together, not in pieces. The agency should disclose the full cooperating agency list and confirm that the EIS will cover the entire connected action, not only the surface disturbance on Forest Service ground.

The project description, as published, gives no acreage, no disturbance footprint, no drilling depths or volumes, and no description of what the proposed infrastructure actually consists of. Without that information, the public cannot identify what resources are at risk or frame meaningful comments. The Project Overview states only that the proposal involves "Proposal submitted by Roca Honda Resources LLC on and near Jesus Mesa to conduct developmental drilling, develop infrastructure and construct access roads on NFS lands," and nothing more. A detailed project description must be released before the scoping comment period closes.

Finally, the Project Milestones section lists a "Milestone Date NEPA Start Date Finding/Decision Date" with no dates filled in. The public cannot know when scoping begins, when drafts will be available, or when a decision will be made. The agency must publish a project schedule with firm milestone dates so that affected communities, tribal governments, and other stakeholders can plan meaningful participation and respond to this point.

Public lands belong to the public, not corporations. Not everything needs to be about money and extraction. Our national forests provide benefits greater than money: fresh air, clean water, and the opportunity to revel in nature's majesty. Once they are destroyed, they are gone forever. Please do the right thing and protect our public lands, as is your mandate.