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Comments: My family has hiked and camped in the Cibola National Forest for decades. My family has also bicycled there since the early 1990s and continues to do so. These are not abstract interests. They are part of how we live and what we intend to pass on. Our grandchildren, and theirs, deserve to experience the beauty of the Cibola National Forest. It is their birthright. That is why I oppose the Roca Honda Mine Project, and why the agency's handling of this proposal so far is not good enough.

The Project Overview describes the work on National Forest System lands only as activities to "conduct developmental drilling, develop infrastructure and construct access roads on NFS lands," but it stops there. There is no description of the scope, the acreage disturbed, the number of proposed drill sites, the miles of new roads, or any other quantitative detail that would let the public understand what is actually being proposed. I carefully watch all developments that could affect the cleanliness of our precious water in New Mexico, especially Cibola County, and I cannot do that meaningfully when the project description contains almost nothing to evaluate. The agency must provide a complete project description, with site-specific acreage and quantified impacts, before the formal scoping period begins, and must respond to this deficiency specifically.

The Project Overview also makes clear that the drilling and infrastructure on Forest Service lands exist to "support the underground uranium mine and water treatment plant proposed on adjacent state and private lands." That connection is the whole point of the project. A uranium mine and a water treatment plant sitting adjacent to the Cibola National Forest are not background context. They are the reason the NFS surface disturbance is proposed at all. Clean water affects every single New Mexican. Our taxpayer money should not be spent on any project that could impact our water stores or the cleanliness of that water in any way whatsoever. Yet there is no disclosure in the available materials of how the agency intends to analyze the cumulative and connected impacts of the mine and water treatment plant alongside the NFS components. The agency must clarify in scoping exactly how those connected actions on non-NFS lands will be treated within the environmental impact statement, and must address that question directly.

There is a further problem that makes both of the above concerns worse. The Project Milestones table lists "Milestone Date NEPA Start Date Finding/Decision Date" with no dates filled in. The public cannot plan meaningful participation when it does not know when the comment period opens, when the analysis will be completed, or when a decision will be made. Affected communities and other stakeholders have a right to timely notice under NEPA. The agency should publish specific, binding milestone dates immediately. How does the agency intend to ensure meaningful public participation when the schedule is entirely blank?