

Data Submitted (UTC 11): 9/17/2026 7:36:42 PM

First name: Emily

Last name: Wheeler

Organization:

Title:

Comments: Taxpayer money is at stake in the Cibola National Forest, and before any of it moves toward this proposal I want to see answers to basic questions that the current notice leaves open.

The project summary lists blank milestone dates for both the NEPA Start Date and the Finding/Decision Date, as shown in Project Milestones. There is no way for the public to know when the comment period opens, when analysis will be completed, or when a decision will be made. I want this land managed in a way that benefits the American people and leaves it in a state to be enjoyed by future generations. That kind of stewardship requires a process the public can actually track. The agency should publish specific, binding milestone dates immediately, and I ask that the agency address this point directly in the record.

Access to the project documents is also a problem. The notice directs the public to a commercial platform rather than a government site. Specifically, the Project Documents section states that "Alternatively, these documents can be accessed on the Pinyon Public website," which is a private, third-party service. Routing the public to a commercial website raises real questions about long-term availability, accessibility for rural or low-income residents, and whether this meets federal open-government standards. Federal NEPA documents belong on a federal platform. Does the agency believe that delegating document access to a private company satisfies its public-engagement obligations under NEPA?

My most direct concern is liability. Right now there is no ability for the public to assess whether we are even protected from liability. The notice, which describes a "Proposal submitted by Roca Honda Resources LLC on and near Jesus Mesa" in the Project Overview, says nothing about whether a Plan of Operations has been submitted, what surface disturbance bonding requirements apply, or what reclamation standards will be enforced on the forest portions of the project. I want guarantees that this will bring in more income than recreational use before public money is committed, and that calculation is impossible to make without knowing what financial assurances exist. The agency must make any submitted Plan of Operations publicly available and describe the bonding and reclamation framework that will apply before the environmental review moves forward.