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Comments: The Cibola National Forest is where I hike and camp with my friends, family, and loved ones, all over those forests. I photograph it because it is so beautiful. I want wildlife to thrive there and I want future generations to have it. That is why I oppose the Roca Honda Mine Project.

The Project Overview states that the proposal is to "conduct developmental drilling, develop infrastructure and construct access roads on NFS lands," but that description tells the public almost nothing. There is no acreage, no number of drill sites, no miles of road, no footprint of any kind. Without those specifics, I cannot judge what the surface disturbance will look like, what it will do to the forest I hike and photograph, or what it will mean for the wildlife I hope to see preserved there. A scoping process built on a description this thin does not give the public a fair chance to weigh in. I ask the agency to release a complete project description with site-specific and quantitative details before the formal scoping period runs its course, and to respond to this gap on the record.

My concern goes beyond the National Forest surface itself. The Project Overview also states that the NFS activities will "support the underground uranium mine and water treatment plant proposed on adjacent state and private lands." That means the roads and drill infrastructure on public land exist specifically to make the mine possible. Those are connected actions. How the agency plans to analyze the cumulative and connected impacts of the mine and the water treatment plant inside the environmental impact statement is not explained anywhere in the scoping notice. Clean water matters to me, and a uranium mine with a water treatment plant on lands directly served by NFS infrastructure is not a detail that can be walled off from the forest analysis. The agency must clarify in its response how those connected actions on non-NFS lands will be fully analyzed within the EIS as required by federal regulations.

Let's not make an irreversible decision in the name of money and consumerism. These beautiful forests matter deeply, and the agency owes the public a real accounting of what this project will cost them.