

NEWS RELEASE

USDA Forest Service
Coronado National Forest
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www.fs.fed.us/r3/coronado



For Immediate Release

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Coronado National Forest to Prepare Environmental Impact Statement for Rosemont Copper Project

(TUCSON, ARIZONA, March 11, 2008) – Coronado National Forest Supervisor Jeanine Derby submitted a Notice of Intent for publication in the [Federal Register](#) to initiate preparation of an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) for the proposed Rosemont Copper Project.

The EIS will disclose the potential environmental and social effects anticipated as a result of the proposed [Rosemont Mine Plan of Operation](#) (MPO), including construction and operation of an open-pit mine and related facilities, and will determine if the [Forest Plan](#) must be amended to allow such mining activities. In addition, the EIS may evaluate other connected actions related to the MPO, such as construction of roads and utilities.

As proposed, the Rosemont Copper Project would be located 30 miles southeast of Tucson, in Pima County, on approximately 995 acres of private land, 3,670 acres of National Forest land, 15 acres of land administered by the Bureau of Land Management, and 75 acres of State Trust land.

While the Forest Service assumes the role of lead agency in preparation of the EIS, many other federal, state, and local government agencies with jurisdiction may also participate. To assist with preparation of the EIS, the Forest Service has selected SWCA Environmental Consultants based in Phoenix, Arizona. The proponent, Rosemont Copper Company, is responsible for the cost of preparing the EIS.

A draft EIS may be available for public review by March, 2009, with a final EIS projected for completion by November, 2009.

The Forest Service encourages public participation in the EIS process. Three initial public open-house meetings are scheduled this month, as follows:

1. March 18, 2008, Pima Community College Desert Vista Campus, 5901 South Calle Santa Cruz, Tucson, Arizona. 7:00 p.m. - 9:00 p.m.
2. March 19, 2008, Canoa Hills Recreation Center, 3660 South Camino del Sol, Green Valley, Arizona, 6:30 p.m. - 8:30 p.m.
3. March 20, 2008, Patagonia Union High School, Highway 82, Patagonia, Arizona, 6:00 p.m.- 8:00 p.m.

Other meetings may be scheduled as needed.

Alternatively, for those who do not attend meetings, an initial public comment period runs through April 18, 2008. Agencies or individuals can submit comments by mail, FAX, or email as follows:

- Mail comments to Team Leader, Rosemont Copper Project, Coronado National Forest, 300 W. Congress St., Tucson, Arizona 85701
- FAX comments to (520) 388-8305, ATTN: Rosemont Team Leader
- Or email to comments-southwestern-coronado@fs.fed.us

For questions about the public meetings or the comment period, the public can call (520) 388-8300.

Questions about the EIS process should be directed to Ms. Andrea Campbell, Forest NEPA Coordinator, at 300 W. Congress St., Tucson, AZ 85701, or telephone (520) 388-8300.

Additional information about the proposed Rosemont Copper Project, including the Notice of Intent, is available online at www.fs.fed.us/r3/coronado/rosemont.