



News Release

U.S. Forest Service
Cibola National Forest and Grasslands
2113 Osuna Rd. NE ■ Albuquerque, NM 87113-1001

For Immediate Release

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Cibola National Forest and Grasslands hosting public meetings to discuss the La Jara Mesa Uranium Mine

Albuquerque, NM – June 8, 2012. The Cibola National Forest and Grasslands has released a draft Environmental Impact Statement (DEIS) for mining uranium at La Jara Mesa, located 10 miles northeast of Grants, New Mexico. The DEIS was completed at the request of Laramide Resources (USA), who submitted a Plan of Operation to mine for uranium in 2008. The draft EIS can be found at:

http://www.fs.fed.us/nepa/nepa_project_exp.php?project=25654

Issues identified and addressed in the DEIS include:

- Effects on the characteristics that make the Mt. Taylor Traditional Cultural Property eligible for the National Register of Historic Places (NRHP);
- Potential contamination of ground and surface water, and how such contamination would be avoided;
- Potential health and safety risk of uranium mining;
- Cumulative effects of uranium mining in the area and statewide; and
- The need for reclamation and restoration of disturbed land.

The public is invited to attend one of the following public meetings, where Forest Service employees, their environmental consultant, and the applicant will be available to provide updated information about the proposed mine, answer questions, and collect public comments.

Tuesday, June 19

6:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m.
Cibola County Convention Center
515 West High Street
Grants, New Mexico

Wednesday, June 20

6:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m.
Gallup Community Service Center
410 Bataan Veterans Street

Gallup, New Mexico

The public is invited to review the documents and to provide comments during the 60-day comment period. The comment period began on May 18, 2012, the day the Notice of Availability of the DEIS was published in the *Federal Register*. Comments should be received no later than close of business, July 17, 2012, the end of the 60-day comment period.

Comments can be submitted four ways:

- Via the Internet: <https://cara.ecosystem-management.org/Public/CommentInput?Project=25654>
- E-mailed to: comments-southwestern-cibola@fs.fed.us
- Written comments can also be mailed or delivered to:
Cibola National Forest
Attn: La Jara Mesa Uranium Mine
2113 Osuna Rd. NE, Albuquerque, NM 87113
- Comments will be accepted at the Mt. Taylor Ranger District, at the Supervisors Office, or at the public meetings.

Once the comments have been reviewed and responded to, the forest will issue a final Environmental Impact Statement (EIS).

For additional information about the project, please go to:

http://www.fs.fed.us/nepa/nepa_project_exp.php?project=25654

For more information, contact:

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