Pinyon Plain Mine
2026 Q2 Monitoring Summary



April - June 2026
Kaibab National Forest

Forest Service
United States Department of Agriculture

Introduction

The purpose of this report is to provide a summary of the USDA Forest Service's administration and monitoring of the Pinyon Plain (formerly Canyon) uranium mine on the Tusayan Ranger District of the Kaibab National Forest.

The 1872 Mining Law requires the Forest Service (FS) to make minerals from National Forest System lands available to the national economy (30 U.S.C. 21-54). The FS is also responsible for minimizing the adverse impacts of mining activities on other surface resources (36 C.F.R. 228.8). Once a mining operation is approved, the FS monitors the mining company's compliance with the plan of operations and requirements imposed by the environmental review process. At Pinyon Plain Mine, the FS accomplishes this through visits to the mine site and regular communications with the mine's owner, Energy Fuels Resources. The FS will also ensure surface reclamation is conducted in alignment with all regulations and bonding once mining operations are completed.

This report is intended solely to inform interested parties about the Forest Service's monitoring of activities occurring at Pinyon Plain Mine during the specified time period.

Additional information about Pinyon Plain Mine can be found at https://www.fs.usda.gov/r03/kaibab/forest-products/nonwood-products/pinyon-plain-mine-formerly-canyon-uranium-mine.

Summary

Regular ore hauling activities began on February 12, 2025, after EFR and the Navajo Nation reached an agreement on hauling across Navajo Tribal Lands. As of June 2026, EFR averages 10 – 13 haul trucks per day, a decrease from the 15 – 17 truck average in Q4 2025. The maximum volume of ore on the ore pad during Q2 2026 was approximately 4,590 tons in mid-June and the lowest in late April, with a reported 3,396 tons on the ore pad.

Ore stockpile heights, as reported by EFR, fluctuated between 11 and 15 feet during Q2. The lowest stockpile height reported during Q2 was 10 feet on April 16, 2026. The amount of ore on the ore pad is limited to 13,100 tons and 20 ft in height by the air quality permit EFR has from the Arizona Department of Environmental Quality (AZDEQ). All numbers EFR reported to the Forest Service during Q2 of 2026 were within these limits. EFR estimates a conversion of 1.68 tons per cubic yard of uranium ore.

During the October 2024 coordination meeting, EFR notified the FS of exploration activities in the "Juniper Zone" (JZ). This ore zone sits beneath the current ore body that is being extracted. The JZ is discussed throughout a technical report available on EFR's website and is depicted in a figure on pg. 7-5 of EFR's technical report.

In March 2026, EFR confirmed that the analysis of the Juniper Zone indicates the deposit has probable mineral reserves. EFR has not committed to extracting ore from the JZ and production mining of the JZ is not occurring. However, EFR continues to examine the profitability of the deposit for potential extraction in the future if it is economically feasible to do so.

Site Visits

Site visits occur approximately once a month at the Pinyon Plain Mine. Site visits focus on visual inspection of the main areas within the perimeter of the mine, including structures, the development rock stockpile, and ore pad. The site visits also involve discussion with mine personnel about operations and ongoing, recently completed, and planned activities. The site visits described here occurred on April 21 and June 15, 2026.

The U.S. Geologic Survey (USGS) and AZDEQ were at the mine during the April site visit to conduct quarterly monitoring activities.

Structures

EFR recently used locally sourced gravel to reinforce areas within the mine perimeter, specifically the areas used by haul trucks. The parking area was also reinforced with gravel and the structures are maintained in an organized manner. Staff on site continue to maintain safety areas using cones, steel barricades, and other high-visibility barriers to restrict machinery access and allow safe passage for pedestrians (Photos 1 – 4).

The locally sourced gravel was used throughout Q2 with a small stockpile remaining by mid-June. Dust abatement actively occurs within the perimeter of the mine (Photos 5 – 6). No visible signs of trash were present near the structures or work areas.

Water Tanks and Non-Stormwater Impoundment

The water storage tanks remain in good condition. The areas around the tanks are kept clean and organized. A safety barrier has been placed near the entrance of the rainwater catchment to prevent traffic from entering the depression. The rainwater catchment between the storage tanks remained dry during Q2 (Photos 7 – 8). The evaporation system in the non-stormwater impoundment was offline in April, but fully online in June (Photos 9 – 12). One of the five evaporators remains under repair.

Ventilation Shaft

Since entering production, the ventilation system (Photo 9) consistently operated at about 50% of its total capacity. The output of the ventilation system recently increased from 50% in Q2 to approximately 90% capacity. An increase in underground workings requires an increase in power to maintain air flow throughout the entire system. Ear protection was not necessary while walking near the perimeter of the ventilation system and non-stormwater impoundment.

The propane tanks were not refilled in Q2.

Ore and Development Rock Stockpile

The volume of the development rock stockpile continues to slowly increase in Q2. Dust abatement for the development rock stockpile occurs using two methods, sprinkler hoses and a water tender (Photos 13 – 17).

In Q2, the amount of ore on the ore pad remained steady between 3600 to 4600 tons. During the April site visit, there was approximately 3,751 tons of ore on the ore pad. Approximately 4,590 tons of ore remained on the pad during the June site visit (Photos 18 – 21).

Ore Hauling and Access

In Q1 2026, the average number of haul trucks departing the mine was 10 – 14 trucks per day. This number remained the average for Q2, as EFR used 10 – 13 trucks per day. Hauling occurs Monday through Friday, except on Federal holidays and ten additional Navajo National Holidays that may be observed.

Safety barriers have been placed near the headframe and adjacent structures to restrict haul trucks from entering active areas within the perimeter. Access to the mine remains in good condition (Photos 22 – 23).

Other Activities

During Q2, other agencies were observed on site conducting monitoring activities. Both AZDEQ and USGS were on site in April (Photos 24 – 25). In June, hauling activities were documented at the Pinyon Plain mine. A haul truck was observed being loaded and prepared for departure after securing its load. EFR employees conducted their daily operational quality assurance and quality control inspections before haul trucks departed the site (Photos 26 – 32).

Coordination Calls

The Forest Service has continued to meet with EFR regularly to stay informed of the current operational status at the mine and share information. These coordination calls generally occur once every two weeks. During Q2, the main updates from these conversations were the Juniper Zone, the nearby Butte fire, and any monitoring occurring at the site.

On June 30, 2026, EFR reported a total of 1,432 haul trucks departing the site to date, removing a total of 35,421 tons of ore.

EFR continues their analysis of core samples from the Juniper Zone. Although EFR has confirmed the existence of a resource, EFR is still analyzing the profitability and economic potential of the ore deposit. EFR has not made the determination to extract the JZ.

Other Activities

On June 27, 2026, the Butte Fire ignited approximately 1.5 miles southwest of the mine site. As a precaution, the mine was evacuated. The evacuation was lifted and mine personnel were allowed to return the evening of June 28. The fire did not affect the mine or its infrastructure.

The Forest Service participated in a Coconino County Uranium Working Group meeting on June 1, 2026.

The Forest Service continued its work connected to recent studies related to groundwater hydrology in the Grand Canyon area. Primary activities were coordinating with Arizona Department of Environmental Quality, United States Environmental Protection Agency, and the United States Geological Survey (USGS) on a proposed study to better understand groundwater hydrology in the vicinity of the mine. The Forest Service also continued its close coordination with the USGS and its ongoing work related to informing future decision making on uranium mining in Arizona.

In Q1 2026, EFR submitted a proposal to use treated “ring water” gathered within the mine shaft for dust abatement. This topic was presented to the tribes during Tribal Consultation in April 2026. The Forest Service continues to review the proposal and tribal consultation record.

PHOTOS



Photo 1 – View of the headframe from office trailer, facing south. (Apr. 21)



Photo 2 – Overlooking headframe, facing south. (June 15)



Photo 3 – Parking area adjacent to office trailer. Haul trucks are staged away from office. (June 15)



Photo 4 – Conex box storage for gear and safety equipment, adjacent to office buildings. (Apr. 21)



Photo 5 – Overlooking central work area. Water truck in center spraying water for dust abatement. (Apr. 21)



Photo 6 – Locally sourced gravel used to reinforce heavily travelled areas within perimeter of mine. (Apr. 21)



Photo 7 – Rainwater catchment (empty) between the two water tanks in NW perimeter. (Apr. 21)



Photo 8 – Rainwater catchment from previous photo. (June 15)



Photo 9 – Non-stormwater impoundment with ventilation system in background. (Apr. 21)



Photo 10 – Non-stormwater impoundment. (June 15)



Photo 11 – Non-stormwater impoundment. All evaporators were offline. (Apr. 21)



Photo 12 – Non-stormwater impoundment, facing NE. Four evaporators were online. (June 15)



Photo 13 – Entrance of development rock stockpile. (Apr. 21)



Photo 14 – Entryway to the upper portion of the development rock stockpile. (June 15)



Photo 15 – Overlooking upper surface of the development rock stockpile. (Apr. 21)



Photo 16 – Overlooking upper surface of the development rock stockpile. Water being used for dust abatement. (June 15)



Photo 17 – Hoses used for dust abatement located on upper surface of development rock stockpile. (Apr. 21)



Photo 18 – Overlooking ore stockpile from the development rock stockpile. (Apr.21)



Photo 19 – Overlooking ore stockpile from the development rock stockpile entryway. (Apr. 21)



Photo 20 – Overlooking ore stockpile from the development rock stockpile entryway. (June 15)



Photo 21 – Overlooking ore stockpile and loading ramp. (Apr. 21)



Photo 22 – Safety barriers near the ore hopper. (Apr. 21)



Photo 23 – Entrance of Pinyon Plain Mine. (Apr. 21)



Photo 24 – USGS on site. (Apr. 21)



Photo 25 – AZDEQ on site. (Apr. 21)



Photo 26 – Haul trucks ready for departure. (June 15)



Photo 27 – Haul trucks ready for departure. (June 15)



Photo 28 – Closer look at haul truck with placard. (June 15)



Photo 29 – Haul truck and loader. (June 15)



Photo 30 – Loading ore into haul truck. (June 15)



Photo 31 – EFR employee scanning a haul truck. (June 15)


Photo 32 – Haul truck departing the mine. (June 15)