



Schedule of Proposed Action (SOPA)

10/01/2023 to 12/31/2023

Cibola National Forest

This report contains the best available information at the time of publication. Questions may be directed to the Project Contact.

Project Name	Project Purpose	Planning Status	Decision	Expected Implementation	Project Contact
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Projects Occurring Nationwide

Locatable Mining Rule - 36 CFR 228, subpart A. EIS	- Regulations, Directives, Orders	On Hold	N/A	N/A	Sarah Shoemaker 907-586-7886 sarahshoemaker@fs.fed.us
	Description: The U.S. Department of Agriculture proposes revisions to its regulations at 36 CFR 228, Subpart A governing locatable minerals operations on National Forest System lands. A draft EIS & proposed rule should be available for review/comment in late 2020				
	Web Link: http://www.fs.usda.gov/project/?project=57214				
	Location: UNIT - All Districts-level Units. STATE - All States. COUNTY - All Counties. LEGAL - Not Applicable. These regulations apply to all NFS lands open to mineral entry under the US mining laws. More Information is available at: https://www.fs.usda.gov/science-technology/geology/minerals/locatable-minerals/current-revisions .				
Nationwide Aerial Application of Fire Retardant on National Forest System Land. EIS *UPDATED*	- Regulations, Directives, Orders	In Progress: DEIS NOA in Federal Register 02/11/2022 Est. FEIS NOA in Federal Register 09/2023	Expected: 09/2023	01/2024	Laura Conway 406-802-4317 laura.conway@usda.gov
	Description: Programmatic Supplemental EIS for the Nationwide Aerial Application of Fire Retardant on National Forest System Land.				
	Web Link: http://www.fs.usda.gov/project/?project=60450				
	Location: UNIT - All Districts-level Units. STATE - All States. COUNTY - All Counties. LEGAL - Not Applicable. The direction in the SEIS will apply to use of aerially delivered fire retardant on all National Forest System land.				

Cibola National Forest, Occurring in more than one District (excluding Forestwide)

R3 - Southwestern Region

Project Name	Project Purpose	Planning Status	Decision	Expected Implementation	Project Contact
Cibola National Forest, Occurring in more than one District (excluding Forestwide)			R3 - Southwestern Region		
Mineral Withdrawal of Zuni Fleabane Habitat EA	- Minerals and Geology	On Hold	N/A	N/A	Andrea Chavez 5053463818 Andrea.Chavez@usda.gov
	Description: Withdraw from mineral entry about 1,000 acres of habitat in 4 areas to facilitate recovery of the federally threatened Zuni fleabane (Erigeron rhizomatous).				
	Web Link: http://www.fs.usda.gov/project/?project=37526				
	Location: UNIT - Mount Taylor Ranger District, Magdalena Ranger District. STATE - New Mexico. COUNTY - Catron. LEGAL - T1N, R11W, portions of sections 4, 9 and 10; T2N, R11W, portion of section 36; T1N, R10W, portions of sections 3 and 4. 4 areas in the Datil Mountains and Sawtooth Mountains.				

Cibola National Forest BLACK KETTLE NG RANGER DISTRICT (excluding Projects occurring in more than one District)			R3 - Southwestern Region		
Northfork Electrical Coop, Inc., Powerline CE CE	- Special use management	On Hold	N/A	N/A	Tom Smeltzer 580-497-2143 thomas.smeltzer@usda.gov
	Description: Reissue special use permit for rural electrification administration for existing above ground powerlines.				
	Web Link: http://www.fs.usda.gov/project/?project=54831				
	Location: UNIT - Black Kettle National Grassland. STATE - Oklahoma. COUNTY - Roger Mills. LEGAL - Not Applicable. Unit-Black Kettle Ranger District State- OK				
Tecolote Energy, LLC, Pipeline CE CE	- Special use management	On Hold	N/A	N/A	Tom Smeltzer 580-497-2143 thomas.smeltzer@usda.gov
	Description: Reissue special use authorization for an existing natural gas pipeline.g				
	Web Link: http://www.fs.usda.gov/project/?project=54830				
	Location: UNIT - Black Kettle National Grassland. STATE - Oklahoma. COUNTY - Roger Mills. LEGAL - Not Applicable. Crosses BKNG units 46, 54, & 63.				

Project Name	Project Purpose	Planning Status	Decision	Expected Implementation	Project Contact
Cibola National Forest BLACK KETTLE NG RANGER DISTRICT (excluding Projects occurring in more than one District)				R3 - Southwestern Region	
Western Farmers Electrical Coop, Inc, Powerline CE CE	- Special use management	On Hold	N/A	N/A	Tom Smeltzer 580-497-2143 thomas.smeltzer@usda.gov
	Description: Reissue special use permit for rural electrification administration for existing above ground powerlines.				
	Web Link: http://www.fs.usda.gov/project/?project=54832				
	Location: UNIT - Black Kettle National Grassland. STATE - Oklahoma. COUNTY - Roger Mills. LEGAL - Not Applicable. Unit-Black Kettle Ranger District State- OK				

Cibola National Forest District) Kiowa and Rita Blanca National Grasslands (excluding Projects occurring in more than one District)				R3 - Southwestern Region	
Kiowa and Rita Blanca Vegetation Management EA *UPDATED*	- Vegetation management (other than forest products)	In Progress: Scoping Start 11/10/2021 Est. Comment Period Public Notice 03/2024	Expected:09/2024	10/2024	Kristen Warren 575-374-9652 kristen.warren@usda.gov
	Description: We propose to manage vegetation to improve wildlife habitat, reduce fuels, and restore shortgrass prairie, pinyon-juniper, and sand sage vegetation habitats using different vegetation management activities including Rx burning, thinning, and more.				
	Web Link: http://www.fs.usda.gov/project/?project=61818				
	Location: UNIT - Kiowa and Rita Blanca National Grasslands. STATE - New Mexico, Oklahoma, Texas. COUNTY - Cimarron, Dallam, Colfax, Harding, Mora, Union. LEGAL - Not Applicable. The proposed action includes the entire Kiowa and Rita Blanca National Grasslands except areas which are covered by the Northern NM Riparian, Aquatic, and Wetland Restoration Project NEPA (USFS 2021).				

Cibola National Forest	Magdalena Ranger District (excluding Projects occurring in more than one District)	R3 - Southwestern Region
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Project Name	Project Purpose	Planning Status	Decision	Expected Implementation	Project Contact
Cibola National Forest Magdalena Ranger District (excluding Projects occurring in more than one District)					R3 - Southwestern Region
Mojave to Pie Town Fiber Optic Project EA *UPDATED*	- Special use management	Completed	Actual: 09/27/2023	10/2023	Richard Wilhelm 505-346-3842 Richard.Wilhelm@usda.gov
	Description: WNMT proposes to install a fiber optic line totaling 4.6 mi/8.3ac across NFS lands. The line would consist of subsurface fiber optic cable. Additionally, five ground-level vault boxes with pedestals would be constructed within the ROW.				
	Web Link: http://www.fs.usda.gov/project/?project=63712				
	Location: UNIT - Magdalena Ranger District. STATE - New Mexico. COUNTY - Catron. LEGAL - T1N, R11W; Section 1, SW1/4, Section 2, NW1/4, NE1/4, Section 3, NE1/4, Section 32, NW1/4, NE1/4, Section 33, N1/2, No Section, SW1/4. New Mexico Prime Meridian. Project area runs through 4.6 miles/8.3 acres of the northwest portion of the Magdalena Ranger District along US-60.				
Second Entry Burns: San Juan Unit CE *UPDATED*	- Wildlife, Fish, Rare plants - Fuels management	In Progress: Scoping Start 12/20/2022	Expected:12/2023	01/2024	David Orozco 5415638412 david.orozco@usda.gov
	Description: Conduct a second entry prescribed burn for restoration and maintenance of wildlife habitat.				
	Web Link: http://www.fs.usda.gov/project/?project=57980				
	Location: UNIT - Magdalena Ranger District. STATE - New Mexico. COUNTY - Socorro. LEGAL - T8S R5W sections 1-3, 10-15, 23, 24 T8S R4W section 5-8, 17-20, 29, 30, 32. T7S R5W section 13, 14, 22-27, 34, 35, 36 T7S R4W section 17-20, 29-32. Western boundary consists of White Mule Ridge and Apache Kid Wilderness, north and east boundary is FR 86. Southern boundary consists of FR 86 following Steel Hill Peak along ridge back to Apache Kid.				

Cibola National Forest	Mount Taylor Ranger District (excluding Projects occurring in more than one District)	R3 - Southwestern Region
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Project Name	Project Purpose	Planning Status	Decision	Expected Implementation	Project Contact
Cibola National Forest Mount Taylor Ranger District (excluding Projects occurring in more than one District)					R3 - Southwestern Region
La Jara Mesa Uranium Mine EIS *UPDATED*	- Minerals and Geology	In Progress: NOI in Federal Register 05/14/2009 Est. DEIS NOA in Federal Register 01/2025	Expected:04/2026	10/2026	Jenna Padilla 505-346-3840 x0 jenna.padilla@usda.gov
	Description: Laramide Resources (USA) Inc. is proposing underground mine development, operation, and reclamation over a 20-year time span for uranium. The Cibola NF will be reviewing the 2012 DEIS and release an updated DEIS for public review and comment. Web Link: http://www.fs.usda.gov/project/?project=25654				
	Location: UNIT - Mount Taylor Ranger District. STATE - New Mexico. COUNTY - Cibola. LEGAL - 16.4 acres of northeast corner of Section 15, Township 12 North, Range 9 West, and 0.1 acre on Section 11, Township 12 North, Range 9 West. The mining claims are located on National Forest System land (Mt. Taylor Ranger District, Cibola National Forest) northeast of the town of Grants in Cibola County, New Mexico.				
Roca Honda LLC Project - Exploration and Mine Development EIS	- Minerals and Geology	On Hold	N/A	N/A	Jenna Padilla 505-346-3840 jenna.padilla@usda.gov
	Description: Proposal to develop and conduct underground uranium mining operations on Roca Honda Resources LLC mining claims on and near Jesus Mesa with a surface disturbance area of 183 acres. Web Link: http://www.fs.usda.gov/project/?project=18431				
	Location: UNIT - Mount Taylor Ranger District. STATE - New Mexico. COUNTY - McKinley. LEGAL - T. 13N., R 8W., Sections 9 and 10. Approximately 3 miles northwest of San Mateo, New Mexico.				
Timberlake Fuels Reduction CE	- Wildlife, Fish, Rare plants - Forest products - Fuels management - Watershed management	In Progress: Scoping Start 04/13/2023	Expected:01/2025	02/2025	Christian Larson 719-636-1602 Christian.Larson@usda.gov
	Description: To restore the ecosystem to desired conditions through timber harvest and prescribed burning while creating a fuel break around the Timber Lake Ranch community and providing access to firewood for neighboring communities. Web Link: http://www.fs.usda.gov/project/?project=60320				
	Location: UNIT - Mount Taylor Ranger District. STATE - New Mexico. COUNTY - Cibola, McKinley. LEGAL - T12N, R16W, sec 24, 25, 35, 36; T11N, R16W, sec 1, 2; T11N, R15W, sec 6, 7, 8; T12N, R15W, sec 19, 30, 31, 32. The Timberlake Project is approximately 4,650 acres dominated by of ponderosa pine forest and pinyon-juniper woodlands.				

Project Name	Project Purpose	Planning Status	Decision	Expected Implementation	Project Contact
Cibola National Forest Mountainair Ranger District (excluding Projects occurring in more than one District)		R3 - Southwestern Region			
ENMR Fiber Extension - Bryan Ranch CE *NEW LISTING*	- Special use management	Completed	Actual: 09/27/2023	11/2023	Richard Wilhelm 505-346-3842 Richard.Wilhelm@usda.gov
	Description: Request from ENMR for installation of fiber optic extension and associated equipment to service an existing private landowner.				
	Web Link: http://www.fs.usda.gov/project/?project=64830				
	Location: UNIT - Mountainair Ranger District. STATE - New Mexico. COUNTY - Lincoln. LEGAL - Section 12, T2S, R11E. Located in Gallinas Mountains, runs along private road.				
Pueblo Colorado Pile Burning CE *NEW LISTING*	- Grazing management - Fuels management	Developing Proposal Est. Scoping Start 11/2023	Expected:02/2024	03/2024	Arlene Perea 505-847-2990 arlene.perea@usda.gov
	Description: Reduce fuel loadings by burning piles. Approximately 100 piles, approximately 40'x40' each, left behind after the vegetation (primarily One Seed Juniper) was mechanically treated by pushing. This will complete restoration of more open PJ woodland.				
	Web Link: http://www.fs.usda.gov/project/?project=64614				
	Location: UNIT - Mountainair Ranger District. STATE - New Mexico. COUNTY - Torrance. LEGAL - T2n, R10E, Sec 36. Mountainair Ranger District, Gallinas subunit, Pueblo Colorado allotment, northeast corner of the Forest pasture.				

Cibola National Forest		Sandia Ranger District (excluding Projects occurring in more than one District)			R3 - Southwestern Region
<div>La Madera Landscape Resource Management Project</div> <div>CE</div> <div>*UPDATED*</div>	<div>- Wildlife, Fish, Rare plants</div> <div>- Vegetation management (other than forest products)</div> <div>- Fuels management</div> <div>- Watershed management</div> <div>- Road management</div>	<div>Developing Proposal</div> <div>Est. Scoping Start 03/2024</div>	<div>Expected:09/2024</div>	<div>10/2024</div>	<div>Crystal Powell</div> <div>270-924-2041</div> <div>crystal.powell@usda.gov</div>
	<div>Description: Fuels reduction and forest restoration project to improve ecosystem resilience of a priority landscape to future disturbances.</div>				
	<div>Web Link: http://www.fs.usda.gov/project/?project=58885</div>				
	<div>Location: UNIT - Sandia Ranger District. STATE - New Mexico. COUNTY - Bernalillo. LEGAL - T11N R5E sections 3, 10-14, 22, 23, 26; T12N R6E sections 24, 26, 34, 35. Located centrally on the eastern forest boundary of the Sandia Ranger District.</div>				

Project Name	Project Purpose	Planning Status	Decision	Expected Implementation	Project Contact
Cibola National Forest Sandia Ranger District (excluding Projects occurring in more than one District)					R3 - Southwestern Region
Outfitter Guide Special Use Permit Renewal for Cedar Crest Country Cottage & Stables. CE *UPDATED*	- Recreation management - Special use management	Cancelled	N/A	N/A	Elke Schuster 505-281-3304 Ext. 110 elke.schuster@usda.gov
	Description: Proposal to replace an expired permit and issue a 10-year priority special use permit to Cedar Crest Country Cottage & Stables for guided horseback riding.				
	Web Link: http://www.fs.usda.gov/project/?project=47996				
	Location: UNIT - Sandia Ranger District. STATE - New Mexico. COUNTY - Bernalillo. LEGAL - Not Applicable. Armijo area trails on the Sandia Ranger District.				
PNM Tramway 11 Line CE *UPDATED*	- Special use management	In Progress: Scoping Start 07/07/2023	Expected:01/2024	01/2024	Richard Wilhelm 505-346-3842 Richard.Wilhelm@usda.gov
	Description: Public Service Company of New Mexico is proposing the replacement of a sub-surface distribution line on National Forest System lands to allow for continued electric service to power Elena Gallegos Open Space's trailhead lights and restroom.				
	Web Link: http://www.fs.usda.gov/project/?project=64399				
	Location: UNIT - Sandia Ranger District. STATE - New Mexico. COUNTY - Bernalillo. LEGAL - Section 24, T11N, R4E, Bernalillo County. The line starts at Honeysuckle Drive in NE Albuquerque to Elena Gallegos/Albert G. Sims Park in Bernalillo County.				
Sandia Crest House Special Use Permit Reissuance CE	- Special use management	On Hold	N/A	N/A	Elke Schuster 505-281-3304 Ext. 5110 eschuster@fs.fed.us
	Description: The Sandia Crest House is under a current special use permit and is being transferred to a new owner. With the transfer, a new permit will be issued with a 20-year term.				
	Web Link: http://www.fs.usda.gov/project/?project=58235				
	Location: UNIT - Sandia Ranger District. STATE - New Mexico. COUNTY - Bernalillo. LEGAL - Lat 35.210458,Long 106.449486 . The Sandia Crest House is located at the top of the Sandia Crest on Hwy 536 (Sandia Crest Road).				

Project Name	Project Purpose	Planning Status	Decision	Expected Implementation	Project Contact
Cibola National Forest Sandia Ranger District (excluding Projects occurring in more than one District)					R3 - Southwestern Region
Sandia Crest Recreation Complex Renovation Project CE *UPDATED*	- Recreation management - Facility management	In Progress: Scoping Start 09/15/2023	Expected:11/2023	07/2024	Julie Padilla 505-346-3847 julie.padilla@usda.gov
	Description: Conduct broad renovations to the existing site and associated features that will bring the site up to current standards, decrease short- and long-term maintenance needs, and provide a more sustainable recreation site into the future.				
	Web Link: http://www.fs.usda.gov/project/?project=61358				
Sandia Peak Ski Area Mountain Coaster EA *UPDATED*	Location: UNIT - Sandia Ranger District. STATE - New Mexico. COUNTY - Bernalillo. LEGAL - NE 1/4, Section 6, T. 11 N., R. 5 E., New Mexico Principal Meridian. The Sandia Crest Recreation Area Complex is located at the crest of the Sandia Mountains just over 10,000 ft with an almost 360-degree view overlooking Albuquerque, NM and the surrounding area.				
	- Special use management	Cancelled	N/A	N/A	Crystal Powell 505-281-3304 x5117 crystal.powell@usda.gov
	Description: Construction of a mountain coaster by Sandia Peak Ski Area (SPSA). In 2017 SPSA modified their master plan with conceptual long term operations including year-round recreational uses outlined in 2011 Ski Area Recreational Opportunity Enhancement Act.				
Sandia Peak Tram Upper Terminal Anchor Installation CE *UPDATED*	Web Link: http://www.fs.usda.gov/project/?project=56985				
	- Recreation management - Special use management	Completed	Actual: 04/11/2023	05/2023	Crystal Powell 270-924-2041 crystal.powell@usda.gov
	Description: The Sandia Peak Tram is proposing to install 2 anchor points (north and south) located in line with the Tram Super Structure. The installation is needed to slip each track rope pair as a unit and is required maintenance set forth by ANSI.B77.1.				
	Web Link: http://www.fs.usda.gov/project/?project=63378				
	Location: UNIT - Sandia Ranger District. STATE - New Mexico. COUNTY - Bernalillo. LEGAL - T11N, R4E, Sec 8. Anchor installation will be under Ellis Service Road that serves the Sandia Peak Tram and Ski Area, accessible from HWY 536 at the Ellis trailhead parking lot.				

Project Name	Project Purpose	Planning Status	Decision	Expected Implementation	Project Contact
Cibola National Forest Sandia Ranger District (excluding Projects occurring in more than one District)					R3 - Southwestern Region
UNM KNME Tower Replacement CE	- Special use management	On Hold	N/A	N/A	Crystal Powell 505-281-3304 crystal.powell@usda.gov
	Description: KNME-TV is requesting permission to amend existing permit to remove their current tower and replace with a new 140' self-supporting tower south of their building on Sandia Crest Communication Site. No additional uses, no change to tower height.				
	Web Link: http://www.fs.usda.gov/project/?project=56409				
	Location: UNIT - Sandia Ranger District. STATE - New Mexico. COUNTY - Bernalillo. LEGAL - T11N, R5E. Section 6. New location within permitted area south of UNM KNME building on Sandia Crest Communication Site.				

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