



Schedule of Proposed Action (SOPA)

04/01/2024 to 06/30/2024

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

Land Management Plan Direction for Old-Growth Forest Conditions Across the National Forest System EIS *UPDATED*	- Land management planning	In Progress: NOI in Federal Register 12/20/2023 Est. DEIS NOA in Federal Register 06/2024	Expected:01/2025	01/2025	Jennifer McRae 505-377-3145 Jennifer.McRae@usda.gov
	Description: Amend all land management plans for units of the National Forest System to include consistent direction to conserve and steward existing and recruit future old-growth forest conditions and to monitor their condition across planning areas of NFS.				
	Web Link: http://www.fs.usda.gov/project/?project=65356				
	Location: UNIT - All Districts-level Units. STATE - All States. COUNTY - All Counties. LEGAL - Not Applicable. National Forests and Grasslands (128 units).				
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 .				

Project Name	Project Purpose	Planning Status	Decision	Expected Implementation	Project Contact
Projects Occurring Nationwide					
Nationwide Aerial Application of Fire Retardant on National Forest System Land. EIS *UPDATED*	- Regulations, Directives, Orders	Completed	Actual: 02/06/2024	02/2024	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	
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
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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
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.				
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	Kiowa and Rita Blanca National Grasslands (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 Kiowa and Rita Blanca National Grasslands (excluding Projects occurring in more than one District)					R3 - Southwestern Region
KRB Plateau Fiber Optic Cable Amendment CE *NEW LISTING*	- Special use management	In Progress: Scoping Start 02/14/2024	Expected:04/2024	04/2024	Tara Carver tara.carver@usda.gov
	Description: Plateau is requesting authorization to bury fiber optic cable 24" to 36" below existing disputed portions of the Kiowa National Grassland (Cibola NFNG) along the east side of the east ROW of NM HWY-402 and along the north side of CR C07 (Toney Rd)				
	Web Link: http://www.fs.usda.gov/project/?project=65629				
	Location: UNIT - Kiowa and Rita Blanca National Grasslands. STATE - New Mexico. COUNTY - Union. LEGAL - SW 1/4 of the SW 1/4 of Section 9, SE 1/4 of SW 1/4 of Section 10 Town 24 N, Range 35 E New Mexico Principal Meridian. Highway NM-402 and along the north side of County Road C071 (Toney Road).				
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 07/2024	Expected:01/2025	02/2025	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	
Lincoln County Telecommunications Site CE *NEW LISTING*	- Special use management	Developing Proposal Est. Scoping Start 04/2024	Expected:06/2024	07/2024	Tara Carver 505-346-3852 tara.carver@usda.gov
	Description: Lincoln County are requesting to construct a new telecommunication tower at existing Lot 5 on Gallinas Peak communication site. The new construction will consist of tower, equipment shelter, generator and propane tank and possible a fence.				
	Web Link: http://www.fs.usda.gov/project/?project=65742				
	Location: UNIT - Magdalena Ranger District. STATE - New Mexico. COUNTY - Lincoln. LEGAL - Town 1S, Range 11E, Section 4&9 New Mexico Principia Meridian. Located off Forest Service Road 102 West of the town of Corona.				
Magdalena Mountain Restoration CE *NEW LISTING*	- Forest products - Fuels management	Developing Proposal Est. Scoping Start 06/2024	Expected:10/2024	10/2024	Gennaro Falco 575-829-3535 gennaro.falco@usda.gov
	Description: This project purpose is to enhance wildlife habitat by reintroducing fire as a natural process, to reduce fuels in areas at high risk of catastrophic wildfire and to build fuel breaks in strategic locations for fire fighter safety.				
	Web Link: http://www.fs.usda.gov/project/?project=65740				
	Location: UNIT - Magdalena Ranger District. STATE - New Mexico. COUNTY - Socorro. LEGAL - T2S R3W, T2S R4W, T3S R4W, T4S R2W, T4S R3W, T4S R4W, T5S R3W, & T5S R4W; New Mexico Principal Meridian. Magdalena Mountain Range of the Cibola National Forest and Grasslands.				
Second Entry Burns: San Juan Unit CE *UPDATED*	- Wildlife, Fish, Rare plants - Fuels management	In Progress: Scoping Start 12/20/2022	Expected:04/2024	05/2024	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	- 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.				
Red Bolt Broadband (CDEC) CE *NEW LISTING*	- Special use management	Completed	Actual: 03/21/2024	03/2024	Richard Wilhelm 505-346-3842 Richard.Wilhelm@usda.gov
	Description: Installation of approximately 45 acres of fiber optic cable above ground, along existing electric power transmission lines in Cibola County New Mexico. Web Link: http://www.fs.usda.gov/project/?project=65743				
	Location: UNIT - Mount Taylor Ranger District. STATE - New Mexico. COUNTY - Cibola. LEGAL - 11N, 8W, Section 5; 12N, 8W, Sections 29, 31, 32; 12N, 9W, Sections 26, 27, 35, 36; 9N, 12W, Section 5; 10N, 12W, Sections 32, 33, 34, 35, 36; 9N, 11W, Sections 5, 6, 8, 9, 10, 12, 13, 14, 15. Fiber lines are to be run along existing CDEC electric transmission power lines along designated right-of-ways.				
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.				

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
Timberlake Fuels Reduction CE	- Wildlife, Fish, Rare plants - Forest products - Fuels management - Watershed management	In Progress: Scoping Start 04/13/2023	Expected:09/2024	10/2024	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.				

Cibola National Forest Mountainair Ranger District (excluding Projects occurring in more than one District)					R3 - Southwestern Region
Fiber Optic Extension to Mountainair Ranger District Office CE *NEW LISTING*	- Facility management	Completed	Actual: 01/17/2024	02/2024	Ernie Taylor 505-842-3267 ernest.taylor@usda.gov
	Description: Installation of new fiber optic cable to the Mountainair Ranger District Office. Length of approximately 75 feet of excavation and up to 18 inches deep will be conducted for the installation.				
	Web Link: http://www.fs.usda.gov/project/?project=65466				
	Location: UNIT - Mountainair Ranger District. STATE - New Mexico. COUNTY - Torrance. LEGAL - North 1/2 of Section 1 of T3N, R6E, NMPM. The Mountainair Ranger District office compound, 40 Ranger Station Rd in Mountainair, NM.				
Pueblo Colorado Pile Burning CE *UPDATED*	- Grazing management - Fuels management	In Progress: Scoping Start 02/07/2024	Expected:04/2024	05/2024	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.				

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	
La Madera Fuels Reduction CE *UPDATED*	- Wildlife, Fish, Rare plants - Vegetation management (other than forest products) - Fuels management - Watershed management - Road management	On Hold	N/A	N/A	Amanda Rael 505-346-3817 amanda.rael@usda.gov
	Description: Fuels reduction and forest restoration project to improve ecosystem resilience of a priority landscape to future disturbances.				
	Web Link: http://www.fs.usda.gov/project/?project=58885				
	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.				
North Sandia Fuels Reduction CE *NEW LISTING*	- Vegetation management (other than forest products) - Fuels management - Watershed management	Developing Proposal Est. Scoping Start 04/2024	Expected:05/2024	06/2024	Brittany Lewellen 505-274-4519 Brittany.Lewellen@usda.gov
	Description: The purpose of this project is to improve ecosystem resilience to future disturbances by restoring forest structure and composition and reducing the risk of catastrophic fire using hand and mechanical treatments and prescribed fire.				
	Web Link: http://www.fs.usda.gov/project/?project=65654				
	Location: UNIT - Sandia Ranger District. STATE - New Mexico. COUNTY - Bernalillo, Sandoval. LEGAL - T12N, R5E: Sec 9, 10, 15, 16, 21, 22, 24, 27, 28, 33, and 34. T11N R5E: Sec 3, 4, 9 - 16, 22, 23, 26, 27, and 34. The project is located in Sandoval and Bernalillo counties, north of I-40, in the Sandia Mountains.				
PNM Tramway 11 Line CE *UPDATED*	- Special use management	In Progress: Scoping Start 07/07/2023	Expected:04/2024	05/2024	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.				

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 Cave Improvements Project CE *NEW LISTING*	- Recreation management - Heritage resource management	Developing Proposal Est. Scoping Start 05/2024	Expected:09/2024	01/2025	Sandra Coams 505-281-3304 ext 5104 sandra.coams@usda.gov
	Description: Sandia Cave NHL Improvements Project has been designed to help the Sandia Ranger District manage the site at a level commensurate with the current visitation demands that are increasingly impacting the safety, environment, and visitor experience.				
	Web Link: http://www.fs.usda.gov/project/?project=65467				
	Location: UNIT - Sandia Ranger District. STATE - New Mexico. COUNTY - Sandoval. LEGAL - T12N R5E Sec 22. The Sandia Cave parking lot/trailhead is located approximately 2.4 miles south of the forest boundary to the east side of NM 165. The cave is located at the end of the trail (0.5 miles).				
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).				
Sandia Crest Recreation Complex Renovation Project CE *UPDATED*	- Recreation management - Facility management	Completed	Actual: 12/19/2023	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				
	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.				

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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