

REQUEST FOR COMMENTS AND NOTICE OF PUBLIC SCOPING ON RESOLUTION COPPER PROJECT AND LAND EXCHANGE ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT STATEMENT

U.S. DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE, FOREST SERVICE, TONTO NATIONAL FOREST

The Tonto National Forest (TNF) is preparing an environmental impact statement (EIS) to evaluate and disclose the potential environmental effects from: (1) approval of a plan of operations submitted by Resolution Copper Mining, LLC (Resolution Copper), for mining operations on Forest Service lands associated with a proposed large-scale mine; (2) the exchange of land between Resolution Copper and the United States; and (3) amendments to the Tonto National Forest Land and Resource Management Plan.

Resolution Copper proposes mining and ore processing activities, which would take place near the town of Superior, Arizona on a mixture of private, state and Forest Service lands. Copper concentrate would be pumped approximately 22 miles southwest along an existing railroad corridor for additional processing near Magma, Arizona. Tailings disposal is proposed to take place approximately 5 miles northwest of Superior, on 4,400 acres of Forest Service land.

The congressionally authorized land exchange will transfer to Resolution Copper 2,422 acres of federal land around Oak Flat, located east of Superior. In return, Resolution Copper will transfer parcels of private land located throughout Arizona to the United States and, if requested, the town of Superior.

A Notice of Intent to Prepare an Environmental Impact Statement was published in the Federal Register and is available online at: <http://www.ResolutionMineEIS.us/>. The notice and supporting documentation is also available for review at the Tonto National Forest, 2324 East McDowell Road, Phoenix, AZ 85006.

Public open house meetings will be held as follows. Each meeting will take place from 5:00 to 8:00 p.m.; a presentation will take place at 5:30, followed by a brief question and answer period:

1. March 31, 5:00 – 8:00 p.m. Queen Valley Recreation Hall, 1478 East Queen Valley Drive, Queen Valley, Arizona.
2. April 4, 5:00 – 8:00 p.m. Superior High School, Multi-purpose room, 100 Mary Drive, Superior, Arizona.
3. April 5, 2016, 5:00 – 8:00 p.m. Elks Lodge, 1775 East Maple Street, Globe, Arizona.
4. April 6, 2016, 5:00 – 8:00 p.m. Southwest Regional Library, 775 North Greenfield Road, Gilbert, Arizona.

Additional information regarding the project can be obtained from Mark Nelson, Project Manager; (602) 225- 5222; mrNelson@fs.fed.us.

The proposed project is subject to the Project-Level Predecisional Administrative Review Process under Title 36 Code of Federal Regulations (CFR) Part 218, Subparts A and B.

How to Comment and Timeframe

Specific written comments (36 CFR Part 218.2) on the proposed project will be accepted for 60 calendar days following publication of the Notice of Intent to Prepare an Environmental Impact Statement in the Federal Register. If the comment period ends on a Saturday, Sunday, or Federal holiday, comments will be accepted until the end of the next Federal working day. The publication date in the Federal Register is the exclusive means for calculating the comment period. Those wishing to comment should not rely upon dates or timeframe information provided by any other source.

Comments should be within the scope of the proposed action, have a direct relationship to the proposed action, and must include supporting reasons for the Responsible Official to consider (36 CFR 218.2). If you are including references, citations, or additional information to be considered for this project, please provide a copy, specify exactly how the material relates to the project, and also indicate the part of the material (page or figure numbers) you would like us to consider.

Specific written comments may be submitted via mail to Resolution EIS Comments, P.O. Box 34468, Phoenix, AZ 85067-4468, by fax to 866-546-5718, or in person (Monday through Friday, 8:00 am to 4:30 pm, excluding holidays) to: Mr. Neil Bosworth, Forest Supervisor, Tonto National Forest, 2324 East McDowell Road, Phoenix, AZ 85006. Verbal comments may be provided via voicemail at 866-546-5718, or in person at one of the public meetings. Electronic comments including attachments may be submitted by email in word (.doc), rich text format (.rtf), text (.txt), and hypertext markup language (.html) to comments@ResolutionMineEIS.us. Electronic comments may also be submitted via the project website (www.ResolutionMineEIS.us/comments).

Only individuals or entities (as defined by 36 CFR Part 218.2) who submit timely and specific written comments (as defined by 36 CFR Part 218.2) about this proposed project or activity during this or another public comment period established by the Responsible Official will be eligible to file an objection. Other requirements to be eligible to submit an objection are defined by 36 CFR Part 218.25 (a)(3) and include name, postal address, title of the project and signature or other verification of identity upon request and the identity of the individual or entity who authored the comments. Individual members of an entity must submit their own individual comments in order to have eligibility to object as an individual. A timely submission will be determined as outlined in 36 CFR Part 218.25 (a)(4). It is the responsibility of the sender to ensure timely receipt of any comments submitted. Comments received in response to this notice, including names and addresses of those who comment will be considered part of the public record for this project and will be available for public inspection and will be released if requested under the Freedom of Information Act.

The U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) is an equal opportunity provider and employer.