



Attend a Public Hearing

The Forest Service will collect comments in multiple ways including public hearings, written comments, and website submissions. Public hearings will be held across the region as listed here. The schedule may change on short notice due to weather or other community events. Please check our website for the most current meeting schedule.

Community	Date	Location
Superior	September 10	Superior Jr/Sr High School 1500 Panther Drive, Superior, AZ
San Tan Valley	September 12	Central Arizona College, San Tan Campus A100 and A101, 3736 E. Bella Vista Rd, San Tan Valley, AZ
Kearny	September 17	Ray Elementary School Cafeteria 701 AZ 177, Kearny, AZ
Globe	September 19	High Desert Middle School Auditorium 4000 High Desert Drive, Globe, AZ
Queen Valley	October 8	Queen Valley Recreation Hall 1478 East Queen Valley Drive, Queen Valley, AZ

The public hearing is anticipated to follow the schedule below. Persons wishing to speak at the public hearing will sign up at the meeting entry. Speaker positions will be assigned randomly.

- 5:00 p.m. - 6:00 p.m. Sign-in and Open House
- 6:00 p.m. - 6:30 p.m. Presentation
- 6:30 p.m. - 8:30 p.m. Public Hearing and Open House

RELEASE OF THE DRAFT ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT STATEMENT

The USDA Forest Service has completed the Draft Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) for the proposed Resolution Copper Project and Land Exchange. The Draft EIS is intended to fully disclose the likely impacts from the proposed project and to offer the public, tribes, and governmental agencies a chance to review and comment. The Draft EIS discloses the environmental effects from: 1) approval of a proposed plan of operations for mining activities on National Forest land; 2) the exchange of land between Resolution Copper and the United States; and 3) any necessary amendments to the Tonto National Forest Land and Resource Management Plan.

As the lead agency, the Tonto National Forest is seeking comments from the public on the Draft EIS. The Final EIS will address all substantive comments on the Draft EIS and is estimated to be released in summer 2020.

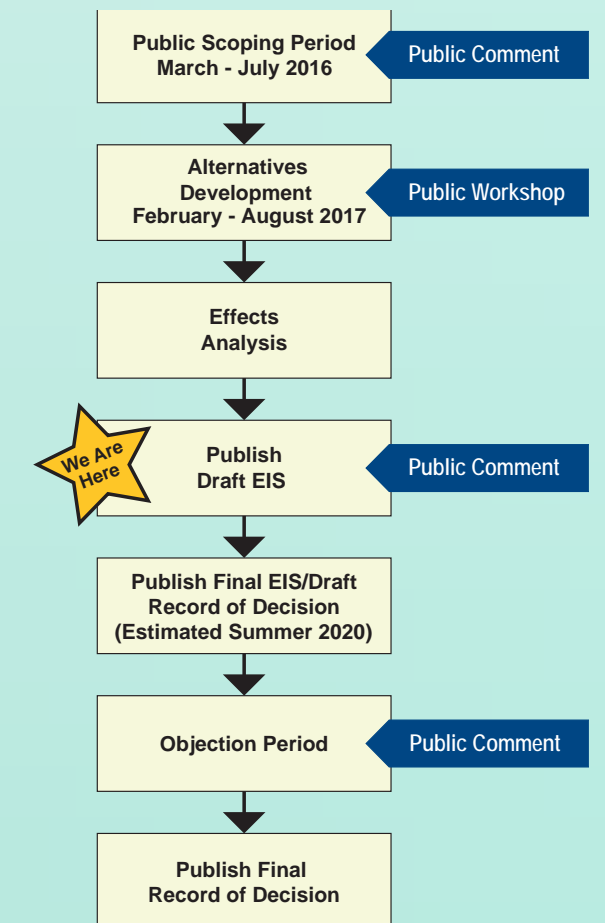
The Draft EIS is a large document. This newsletter provides an overview of how the document is organized, content, how to get a copy, and how to provide substantive comments.

Public participation is an important part of developing an EIS under the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA). Submitting substantive and concise comments during the public comment period is an important role the public plays in the NEPA process, and can influence the analysis in the Final EIS. Commenting is not a form of "voting" on an alternative and relative number of negative or positive comments does not affect the decision. While every comment received will be considered, the most useful comments are substantive in nature and do one or more of the following:

- Question, with reasonable basis, the accuracy of information in the EIS;
- Question, with reasonable basis, the adequacy of, methodology for, or assumptions used for the environmental analyses;
- Present new information relevant to the analyses;
- Present reasonable alternatives other than those analyzed in the EIS;
- Suggest changes or revisions in one or more of the alternatives.

The Draft EIS is available for download at www.ResolutionMineEIS.us

NEPA Process



How to Submit Comments

Comments on the Draft EIS can be submitted in a variety of ways:

- Attend an open house public hearing (verbal comments, comment form)
- Submit a comment using the online form at www.ResolutionMineEIS.us
- Send written comments via postal mail to:

Resolution EIS Comments
P.O. Box 34468
Phoenix, AZ 85067-4468

The public comment period will run from August 10, 2019, through November 7, 2019.

Background

Resolution Copper submitted the General Plan of Operations (GPO) to the Forest Service in November 2013. The proposed GPO would authorize surface disturbance on Forest Service lands associated with development, mining, and processing of copper and molybdenum. In December 2014, Congress passed the Carl Levin and Howard P. 'Buck' McKeon National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2014 (NDAA). Section 3003 of this law authorizes and directs the Secretary of Agriculture to administer a land exchange, which will convey 2,422 acres of Forest Service land in the area of the proposed mine to Resolution Copper in exchange for 5,344 acres of private land on 8 parcels located elsewhere in eastern Arizona.

With regard to the proposed GPO, the Forest Supervisor, Tonto National Forest, would decide whether to approve the proposed GPO submitted by Resolution Copper or require changes or additions to the proposed GPO to meet the requirements for environmental protection and reclamation set forth in 36 CFR 228 Subpart A before approving a final GPO. The Forest Service decision may be to authorize use of the surface of National Forest Service lands in connection with mining operations under the GPO composed of elements from one or more of the alternatives considered.

With regard to the land exchange, Section 3003 of the NDAA directs the Secretary of Agriculture to convey to Resolution Copper all right, title, and interest of the United States in and to identified Federal land if Resolution Copper offers to convey to the United States all right, title, and interest of Resolution Copper in and to identified non-Federal lands.

Draft EIS Outline

The Draft EIS is presented in four volumes. The general contents of each volume are described below.

Volume 1

Executive Summary

Provides a brief overview of the contents of chapters 1 through 3 of the EIS.

Chapter 1. Purpose of and Need for Action

Focuses on the underlying need to which the lead agency (Forest Service) is responding in proposing the action and alternatives, the framework in which decisions would be made, and the significant issues associated with the proposed action.

Chapter 2. Alternatives, Including the Proposed Action

Describes the proposed action and four additional action alternatives considered in detail. These alternatives were developed based on significant issues raised by the public, Forest Service resource specialists, and other agencies. The no action alternative is included in the range of alternatives considered in detail.

Chapter 3. Affected Environment and Environmental Consequences

Describes the affected environment and the environmental consequences associated with the proposed action and the alternatives in detail. Environmental consequences are the potential effects of each alternative on the affected environment.

Volume 2

Chapter 3. Affected Environment and Environmental Consequences

Continuation of Chapter 3.

Chapter 4. Consulted Parties

Identifies the Native American tribes, organizations, and Federal, State, and local government agencies and other parties consulted during the development of the Draft EIS.

Chapter 5. List of Preparers

Lists the individuals who, under the supervision of the Forest Service, contributed to the preparation of the Draft EIS.

Volumes 3 and 4

Appendices A through O

Appendices provided detailed information in support of the analyses and conclusions reported in the Draft EIS.

Chapter 6. Literature Cited

Provides a list of literature cited in the Draft EIS.

Chapter 7. Glossary; Acronyms and Abbreviations

Provides definitions of terms used in the Draft EIS.

Chapter 8: Index

Indicates where keywords can be found within the Draft EIS.

Draft EIS Alternatives

- NEPA requires the Forest Service to “rigorously explore and objectively evaluate all reasonable alternatives.”
- The Forest Service assessed alternative mining techniques in an effort to prevent subsidence. No alternative methods were considered reasonable.
- The Forest Service assessed tailings disposal in brownfield sites (old mine pits). No reasonable brownfield locations were found.
- The Forest Service has identified four separate alternative tailings locations—including one that is not on federal land—and three separate methods of depositing tailings, including using filtered (dry-stack) tailings.
- No alternatives use an “upstream” type tailings embankment as originally proposed by Resolution Copper.
- The alternatives were designed to address issues resulting from public scoping. Issues addressed include
 - proximity to people,
 - recreation and scenery impacts,
 - water quality impacts,
 - seeps and springs habitat impacts, and
 - land use compatibility.

A general summary of the tailings alternatives are presented in the table and map below.

Alternative	Tailings Storage Facility and Tailings Corridor (acres)	Embankment Length, Type, and Height	Distance for Tailings slurry (miles)	Tailings Type	Total Groundwater Pumped from Desert Wellfield (acre-feet)	Tailings Facility Area Land Ownership
Alternative 2 Near West Proposed Action	4,981	10-mile-long modified centerline embankment 521 feet high	5.3	Thickened Slurry (NPAG and PAG)	600,000	Tonto National Forest
Alternative 3 Near West – Ultrathickened	4,981	10-mile-long modified centerline embankment 510 feet high	5.3	Ultrathickened NPAG Slurry; thickened PAG slurry	500,000	Tonto National Forest
Alternative 4 Silver King	5,691	No embankment. The maximum height of the filtered facility is between 750 and 1,040 feet.	0.2	Filtered	180,000	Tonto National Forest
Alternative 5 Peg Leg West Tailings Corridor Option	12,455	7-mile-long centerline embankment 310 feet	28.1	Thickened Slurry (NPAG and PAG)	550,000	Bureau of Land Management; Arizona State Land Department; Private
Alternative 5 Peg Leg East Tailings Corridor Option	12,122	7-mile-long centerline embankment 310 feet	22.7	Thickened Slurry (NPAG and PAG)	550,000	Bureau of Land Management; Arizona State Land Department; Private
Alternative 6 Skunk Camp North Tailings Corridor Option*	10,112	3-mile-long centerline embankment 490 feet	19.8	Thickened Slurry (NPAG and PAG)	550,000	Arizona State Land Department; Private
Alternative 6 Skunk Camp South Tailings Corridor Option	10,591	3-mile-long centerline embankment 490 feet	25.2	Thickened Slurry (NPAG and PAG)	550,000	Arizona State Land Department; Private

* Alternative 6 Skunk Camp North is the Forest Service Preferred Alternative.

