Rosemont Copper Project
1/24/2017 Update

Overview

The proposed Rosemont Mine is a new, open pit copper and molybdenum mine in Pima County, Arizona, southeast of Tucson. The site is predominantly on Coronado National Forest lands (approx. 4800 acres). The US Forest Service (USFS) is the federal lead and responsible for development of the EIS evaluating the Mine Plan of Operations. The Corps of Engineers (Corps) is a cooperating agency and is responsible for evaluating the CWA 404 Individual Permit application for discharges associated with the proposed mine. The Corps is planning to adopt the EIS. The applicant is HudBay Minerals, Inc. a Canadian mining company and estimates the mineral deposit could produce up to 10% of U.S. annual production of copper over the 25-year life of the mine.

Major EPA Issues

Wetlands, water quality and quantity, ground water drawdown, degradation of federally protected habitat, air quality, tribal and cultural resources, and human health.

If implemented as proposed, the project would result in direct surface impacts to over 40 acres (18 linear miles) of headwater streams, and secondary surface impacts to at least 28 acres. Additional surface water impacts from groundwater drawdown associated with the project would also occur, potentially affecting hundreds of acres of riparian habitat and wetlands. Project area aquatic resources include streams designated by the State as "Outstanding Arizona Waters" and habitat supporting eleven federally listed endangered or threatened species. Deliberative Process / Ex. 5

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