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News Release

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Tonto National Forest to prepare EIS for Pinto Valley Mine proposal

PHOENIX, March 28, 2017 — For Immediate Release. The Tonto National Forest published a Notice of Intent to prepare an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) in the Federal Register today to evaluate and disclose the potential environmental effects from approval of a Mining Plan of Operations submitted by Pinto Valley Mining Corp.

The proposed action would consolidate prior permitted activities reasonably incident to extraction, transportation, and processing of copper and molybdenum on National Forest System lands, expand existing mining operations from private lands on to National Forest System lands, and extend the mine life to 2039.

The existing mine -- the Pinto Valley Mine -- is located approximately 8 miles west of Miami, Arizona, in Gila County. The proposed project would result in an estimated 1,011 acres of new disturbance -- 245 acres on National Forest System land and 766 acres on private land.

The need for this project is to comply with regulations that govern the use of surface resources in conjunction with mining operations on National Forest System lands.

Publication of the Notice of Intent initiates the public involvement process, which guides the development of the EIS. The Forest Service has allocated a 30-day scoping period, which begins today and ends April 27, 2017. The EIS scoping phase is the first formal opportunity for the public to provide comments on the proposed project.

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The Forest Service is planning to host two public scoping meetings in April. These meetings will provide attendees with an opportunity to ask questions, learn more about the proposed project, and provide comments. Public scoping meetings are scheduled for:

- April 18, 5 to 8 p.m., Superior High School, 100 Mary Drive, Superior, Arizona, 85173
- April 20, 5 to 8 p.m., Miami Junior/Senior High School, 4635 S. Ragus Road, Miami, Arizona, 85539

Those unable to attend a scoping meeting can submit comments in the following ways:

By mail to: Pinto Valley Mine EIS Comments, 2324 E. McDowell Road, Phoenix, Arizona 85006

By e-mail to: Comment@PintoValleyMineEIS.us

By facsimile to: (602) 225-5302

For more information about the proposed project, visit online at:

<http://www.pintovalleymineeis.us/index.html>

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