## **NEWS RELEASE**

USDA Forest Service Coronado National Forest 300 West Congress Tucson, AZ 85701 www.fs.fed.us/r3/coronado



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For Immediate Release

## Coronado National Forest Plans Additional Public Meeting in Vail for Rosemont Copper Project EIS

(TUCSON, ARIZONA, March 14, 2008) – In addition to the three public meetings already scheduled for the proposed Rosemont Copper Project environmental impact statement (EIS), a fourth meeting will be scheduled in Vail, Arizona. The date, time, and location of the meeting will be announced as soon as possible.

"We may consider additional open house meetings to assure the public has ample opportunity to learn about this project and to provide input," said Jeanine Derby, Forest Supervisor. "Those who cannot attend public meetings can still provide us with comments by mail, email, or fax. Comments submitted in these ways are given equal consideration to comments made at public meetings."

All scheduled meetings are open houses, not "hearings." The open house format is designed to allow attendees to view informational displays and ask specialists about the Rosemont Copper Project and the environmental impact statement (EIS) process, and 2) to submit written or oral comments onsite. Attendees can arrive at any time during the scheduled meetings.

Citizens are urged to read the Notice of Intent prior to attending meetings or submitting comments. The Notice of Intent is available online at

<u>www.fs.fed.us/r3/coronado/rosemont</u>. Those without Internet access may request a hard copy by calling (520) 388-8300. Copies of the Notice of Intent will also be available at all public meetings.

The comments most useful for the EIS process should be directly related to issues associated with the *proposed action* described in the Notice of Intent, rather than general advocacy for or opposition to the project. Comments on the scope of the impacts analysis

are welcome during the NEPA review until the draft EIS is issued for public comment (scheduled for March, 2009). However, they will be most useful if received during the public scoping period, which ends April 18, 2008.

The three initial public open-house meetings are scheduled this month, as follows:

- 1. March 18, 2008, Pima Community College Desert Vista Campus, 5901 South Calle Santa Cruz, Tucson, Arizona. 7:00 p.m. 9:00 p.m.
- 2. March 19, 2008, Canoa Hills Recreation Center, 3660 South Camino del Sol, Green Valley, Arizona, 6:30 p.m. 8:30 p.m.
- 3. March 20, 2008, Patagonia Union High School, Highway 82, Patagonia, Arizona, 6:00 p.m.- 8:00 p.m.

Alternatively, for those who do not attend meetings, agencies or individuals can submit comments by mail, FAX, or email as follows:

- Mail comments to Team Leader, Rosemont Copper Project, Coronado National Forest, 300 W. Congress St., Tucson, Arizona 85701
- FAX comments to (520) 388–8305, ATTN: Rosemont Team Leader
- Or email to comments-southwestern-coronado@fs.fed.us

For questions about the public meetings or the comment period, the public can call (520) 388-8300.

Questions about the EIS process should be directed to Ms. Andrea Campbell, Forest NEPA Coordinator, at 300 W. Congress St., Tucson, AZ 85701, or telephone (520) 388-8300.

Additional information about the proposed Rosemont Copper Project is available online at www.fs.fed.us/r3/coronado/rosemont.