This section of the FEDERAL REGISTER contains documents other than rules or proposed rules that are applicable to the public. Notices of hearings and investigations, committee meetings, agency decisions and rulings, delegations of authority, filing of petitions and applications and agency statements of organization and functions are examples of documents appearing in this section.

DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
Forest Service

Cibola National Forest, Mount Taylor Ranger District, NM, Mount Taylor Combined Exploratory Drilling

AGENCY: Forest Service, USDA.

ACTION: Notice of intent to prepare an environmental impact statement.

SUMMARY: The proposed action is to approve two Plans of Operations for exploratory uranium drilling on the Cibola National Forest, Mount Taylor Ranger District. There are two areas identified for exploration; the Bajillos project area is approximately 2,894 acres and is located in T. 12 N, R. 8 W, Sections 6, 7, & 8 and T. 12 N, R. 9 W, Sections 1, 12, & . The Endy project area is approximately 3,740 acres and is located in T. 13 N, R. 7 W, Sections 7 & 8, T. 13 N, R. 8 W, Sections 2, 3, 4, 5, 11, & 12 and T. 14 N, R. 8 W, Sections 31 & 32. Both project areas are located north-northeast of Grants in the vicinity of the town of San Mateo. In total, there are up to 279 drill holes that would be drilled over a period not to exceed 6 years from initiation of the project. A total of 21 drill holes are proposed within the Bajillos project area. A total of up to 258 holes are proposed for drilling within the Endy project area. The exploratory drilling in this area would be phased over the course of six years; 51 holes would be drilled during the first phase of exploration. Secondary drilling would occur if, or when, further investigation is indicated by the data recovered from earlier drilling. It is possible that not all drill holes which are proposed and analyzed for this project area would be drilled. The drill pads would be 60 by 120 feet (average of 0.17 acres each) and drilling depths would reach down to 3200 feet. The mud pits constructed within the footprint of the drill pad would measure 8 by 10 feet and be approximately 6 feet deep. An estimated 42.64 acres of ground disturbance would be associated with the 258 drill hole locations.

The drill locations will be accessed using existing roads, cross country travel (where feasible) and temporary roads constructed to access drill sites on steep slopes. All temporary roads would be obliterated after use.

Information about the proposal will be posted on the project Web site at http://www.fs.fed.us/nepa/nepa_project_exp.php?project=33948.

Possible Alternatives
1. No Action. 2. Approve the two plans of operations with appropriate mitigation measures, if needed.

Responsible Official
Nancy Rose, Forest Supervisor, Cibola National Forest. 2113 Osuna Road NE., Albuquerque, NM 87113.

Nature of Decision To Be Made
The Forest Supervisor will use the EIS process to develop the necessary information to make an informed decision on whether or not to approve the proposed plans as submitted, or to decide what mitigation and monitoring requirements are needed to protect resources.

Preliminary Issues
One preliminary issue has been identified: Exploration may affect the characteristics of the Mount Taylor Traditional Cultural Property eligible for inclusion on the National Register of Historic Places. Other issues that may arise include legacy health issues, reclamation concerns, and
contamination of ground and surface water.

Permits or Licenses Required

The approved Plans of Operations authorizes exploration. Operations must be consistent with Forest Service Conditions of Approval, and other applicable laws and regulations, including New Mexico state permits for exploratory drilling.

Scoping Process

This notice of intent initiates the scoping process, which guides the development of the environmental impact statement. Comments are solicited and are welcome for the 45-day comment period initiating on the publication date of this notice.

It is important that reviewers provide their comments at such times and in such manner that they are useful to the agency’s preparation of the environmental impact statement. Therefore, comments should be provided prior to the close of the comment period and should clearly articulate the reviewer’s concerns and contentions.

Comments received in response to this solicitation, including names and addresses of those who comment, will be part of the public record for this proposed action. Comments submitted anonymously will be accepted and considered, however.

Dated: December 2, 2011.

Nancy Rose,
Forest Supervisor.

For further information contact:
Erin Keaney, Brandon Farlander, or Charles Riggle, AD/CVD Operations, Office 4, Import Administration, International Trade Administration, U.S. Department of Commerce, 14th Street and Constitution Avenue NW, Washington, DC 20230; telephone: (202) 482–0167, (202) 482–0182, or (202) 482–0650, respectively.

Supplementary Information:

Background

In accordance with sections 735(d) and 777(i)(1) of the Tariff Act of 1930, as amended (“Act”), on October 18, 2011, the Department published the final determination of sales at less than fair value in the antidumping duty investigation of wood flooring from the PRC. See Multilayered Wood Flooring From the People’s Republic of China: Final Determination of Sales at Less Than Fair Value, 76 FR 64318 (October 18, 2011) (“Final Determination”). On December 1, 2011, the ITC notified the Department of its affirmative determination of material injury to a U.S. industry. See Multilayered Wood Flooring From China: USITC Investigation Nos. 701–TA–476 and 731–TA–1179 (Final), USITC Publication 4278 (November 2011).

Correction of Scope of the Order

In the Final Determination, the Department stated that the scope used in the preliminary determination 1 should be amended so as to not refer to certain Harmonized Tariff Schedule of the United States (“HTSUS”) numbers under which subject merchandise may be incorrectly classified. See Final Determination and accompanying Issues and Decision Memorandum at Comment 12.C. However, the Department inadvertently included in its Final Determination the scope language used in the Preliminary Determination. The correct scope is provided, below.

Scope of the Order

Multilayer wood flooring is composed of an assembly of two or more layers or plies of wood veneer(s) 2 in combination with a core. The several layers, along with the core, are glued or otherwise bonded together to form a final assembled product. Multilayered wood flooring is often referred to by other terms, e.g., “engineered wood flooring” or “plywood flooring.”

Regardless of the particular terminology, all products that meet the description set forth herein are intended for inclusion within the definition of subject merchandise.

All multilayered wood flooring is included within the definition of subject merchandise, without regard to: dimension (overall thickness, thickness of face ply, thickness of back ply, thickness of core, and thickness of inner plies; width; and length); wood species used for the face, back and inner veneers; core composition; and face grade. Multilayered wood flooring included within the definition of subject merchandise may be unfinished (i.e., without a finally finished surface to protect the face veneer from wear and tear) or “prefinished” (i.e., a coating applied to the face veneer, including, but not exclusively, oil or oil-modified or water-based polyurethanes, ultraviolet light cured polyurethanes, wax, epoxy-ester finishes, moisture-cured urethanes and resin-curing formaldehyde finishes). The veneers may be also soaked in an acrylic-impregnated finish. All multilayered wood flooring is included within the definition of subject merchandise regardless of whether the face (or back) of the product is smooth, wire brushed, distressed by any method or multiple methods, or hand-scraped. In addition, all multilayered wood flooring is included within the definition of subject merchandise regardless of whether the product meets a particular industry or similar standard.

The core of multilayered wood flooring may be composed of a range of materials, including but not limited to hardwood veneer, particleboard, medium-density fiberboard, high-density fiberboard (“HDF”), stone and/or plastic composite, or strips of lumber placed edge-to-edge.

Multilayer wood flooring products generally, but not exclusively, may be in the form of a strip, plank, or other geometrical patterns (e.g., circular, hexagonal). All multilayered wood flooring products are included within this definition regardless of the actual or nominal dimensions or form of the product.

Specifically excluded from the scope are cork flooring and bamboo flooring,


4 A “veneer” is a thin slice of wood, rotary cut, sliced or sawed from a log, bolt or flitch. Veneer is referred to as a ply when assembled.