United States Department of Agriculture
Forest Service
Cibola National Forest and National Grasslands Supervisor Office
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Albuquerque, NM 87113-1001
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575-298-3129

File Code: 2810
Date: July 10, 2026

Josh Leftwich
VP Operations and Strategic Planning, U.S.
130 King Street West, Suite 3680
Toronto, Ontario, Canada M5X 1B1
josh@laramide.com

Dear Mr. Leftwich

This letter is regarding the La Jara Mesa Mine Project (Project) proposed by Laramide Resources, Ltd (Laramide) to the Cibola National Forest and National Grasslands (Cibola) to conduct underground mining operations for uranium on National Forest System (NFS) land. This project and associated permitting timetable was posted on the Permitting Dashboard for Federal Infrastructure Projects on May 30, 2025 and identified as a Covered project under the Title 41 of the Fixing America's Surface Transportation Act (FAST 41). On December 5, 2025, Laramide submitted a Plan of Operations/ Mine Operations and Reclamation Plan (MORP) to Cibola for review. On December 15, 2026, Laramide requested FAST-41 timetable delay of six to twelve months to allow better alignment between the state and federal permitting processes. This FAST-41 timetable delay request was approved by the Permitting Council on January 29, 2026. On March 5, 2026, Cibola staff completed a preliminary review of the MORP, including field visits that occurred starting in 2023 through 2025, to ensure all necessary information has been provided in accordance with 36 CFR 228.4(c). The March 5, 2026 letter from Cibola requested additional information from Laramide.

During our bi-weekly meetings that include the Cibola, U.S. Forest Service Regional and Washington Offices, U.S. Department of Agriculture Office of the Secretary (OSEC), the Permitting Council, and Laramide personnel, the Cibola requested Laramide to submit MORP version 2.0 for agency review by June 1, 2026 in order to stay within the Permitting Dashboard timetable. This June 1st date was reiterated with follow-up email correspondence on April 21, 2026 from OSEC to Laramide with a request to schedule a meeting with agencies as soon as possible to discuss agency comments. A meeting between the Cibola, Laramide, and New Mexico Mining Minerals Division (MMD) occurred on June 2, 2026 to discuss high-level concerns from Laramide on agency comments. Laramide informed Cibola that they had not started revising the MORP and requested an extension. The Cibola allowed an extension for MORP version 2.0 to be submitted on July 9, 2026, however, MORP version 2.0 was not submitted for agency review on June 1st or July 9th.

Dates relevant to the MORP & Environmental Review schedule from the FAST-41 timetable are below:

Critical Path Milestone	**La Jara Mesa as on Permitting Dashboard**
Minerals Plan of Operation Submittal	
Submittal of draft initial Plan of Operations (Applicant Action)	**12/5/2025 (completed)**
Submittal of complete initial Plan of Operations (Applicant Action)	09/01/2026
Acceptance of complete initial Plan of Operations (Agency Action)	09/30/2026
Environmental Review Process (EIS)	
Issuance of Notice of Intent to prepare an EIS (Agency Action)	11/12/2026

Either the *Acceptance of complete initial Plan of Operations (Agency Action)* milestone or the *Issuance of Notice of Intent to prepare an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS)* milestone would start a mandatory two-year clock for the Cibola to complete an EIS. For the La Jara Mesa Project, the two-year EIS clock is scheduled to be starting on September 30, 2026. In order to keep the project on schedule with the FAST-41 timetable, **Laramide will need to commit in writing to the following:**

1. Contracts and/or work orders must be place and executed in full with Barr Engineering for the:
    - Full two-year EIS scope of work provided by the Cibola (enclosed).
    - Mine Engineering and Design to complete MORP Version 2.0
    - Surface water modeling to add for MORP Version 2.0
    - Baseline Data Report update
2. An interim MORP Version 2.0 submitted to the Cibola for review by August 3, 2026 with Cibola acknowledging that the full version will not be ready until September 1, 2026. For reference, enclosed is the Cibola Specialist spreadsheet dated March 5, 2026. Laramide does not need to respond in detail to the spreadsheet, however provide the section of the MORP and page number of the interim MORP Version 2.0 where the Cibola comment was addressed. The Cibola will review and provide a second round of comments by August 12, 2026.
3. Laramide submits final MORP Version 2 to the Cibola on September 1, 2026.
4. Laramide will ensure the contractor Laramide selected, New Mexico Office of Archaeological Studies, will complete the additional investigations field work and draft report by December 18, 2026. This ensures the Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act (NHPA) process stays on schedule for completion and to be used for EIS analysis.
5. Invoices with SunStone Compliance Solutions need to be up to date, as they have not been paid in 2026. A work order needs to be executed in full with SunStone to ensure both the EIS and Section 106 of the NHPA schedules are not delayed through the process.

I need confirmation that Laramide is committing the necessary resources to succeed with executing the La Jara Mesa Project's Permitting Dashboard timetable. **Please respond via letter correspondence of Laramide's demonstration that these five items have been executed no later than July 31, 2026.**

A bill of collection was sent to Laramide on May 28, 2026 to pay their first payment of the executed Collection Agreement (26-CO-11030300-042) that was signed by the Cibola and Laramide leadership on May 21, 2026. This bill of collection is outstanding and has not been paid by Laramide.

Feel free to contact me by email at heidi.mcroberts@usda.gov or by phone at (505) 346-3804 for any questions.

Sincerely,

Heidi McRoberts Digitally signed by Heidi McRoberts
Date: 2026.07.12 18:36:37 -06'00'

Heidi McRoberts
Forest Supervisor

Enclosures: 2026-04-18_LaJaraMesaScopeof Work_v5
2026.03.05_LaJaraMesa_MORPReview_USFSCompiledComments_FINAL

Cc: USFS – Jenna Padilla, Wendy Jo Haskins, Janet Wilkins, Kristin Bail; USDA OSEC – Terry Miller, Tara Graelyn, Scott Vandegrift; U.S. Permitting Council – Giannina DiMaio; Laramide Consultants – David Young, Matt Lane; Barr Engineering – Heather Parameter, Shanna Braun