



# Los Padres National Forest ENVIRONMENTAL NEWSLETTER

July 1989

## ABOUT THIS NEWSLETTER...

The purpose of the "Environmental Newsletter" is to encourage public input to ongoing environmental analyses and provide notification of completed analyses. It is intended to compliment public involvement efforts initiated by the Forest Supervisor or District Rangers for specific projects.

A typical analysis description in the newsletter includes the name, brief description, and location of a project, and the responsible Forest Service office. A detailed project description is given for those analyses currently in the "scoping" phase; thereafter, reference to the analysis is followed by an abbreviated description and the date the project was first described in the newsletter. The information is organized by county and by categories which correspond to the environmental analysis process:

### Environmental Analyses Being Scoped

This category includes analyses for which public input is being or is about to be solicited.

### Environmental Analyses Completed

Under this heading you will find those analyses which, in keeping with new federal appeals regulations, have been "categorically excluded" from documentation in an Environmental Assessment (EA) or Environmental Impact Statement (EIS), and which have culminated in the preparation of a "Decision Memo". The Decision Memo is a document in which a forest officer records his/her decision to exclude a proposed action from documentation in an EA or EIS. It includes: a description of the proposed action; the scoping process followed and the issues identified; the reasons for categorically excluding the proposed action; findings required by any other laws; the date when the responsible official intends to implement the decision; administrative review or appeal opportunities; a Forest Service contact; the responsible official's signature and date.

With the exception of three projects listed in this issue (Sand Canyon Shooting Closure, Buck Creek Trail Re-route, and Smith Fork Fencing Proposal), those projects which have been categorically excluded from documentation, but do **not** require a Decision Memo, will not be included in the EA Newsletter.

### Environmental Analyses Documented

In this category are found recently completed EA's and Draft and Final EIS's.

### Environmental Analyses in Progress

This category includes projects currently under study.

**For further information regarding any of the projects included in this newsletter or for copies of available documents, please contact the office indicated under the project description. Addresses and telephone numbers are listed at the end of the newsletter. For information on the environmental analysis process, contact Forest Planning Officer Gerry Little, in the Supervisor's Office.**

## MONTEREY COUNTY

|                                     |       |
|-------------------------------------|-------|
| Environmental Analyses Being Scoped | None. |
| Environmental Analyses Completed    | None. |
| Environmental Analyses Documented   | None. |
| Environmental Analyses In Progress  | None. |

## SAN LUIS OBISPO COUNTY

### Environmental Analyses Being Scoped

*Big Rocks Fuels Management Plan.* Analysis to determine appropriate treatment of 29,000 acres located north and east of Twitchell Reservoir, in T.32 S., R.16 and 17E., M.D.M. This area has been treated with prescribed burning under the Twitchell Environmental Analysis of 1976 and its supplements. Prior to continuing any treatment in this area, it has been determined that a new analysis incorporating current issues and concerns should be conducted. Scoping letters will be sent out prior to July 31, 1989. Written comments should be sent prior to August 31, 1989. Santa Lucia Ranger District.

*West Cuesta Rehabilitation.* Analysis to identify and rehabilitate, including possible removal from use, of various roads and trails causing unacceptable erosion. The area being analyzed is located on West Cuesta Ridge and includes abandoned mining roads, the road to Cerro Alto Lookout, a jeep trail which accesses the fuelbreak, and unauthorized off-road vehicle trails. A public scoping letter was sent out June 27, 1989 and written comments should be sent to the Santa Lucia Ranger prior to August 1, 1989. Santa Lucia Ranger District.

#### **Environmental Analyses Completed**

*Gifford Spring Pipeline Extension.* Extension of the Gifford Spring Water System to improve distribution of water for range and wildlife use was approved by the District Ranger in a Decision Memo signed June 9, 1989. 6,000 feet of additional waterline will be installed in the middle of the existing road, along with three additional water troughs and one water tank. The project is located in T.32 S., R.17 E., Sections 27, 34 and 35, M.D.M. Santa Lucia Ranger District.

#### **Environmental Analyses Documented**

*AT&T Telephone Line.* A Decision Notice and Finding of No Significant Impact signed by the Forest Supervisor on June 20, 1989, authorizes construction of a new underground telephone cable within an existing right-of-way. T.29 S., R.11 E., Sections 12 and 13, R.12 E., Sections 6 and 7, M.D.M. Santa Lucia Ranger District - October, 1988 Newsletter.

#### **Environmental Analyses in Progress**

*Rinconada Trail Re-route.* An amendment to the existing Rinconada Access EA will consider re-routing 1/4 mile of the Rinconada Trail to avoid private land. T.30 S., R.14 E., Sections 21 and 27, M.D.M. Santa Lucia Ranger District.

*Cuesta and Tassajera Peak Electronic Site Management Plans.* Plans will determine how the sites will be managed, including boundaries, administration of present facilities, and potential for future development. West Cuesta Ridge in T.29 S., R.12 E., Sections 29 and 35, M.D.M. Santa Lucia Ranger District - May, 1989 Newsletter.

*Buena Vista Mines Proposed Plan of Operations.* Proposal to collect mineral samples near Pozo Summit using shallow 3" drill holes (less than 50' deep). T. 30 S., R.16 E., Sections 5 and 6, M.D.M. Santa Lucia Ranger District - March, 1989 Newsletter.

*San Luis Obispo County Trails Master Plan.* Analysis of opportunities for trail development on National Forest lands in San Luis Obispo County. A separate EA will be prepared for the West Cuesta Area, Central Area, Pozo/La Panza Area, and Rockfront Area. Santa Lucia Ranger District - March, 1988 Newsletter.

*OHV Route Rehabilitation Project.* Evaluation of immediate needs for rehabilitation of the Friis Hill, Howards Hill, Mare Springs and Shaw Ridge OHV routes. Santa Lucia Ranger District - March, 1989 Newsletter.

*Navajo Prescribed Burn.* Analysis to determine appropriate treatment for 1700 acres within the La Panza Fuel Management Block. T.29 S., R.16 E., Sections 20 and 21, M.D.M. Santa Lucia Ranger District - March, 1988 Newsletter.

*Garcin Land Exchange.* Proposal to consolidate land ownership by exchanging parcels of privately-owned land for nearby National Forest land in vicinity of Highway 166. T.12 N., R.30 and 31 W., S.B.B.M., T.32 S., R.17 E., M.D.M. Santa Lucia Ranger District - March, 1988 Newsletter.

## **SANTA BARBARA COUNTY**

### **Environmental Analyses Being Scoped**

*Southern California Edison 66kv Powerline.* Santa Barbara County and the Forest Service are seeking additional input on the potential environmental impacts associated with a SCE proposal to construct a 19.3 mile long, 66 kilovolt transmission line between Goleta and Gaviota, with a 1.4 mile spur to the Exxon facility in Las Flores Canyon. The line follows a 50 foot wide right-of-way owned by Edison on private property; a three-mile segment would be on National Forest land. The maximum height of towers would be 65-131 feet. New roads would be constructed to provide access to several remote tower sites. The project would include staging areas and other facilities needed to construct the line.

The County has completed an Initial Study and has determined that an Environmental Impact Report (EIR) must be prepared to fulfill California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) requirements. The Forest Service has determined that an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) must be prepared to fulfill National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) requirements.

Public comments on the scope of impacts, mitigation measures, and alternatives to be evaluated in the environmental document for the project will be accepted by the County and Forest Service until 5:00 p.m. on July 31, 1989. Comments to the Forest Service can be mailed to Joan Brandoff-Kerr, Santa Barbara Ranger District.

A public hearing on this matter will be held July 20, 7:00 p.m., at the Forest Supervisor's Office in Goleta. For further details on the hearing, contact Alice McCurdy, SB County Resource Management Department, Environmental Review Division, 805-568-2000. Santa Barbara Ranger District - March, 1988 Newsletter.

*Falls Trail Reroute.* Feasibility of re-routing the existing Falls Trail in the San Rafael Wilderness. T.7 and 8 N., R.27 W., S.B.B.M. Santa Lucia Ranger District - May, 1989 Newsletter.

**Environmental Analyses Completed** None.

**Environmental Analyses Documented** None.

### **Environmental Analyses in Progress**

*DeVaul Canyon Horizontal Wells.* Request for permit to drill 1-4 horizontal wells near two springs in the east and west forks of DeVaul Canyon. The analysis has been completed, but the environmental assessment is not available for public review at this time. It has been decided that LPNF will develop a forest-wide groundwater policy before reaching a decision on the DeVaul proposal. Further reference to this project will not appear in this newsletter until the forestwide policy has been developed and a decision on the project is made. T.5N., R.29W., Section 4, S.B.B.M. Santa Barbara Ranger District - January, 1989 Newsletter.

*Divide Peak OHV Proposal.* Feasibility of a trail from Divide Peak to Juncal Campground and a small parking area between Romero Saddle and Juncal Campground. The analysis is complete and a decision is pending. Santa Barbara Ranger District - June, 1988 Newsletter.

*Garcin Land Exchange.* Proposal to consolidate land ownership by exchanging parcels of privately-owned land for nearby National Forest land in vicinity of Highway 166. Santa Lucia Ranger District - March, 1988 Newsletter.

*Sisquoc Ranch Prescribed Burn.* Proposal to prescribe burn 13,168 acres of private land and 1,386 acres of National Forest land, south of Manzanita Mountain. T.9 N., R.30 and 31 W., S.B.B.M. Santa Lucia Ranger District - March, 1989 Newsletter.

## **KERN COUNTY**

**Environmental Analyses Being Scoped** None.

### **Environmental Analyses Completed**

*T.A.T. #4 Mining Claim.* A Decision Memo was signed June 6, 1989, to allow for the proposed mineral exploration of the placer mining claim west of Frazier Park. T.9 N., R.19 W., Section 32, S.B.B.M. Mount Pinos Ranger District - May, 1989 Newsletter.

*Ride and Tie Event.* A Decision Memo was signed May 23, 1989, to allow use of NF roads and trails in the Cuddy Valley/Mount Pinos area for a "ride and tie" equestrian event. T.9 N., R.20 and 21 W., T.8 N., R.20 and 21 W. Mount Pinos Ranger District - May, 1989 Newsletter.

Note: the *Sand Canyon Shooting Closure* study described in the May, 1989 Newsletter was categorically excluded from further analysis and did not require a Decision Memo. Mount Pinos Ranger District.

**Environmental Analyses Documented** None.

**Environmental Analyses in Progress** None.

## **VENTURA COUNTY**

### **Environmental Analyses Being Scoped**

*Seymour Canyon Telephone Line.* The District is evaluating a proposal to place approximately one mile of telephone line underground on Seymour Canyon Road, Lockwood Valley. T.8 N., R.21 W., Sections 13 and 24, S.B.B.M. Mount Pinos Ranger District.

### **Environmental Analyses Completed None.**

Note: The *Buck Creek Trail Reroute Project* and *Smith Fork Fencing Project* described in the May 1989 Newsletter were categorically excluded from further analysis and did not require a Decision Memo. Mount Pinos Ranger District.

### **Environmental Analyses Documented**

*Gold Hill/Alamo Area OHV Events.* A Decision Notice and Finding of No Significant Impact was signed June 27, 1989, to permit four large OHV events per year between July 1 and December 1, in the Gold Hill/Alamo area. The decision also allows small events (fewer than 35 participants) to occur under specified guidelines. Mount Pinos Ranger District - March, 1988 Newsletter.

### **Environmental Analyses in Progress**

*Snowy Creek Trail Re-route.* Proposed relocation of the Snowy Creek Trail in conjunction with a wildlife habitat enhancement project in the Smiths Fork area. The trail re-route would involve moving a portion of the trail out of the riparian zone along Piru Creek, as well as fencing at the creek crossing. A water development and rehabilitation of the old trail is also proposed. T.7 N., R.19 W., Section 10, S.B.B.M. Mount Pinos Ranger District.

*Pine Mountain Forest Management.* Proposal to thin and replant selected stands between Pine Mountain and Reyes Peak campgrounds which are overstocked and infected by dwarf mistletoe. T.6 N., R.23 W., S.B.B.M. Ojai Ranger District - May, 1989 Newsletter.

### *Lions Campground Streambank Stabilization.*

Proposal to extend existing gabion to curtail streambank erosion. T.6 N., R.22 W., S.B.B.M. Ojai Ranger District - May, 1989 Newsletter.

*Recreational Shooting Policy Review.* District-wide review of existing shooting patterns and closures to determine if changes should be made, with focus on Highway 33 corridor. Ojai Ranger District - May, 1989 Newsletter.

*Pratt Trailhead Design.* Development and selection of a design alternative for the existing Pratt trailhead with a focus on providing more appropriate parking facilities. T.4 N., R.23 W. Ojai Ranger District - October, 1988 Newsletter.

*Lions Club Deaf Camp.* Proposal to utilize approximately 4 acres of National Forest land west of Highway 33 and north of the Pine Mountain Inn for a portion of a "wilderness" camp for hearing-impaired children. Ojai Ranger District - October, 1988 Newsletter.

*Green Cabins Trail Proposal.* Proposal to re-open access to the Green Cabins area. Ojai Ranger District - March, 1988 Newsletter.

*Rose Valley Road Easement.* Proposed easement for existing road extending from the Rose Valley Lower Lake to private land. Ojai Ranger District - March, 1988 Newsletter.

*Dominguez Canyon/Agua Blanca Vicinity Fuels Management.* Analysis of alternative fuels management strategies for wildlife benefits. Ojai Ranger District - March, 1988 Newsletter.

*Casitas Watershed Fuel Management Block.* Programmatic environmental analysis for vegetation management in Casitas watershed. Ojai Ranger District - March, 1988 Newsletter.

#### **Santa Barbara Ranger District**

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#### **Ojai Ranger District**

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#### **Mount Pinos Ranger District**

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**Last Environmental Newsletter issued: May, 1989.**

**If your address is not correct as shown on the envelope, or if you know anyone not currently on the list who would like to receive the Los Padres Environmental Newsletter, please let us know. Contact Kathy Good, Public Affairs Specialist, in the Forest Supervisor's Office for any business concerning addresses or distribution of the newsletter.**

## **RESPONSIBLE OFFICES**

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### **Monterey Ranger District**

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### **Santa Lucia Ranger District**

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