



Los Padres National Forest ENVIRONMENTAL NEWSLETTER

September 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 in Los Padres National Forest. It is intended to compliment public involvement efforts initiated by the Forest Supervisor or District Rangers for specific projects.

The newsletter includes the name, a brief explanation and location of each project, and the responsible Forest Service office. For those analyses in the "scoping" phase, a more detailed description is given; thereafter, you will find an abbreviated description followed by the date the project was first addressed in the newsletter. The analyses are listed 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

This category includes 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". In the "Decision Memo", the responsible forest officer records and explains his/her decision to exclude a proposed action from documentation in an EA or EIS.

Environmental Analyses Documented

Recently completed EA's and Draft and Final EIS's are described in this category.

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 17 E., 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 in early fall. Santa Lucia Ranger District - July, 1989 Newsletter.

Environmental Analyses Completed	None.
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Environmental Analyses Documented

Rinconada Trail Reroute. An amendment to the existing Rinconada Access EA approved re-routing 1/4 mile of the Rinconada Trail to avoid private land. The decision notice was signed by the District Ranger on July 27, 1989. T.30 S., R.14 E., Sections 21 and 27, M.D.M. Santa Lucia Ranger District - July, 1989 Newsletter.

OHV Route Rehabilitation Project. A decision approving rehabilitation of the Friis Hill and Howards Hill OHV routes was approved by the District Ranger on April 4, 1989. Analysis of rehabilitation needs for Mare Springs and Shaw Ridge OHV routes will be done separately at some time in the future. Notification of this decision was inadvertently left out of the District's May report to the EA Newsletter. Santa Lucia Ranger District - March, 1989 Newsletter.

Environmental Analyses in Progress

West Cuesta Rehabilitation. Analysis to identify and rehabilitate (and possibly close) various roads and trails causing unacceptable erosion on West Cuesta Ridge. Includes abandoned mining roads, the road to Cerro Alto Lookout, a jeep trail which accesses the fuelbreak, and unauthorized off-road vehicle trails. Santa Lucia Ranger District - July, 1989 Newsletter.

Cuesta and Tassajera Peak Electronic Site Management Plans. Determination of 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 3" diameter holes drilled to a depth of less than 50 feet. 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.

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

Santa Cruz Vegetation Management Project. The Forest Service is seeking public input on issues and concerns related to the implementation of a vegetation management project within the Santa Cruz Watershed. The project encompasses about 15,000 acres and is located northeast of Lake Cachuma

between Happy Canyon and Santa Cruz Creek. The objectives of the project are to reduce fuel loading and wildfire acreage, improve water quality and quantity, increase wildlife habitat capability, and protect the San Rafael Wilderness from high fire risks associated with the Lake Cachuma Recreation area. The primary tool to achieve these results will be prescribed fire. Scoping letters have been sent out. Written comments should be submitted to District Ranger Patrick Pontes by the close of business October 13, 1989. Questions about this project may be addressed to John Bridgewater. Santa Barbara Ranger District.

Environmental Analyses Completed *None.*

Environmental Analyses Documented *None.*

Environmental Analyses in Progress

Southern California Edison 66kv Powerline. Proposal to construct a 19.3 mile, 66 kv transmission line between Goleta and Gaviota including a small segment on National Forest land. Joint study with Santa Barbara County Department of Resource Management. Santa Barbara Ranger District - March, 1988 Newsletter.

Falls Trail Reroute. Feasibility of re-routing the 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.

Divide Peak OHV Proposal. Feasibility of a trail from Divide Peak to Juncal Campground and a small parking area between the campground and Romero Saddle. 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 private land for nearby National Forest land in the 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 *None.*

Environmental Analyses Documented *None.*

Environmental Analyses in Progress *None.*

VENTURA COUNTY

Environmental Analyses Being Scoped None.

Environmental Analyses Completed

Seymour Canyon Telephone Line. A Decision Memo was signed August 1, approving a proposal to place approximately one mile of telephone line underground on Seymour Canyon Road in Lockwood Valley. T.8 N., R.21 W., Sections 13 and 24, S.B.B.M. Mount Pinos Ranger District - July, 1989 Newsletter.

Environmental Analyses Documented

Lions Club Deaf Camp. A Decision Notice and Finding of No Significant Impact was signed July 15, 1989 approving use of 4 acres of National Forest System Land west of Highway 33 and north of the Pine Mountain Inn for a portion of a "wilderness" camp for hearing-impaired children. T.6 N., R.24 W., Section 12. Ojai Ranger District - October, 1988 Newsletter.

Environmental Analyses in Progress

Snowy Creek Trail Re-route. Proposal to relocate the Snowy Creek Trail in conjunction with a wildlife habitat enhancement project in the Smiths Fork area. T.7 N., R.19 W., Section 10, S.B.B.M. Mount Pinos Ranger District - July, 1989 Newsletter.

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.

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.

The Following Projects Have Been Postponed

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.

RESPONSIBLE OFFICES

Los Padres National Forest

Arthur J. Carroll - Forest Supervisor
6144 Calle Real
Goleta, CA 93117
(805) 683-6711

Monterey Ranger District

Acting District Ranger
406 S. Mildred
King City, CA 93930
(408) 385-5434

Santa Lucia Ranger District

Keith Guenther - District Ranger
1616 N. Carlotti Drive
Santa Maria, CA 93454
(805) 925-9538

Santa Barbara Ranger District

Patrick Pontes - District Ranger
Star Route
Santa Barbara, CA 93105
(805) 967-3481

Ojai Ranger District

Ron Bassett - District Ranger
1190 E. Ojai Avenue
Ojai, CA 93023
(805) 646-4348

Mount Pinos Ranger District

Trinidad Juarez - District Ranger
Star Route, Box 400
Frazier Park, CA 93225
(805) 245-3731

Last Environmental Newsletter issued: July, 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.