



Los Padres National Forest ENVIRONMENTAL NEWSLETTER

January 1990

ABOUT THIS NEWSLETTER

The purpose of the "Environmental Newsletter" is to provide a status report on current environmental analyses in Los Padres National Forest. It is issued every other month, and is intended to complement 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 section includes those analyses which 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".

Environmental Analyses Documented

This section includes 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 environmental analyses described 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 Planning Officer Gerry Little or Environmental Coordinator Becky Bittner, in the Forest Supervisor's Office.

MONTEREY COUNTY

Environmental Analyses Being Scoped

Pacific Unified School District Junior-Senior High School. Study to determine location of permanent school structures somewhere along the Big Sur Coast between the Monterey/San Luis Obispo county line and Burnes Creek. T.23 S., R.5 E., Section 19, MDM. Monterey Ranger District - November, 1989.

Environmental Analyses Completed *None.*

Environmental Analyses Documented *None.*

Environmental Analyses In Progress

Optical Interferometer in Vicinity of Anderson Peak. U.S. Naval Observatory proposal to place an electronic amplification (navigational) device along the north Coast Ridge Road, north of Anderson Peak. The Navy is preparing the EA. T.20 S., R.3 E., MDM. Monterey Ranger District - November, 1989.

SAN LUIS OBISPO COUNTY

Environmental Analyses Being Scoped

West Cuesta Rehabilitation, Part II. Analysis will determine appropriate rehabilitation of 5 miles of abandoned mining roads, abandoned trails, fire breaks, and unauthorized off road vehicle trails in T.29 S., R.12 E., Sections 20, 25, 26, 27, 28, 34, and 35, including portions of the Cuesta Botanical Area.

This assessment will address areas not previously considered for rehabilitation in the West Cuesta Rehabilitation EA completed on September 8, 1989. Comments should be submitted to the District Ranger by January 31, 1990. Santa Lucia Ranger District.

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., MDM. Scoping letters will be sent out in early winter. Santa Lucia Ranger District - July, 1989 Newsletter.

Environmental Analyses Completed

Black Widow OHV Rehabilitation. A decision to close the Black Widow OHV route and fully rehabilitate existing erosion damage was signed by the District Ranger on November 21, 1989. Santa Lucia Ranger District.

Environmental Analyses Documented

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, MDM. A modified Plan of Operations restricting activity to existing disturbed areas only, was approved by the District Ranger on December 26, 1989. Santa Lucia Ranger District - March, 1989 Newsletter.

Environmental Analyses in Progress

1990 Hi Mountain Enduro. The Cal Poly Penguins have submitted an application for a motorcycle enduro event to be held on April 21, 1990 in the southern part of San Luis Obispo County. The analysis will determine whether the Hi Mountain Enduro will be held on any or all of the course proposed, or on alternative routes, including construction of a 1/2 mile connector route. Public scoping occurred in December, 1989. Santa Lucia Ranger District.

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, MDM. Santa Lucia Ranger District - May, 1989 Newsletter.

San Luis Obispo County Trails Master Plan. Analysis of opportunities for trail development on National Forest lands in San Luis Obispo County. Four separate EA's will be prepared for the West Cuesta, Central, Pozo/La Panza, and Rockfront Areas. 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, MDM. 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 the vicinity of Highway 166. T.12 N., R.30 and 31 W., SBBM., T.32 S., R.17 E., MDM. Santa Lucia Ranger District - March, 1988 Newsletter.

SANTA BARBARA COUNTY

Environmental Analyses Being Scoped *None.*

Environmental Analyses Completed *None.*

Environmental Analyses Documented *None.*

Environmental Analyses in Progress

Santa Cruz Vegetation Management Project.

Vegetation management project within the Santa Cruz Watershed, encompassing about 15,000 acres northeast of Lake Cachuma between Happy Canyon

and Santa Cruz Creek. Scoping has been completed. Santa Barbara Ranger District - September, 1989 Newsletter.

GTE Telephone Line. Proposal by GTE California, Inc., to install a buried telephone line across 2.2 miles of National Forest land within the existing right-of-way of Highway 166. T.32 S., R.17 & 18 E., MBM. Santa Lucia Ranger District - November, 1989 Newsletter.

All American Telephone and Powerline Project.

Proposal by All American Pipeline Company to install a buried telephone and power line across 1.6 miles of National Forest land within the existing right-of-way of Sierra Madre Road. The line is needed to operate an automatic shut-off valve on the company's existing 30" oil pipeline. T.32 S., R.18 E., MDM and T.12 N., R.30W, SBBM. Santa Lucia Ranger District - November, 1989 Newsletter.

Southern California Edison 66kv Powerline. Proposal by SCE 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. The Draft EIR/EIS will be released for public review in February, at the earliest. 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., SBBM. Santa Lucia Ranger District - May, 1989 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., SBBM. 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

Goldhill Campground and Staging Area

Development. Determine conceptual plan for improving facilities at Goldhill CG and adjacent 80 acres purchased for OHV use with OHV greensticker funds. Includes campsites, OHV "play area", toilets, parking, etc. T.7 N., R.20 W., Sections 6 & 18, SBBM. Mount Pinos Ranger District.

Goldhill to Hungry Valley OHV Trail. Determine if a route between Goldhill CG and Hungry Valley SVRA is acceptable, and where the route might be. Goal is to provide a route for motorcycles and ATV's so that they do not have to operate on the paved Goldhill Road. T.7 N., R.20 W., Sections 3-7, SBBM. Mount Pinos Ranger District.

Yellow Jacket OHV Trail Re-route and Expansion. Proposal to re-route existing 4x4 trail around four meadow areas and rehabilitate impacts. Would include an additional 0.5 miles of 4x4 route over a section currently open only to motorcycles, thereby allowing access from Lockwood Creek to Grade Valley for jeeps, hunters, etc. T.7 N., R.21 W., Sections 11, 12, 14, 15, 16. Mount Pinos Ranger District.

Tejon OHV Trail Re-route and Widening. Would route around steep section of current trail now suffering from erosion, including rehabilitation of the eroded area. Would bypass Arrasta Flat where flat terrain encourages off-trail violations. Proposal would include widening of entire trail to allow ATV access. T.8 N., R.19 W., Section 16 to T.8 N., R.20 W., Section 34. Mount Pinos Ranger District.

Fishbowls Trail Re-route. Proposal to re-route the Fishbowls Hiking Trail to avoid the low lying zone along Piru Creek which is susceptible to floods. Would also re-route trail around private land. Project might also include improvement of the loop experience with Cedar Creek Trail, and construction of an improved trailhead to serve the Cedar Creek/Fishbowls Creek trails. T.6 N., R.21 W., Sections 4, 8, 9. Mount Pinos Ranger District.

Environmental Analyses Completed *None.*

Environmental Analyses Documented

Lions Campground Streambank Stabilization. A Decision Notice was signed by the District Ranger on December 8, 1989. The decision provides for a multi-component and multi-phased project designed to protect a toilet and other campground improvements from future flood damage, improve wildlife habitat in the riparian area, and provide for one well-defined crossing of Sespe Creek for the Piedra Blanca and Sespe Creek Trails. T.6 N., R.22 W., SBBM. Ojai Ranger District - May, 1989 Newsletter.

Pratt Trailhead Design. A Decision Notice was signed by the District Ranger on November 30, 1989, which calls for a moderate level of development of the trailhead including an improved access road and development of parking facilities. T.4 N., R.23 W., SBBM. 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, SBBM. Mount Pinos Ranger District - July, 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.

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.

Environmental Analyses Postponed

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., SBBM. Postponed due to a change in District staffing and priorities. Ojai Ranger District - May, 1989 Newsletter.

RESPONSIBLE OFFICES

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**Last Environmental Newsletter issued:
November, 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.