



LOS PADRES NATIONAL FOREST ENVIRONMENTAL NEWSLETTER

July 1990

Due to the Paint Fire, the July issue of the EA Newsletter was delayed. Sorry for the inconvenience.

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 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, 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 section.

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 Gerry Little or Becky Bltner in the Forest Planning Office, in Goleta.

Environmental Analyses In Progress

This category includes projects currently under study.

MONTEREY COUNTY

Environmental Analyses Being Scoped

Pacific Unified School District. 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 Newsletter.

Outfitter and Guide Permits. Proposal for district-wide outfitter and guide permits. Public meeting held in May. Monterey Ranger District - July, 1990 Newsletter.

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 Newsletter.

SAN LUIS OBISPO COUNTY

Environmental Analyses Being Scoped

None.

Environmental Analyses Completed

Horse Canyon Riparian Fence. A Decision Memo was signed on June 24, 1990, approving the proposed installation of twenty yards of wire fence designed to protect a quarter of a mile of wet riparian habitat at the mouth of Horse Canyon. T.9 S., R.30 W., Sec. 23, SBBM. Santa Lucia Ranger District.

Bessie Flat Water Guzzler. A Decision Memo was signed on June 24, 1990, approving the proposed installation of a 2100 gallon wildlife water guzzler on the south side of the Sisquoc River, across from the grave ruins on Bessie Flat. T.9 S., R.30 W., Sec. 26, SBBM. Santa Lucia Ranger District.

Shell Creek Spring Development. A Decision Memo was signed on June 24, 1990, approving the proposed installation of a 500 gallon tank and small trough at Shell Creek

Spring. This project involves an area twenty feet in diameter. T.29 S., R.15 E., SE 1/4, SE 1/4, Sec. 4, MDM. Santa Lucia Ranger District.

Fernandez Spring Development. A Decision Memo was signed on June 24, 1990, approving the installation of a wooden head box and small cement trough at Fernandez Spring. This project involves an area ten feet in diameter. T.29 S., R.15 E., SW 1/4, SW 1/4, Sec. 12, MDM. Santa Lucia Ranger District.

Environmental Analyses Documented **None.**

Environmental Analyses In Progress

Black Mountain Fuels Management Plan. Analysis to determine appropriate treatment including prescribed burning of 35,000 acres located in the Black Mountain area, T.29 S., R.15 E., MDM. The public scoping period ended June 30, 1990. Santa Lucia Ranger District - May, 1990 Newsletter.

Chimineas Road Rehabilitation and Maintenance. Analysis of appropriate rehabilitation and maintenance, including one reroute and closure and installation of waterbars, on administrative roads within the Chimineas and Gifford Allotments. This work is proposed as a watershed protection measure. The project is located north of Highway 166, T.18 E., R.32 S., MDM. Santa Lucia Ranger District - May, 1990 Newsletter.

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. Santa Lucia Ranger District - July, 1989 Newsletter.

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, MDM, including portions of the Cuesta Botanical Area. Santa Lucia Ranger District - January, 1990 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, MDM. Santa Lucia Ranger District - May, 1989 Newsletter.

Santa Lucia Ranger District Trails Management Plan. Analysis of current and future management of the hiking, horseback riding, and off-highway vehicle trails in the San Luis Obispo County portion of Los Padres National Forest. An Environmental Impact Statement will be prepared. The public scoping period ended June 30, 1990. Santa Lucia Ranger District - July, 1990 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, and T.32 S., R.17 E., MDM. Santa Lucia Ranger District - March, 1988 Newsletter.

SANTA BARBARA COUNTY

Environmental Analyses Being Scoped

Upper Oso Parking Lot Rehabilitation and Trailhead Development. Analysis to determine appropriate parking and trailhead development for various user groups using two existing parking areas in T.6 N., R.27 W., Section 31. The assessment will address rehabilitation of one area for OHV/mountain bikes accessing the Buckhorn/Camuesa Road with parking to accommodate trailers. The other area will be devoted to equestrians and hikers accessing the Santa Cruz and Aliso Trails with emphasis on trailhead development. Comments should be submitted to the District Ranger by June 30, 1990. Santa Barbara Ranger District - May, 1990 Newsletter.

Environmental Analyses Completed **None.**

Environmental Analyses Documented

Southern California Edison 66kv Powerline. The Draft EIS/EIR for Phase I of the 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, was released June, 1990. A joint Forest Service-Santa Barbara County public hearing on the proposed powerline was held July 12, 1990. Comments on the Draft EIS/EIR will be accepted until July 26, 1990. Please direct comments and questions to Joan Brandoff-Kerr. Santa Barbara Ranger District - March, 1988 Newsletter.

Environmental Analyses In Progress

Exxon Test Well. Analysis of Exxon USA's application for a permit to drill an exploratory test well on an existing oil and gas lease near the mouth of Schoolhouse Canyon, southwest of New Cuyama, T.10 N., R.28 W., Section 21, SBBM. Exxon's proposal includes construction of a drill pad of 6-tenths of an acre, and improvement of an existing jeep trail for approximately 3600 feet. Scoping letters were mailed April 16, 1990; a field trip to the site occurred May 5; the scoping period ended May 9. Contact District Ranger Keith Guenther for additional information. Santa Lucia Ranger District - May, 1990 Newsletter.

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. Santa Barbara Ranger District - September, 1989 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 privately-owned land for nearby National Forest land in the vicinity of Highway 166. T.12 N., R.30 and 31 W., SBBM, and T.32 S., R.17 E., MDM. Santa Lucia Ranger District - March, 1988 Newsletter.

KERN COUNTY

Environmental Analyses Being Scoped

Mountain Bike Race. Proposal to conduct a mountain bike race in conjunction with annual Fiesta Days over Sand Springs Trail, Tecuya Mountain Road, and O'Neil Peak Road (T.9N., R.20W. and R.21W., several sections, SBBM). Mount Pinos Ranger District - July, 1990 Newsletter.

Wild Turkey Release. Analysis to determine the impact of introducing Merriams wild turkeys onto National Forest lands for the purpose of increasing the distribution of wild turkeys and providing additional recreational opportunities for hunters and bird watchers. This analysis will consider introductions to timbered areas such as Mt. Pinos, San Emigdio Mountain, Pine Mountain, Alamo Mountain, Frazier Mountain, Mt. Abel, Sawmill Mountain, Brush Mountain, and Tecuya Mountain. Questions about the proposal should be directed to Patty Bates (Mt. Pinos Ranger District) or George Garcia (Ojai Ranger District). The public scoping period has been extended to August 10, 1990. Mount Pinos and Ojai Ranger Districts - May, 1990 Newsletter.

Environmental Analyses Completed

Chula Vista Meadow Rehabilitation Project. A decision to approve the proposed watershed improvement project at Chula Vista Meadow was signed by the Acting District Ranger on June 4, 1990. The selected alternative consists of installing gully plugs and check dams in the existing gullies coming off the parking lot near the ski trail and extending into the meadow. The impacted area is approximately 5 acres in size. Preparation of a Decision Memo was not required. T.9 N., R.21 W., Section 33, SBBM. Mount Pinos Ranger District.

Environmental Analyses Documented **None.**

Environmental Analyses in Progress

Mil Potrero Pre-Commercial Thinning/Salvage Sale. The 60 acre project will thin existing Jeffrey pine plantations and remove dead and dying Jeffrey pine. (T.9 N., R.22 W., Section 24, SBBM). Mount Pinos Ranger District - May, 1990 Newsletter.

McGill Handicapped Interpretive Trail. Proposed modification of approximately 1/4 mile of the existing Whitethorn Nature Trail near the McGill Campground to make it accessible to handicapped visitors. Would include 800-1000 feet of re-route and hard surfacing of the trail. T.9 N., R.21 W., Section 35, SBBM. Mount Pinos Ranger District - March, 1990 Newsletter.

VENTURA COUNTY

Environmental Analyses Being Scoped

Goldhill/Alamo Event Analysis. Proposal to hold competitive motorized events on roads and OHV routes in the Goldhill, Frazier Mountain, Alamo Mountain areas. This is an analysis on a decision that was previously withdrawn by the Forest Supervisor. Mount Pinos Ranger District - July, 1990 Newsletter.

Wild Turkey Release. Analysis to determine the impact of introducing Merriams wild turkeys onto National Forest lands for the purpose of increasing the distribution of wild turkeys and providing additional recreational opportunities for hunters and bird watchers. This analysis will consider introductions to timbered areas such as Mt. Pinos, San Emigdio Mountain, Pine Mountain, Alamo Mountain, Frazier Mountain, Mt. Abel, Sawmill Mountain, Brush Mountain and Tecuya Mountain. Questions about the proposal should be directed to Patty Bates (Mt. Pinos Ranger District) or George Garcia (Ojai Ranger District). The public scoping period has been extended to August 10, 1990. Mount Pinos and Ojai Ranger Districts - May, 1990 Newsletter.

Environmental Analyses Completed

Ballinger Spring Exclosure. A decision to approve the proposal to install an exclosure fence around Ballinger Spring to protect the area from vehicle and livestock impacts was signed by the Acting District Ranger on March 27, 1990. T.9 N., R.24 W., Section 12, SBBM. Mount Pinos Ranger District - May, 1990 Newsletter.

Apache Canyon Spring Exclosures. A decision to approve the proposal to install an exclosure fence around Kettering Spring and Apache Spring to protect the areas from vehicle and livestock impacts was signed by the Acting District Ranger on March 27, 1990. T.8 N., R.21 W., Sections 14 and 19, SBBM. Mount Pinos Ranger District - May, 1990 Newsletter.

Reyes Creek Fisheries Habitat Project. A decision to approve the proposal to improve native cold water fisheries habitat in Reyes Creek by removing log and debris dams, constructing channel blocks and deflectors, and improving bank protection was signed by the Acting District Ranger on July 9, 1990. Preparation of a Decision Memo was not required. T.7 N., R.23 W., Sections 26, 27 and 35, SBBM. Mount Pinos Ranger District - May, 1990 Newsletter.

Environmental Analyses Documented **None.**

Environmental Analyses in Progress

Thorn Meadow Watershed Improvement Project. Proposal to rehabilitate erosion gullies and stabilize the meadow system utilizing rock dams, fencing and willow plantings. T.6 N., R.21 W., Section 9, SBBM. Mount Pinos Ranger District - May, 1990 Newsletter.

Cowhead Potrero Watershed Project. Proposal to rehabilitate illegal roads in Cowhead Potrero by ripping, seeding with native or naturalized vegetation, fertilizing and mulching. Area would be fenced and a hiking trail constructed in the old roadbed. T.9 N., R.23 W., Sections 11, 12, 13, and 14, SBBM. Mount Pinos Ranger District - May, 1990 Newsletter.

Department of Water Resources Stream Gauge. Proposal to locate a stream gauge station near Hardluck Campground to replace a gauge station currently in Piru Gorge when that station is no longer operational. T.7 N., R.19 W., Section 13, SBBM. Mount Pinos Ranger District - March, 1990 Newsletter.

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 - March, 1990 Newsletter.

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 - March, 1990 Newsletter.

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 hunters, etc. T.7 N., R.21 W., Sections 11, 12, 14, 15, 16, SBBM. Mount Pinos Ranger District - March, 1990 Newsletter.

Tejon OHV Trail Re-Route and Widening. Would reroute 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, SBBM. Mount Pinos Ranger District - March, 1990 Newsletter.

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, SBBM. Mount Pinos Ranger District - March, 1990 Newsletter.

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.

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Last Environmental Newsletter issued: May, 1990.

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 publication or distribution of the newsletter.