



LOS PADRES NATIONAL FOREST ENVIRONMENTAL NEWSLETTER

November 1990

ABOUT THIS NEWSLETTER

The purpose of the "Environmental Newsletter" is to encourage public input to on going 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 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.

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

MONTEREY COUNTY

Environmental Analyses Being Scoped

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 has decided to prepare an Environmental Impact Statement and will issue a Notice of Intent to begin that process. T.20 S., R.3 E., MDM. Monterey Ranger District - November, 1989 Newsletter.

Pacific Unified School District. Study to determine location of permanent school structures 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.

Environmental Analyses Completed

None.

Environmental Analyses Documented

None.

Environmental Analyses in Progress

Nacimiento Creek Area Soil and Water Rehabilitation Project. Analysis of proposal to rehabilitate old rutted non-system roads near Nacimiento Creek. T.22 S., R.5 E., Sections 15 and 16, MDM. Contact Paul Thomas for further information. Monterey Ranger District - September, 1990 Newsletter.

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

SAN LUIS OBISPO COUNTY

Environmental Analyses Being Scoped

West Cuesta Shooting Area. Analysis to determine whether or not to continue to allow target shooting along West Cuesta Ridge. Public scoping will begin in January, 1991. T.29 S., R.12 E., and T.30 S., R.12 E., MDM. Santa Lucia Ranger District - November, 1990 Newsletter.

Environmental Analyses Completed

None.

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. 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 in the Chimineas and Gifford Allotments. Proposed as a watershed protection measure, the project is located north of Hwy 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.

Santa Lucia Ranger District Trails Management Plan. Analysis of current and future management of the hiking, horseback riding, and OHV trails in the San Luis Obispo County portion of the Forest. An EIS is being prepared. 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 Hwy 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

Aliso Trail Re-Route. Proposal to re-route 3-4 miles of the Aliso Trail accessing McPherson Peak. Trail is located in very steep terrain subject to erosion and incapable of holding the trail. T.10 N., R.27 W., Sections 31, 32 and 33; T.9 N., R.27 W., Section 6, SBBM. Mount Pinos Ranger District - November, 1990 Newsletter.

Santa Barbara Trail Re-Route. Proposal to re-route a one mile section of the trail within the Dick Smith Wilderness. Trail is on an old dozer line, is very steep, and difficult to access. T.7 N., R.26 W., Sections 1 and 2, SBBM. Mount Pinos Ranger District - November, 1990 Newsletter.

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. Santa Barbara Ranger District - March, 1988 Newsletter.

Upper Oso Parking Lot Rehabilitation and Trailhead Development. Analysis to determine appropriate parking and trailhead development using two existing parking areas in T.6 N., R.27 W., Section 31. Santa Barbara Ranger District - May, 1990 Newsletter.

Santa Cruz Vegetation Management Project. Vegetation management project in 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 private land for nearby National Forest land in the vicinity of Hwy 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

Nordic Ski School and Guided Tours. Proposal to conduct a nordic ski school and guided tours on existing trails on Mount Pinos. No improvements are associated with this proposal. T.9N., R.21 W., Sections 32 and 33, T.8 N., R.21 W., Section 6, SBBM. Mount Pinos Ranger District - November, 1990 Newsletter.

Track-Set Nordic Ski Trail Concessionaire. Proposal to conduct nordic ski instruction and guided tours, grooming and minor maintenance of existing trails and sales of minor ski supplies on Mount Pinos. Temporary shelter is proposed for base of operations to be located at McGill Campground entrance. T.9 N., R.21 W., Sections 33, 34 and 35, SBBM. Mount Pinos Ranger District - November, 1990 Newsletter.

Environmental Analyses Completed None.

Environmental Analyses Documented None.

Environmental Analyses in Progress

T.A.T. Mineral Exploration. Proposal to drill 2 holes per access in the alluvial fan area near Frazier Park. Holes to be a maximum of 100 feet deep and 20 inches in diameter. Samples from drilling will be processed on site through a trommell/water separation unit. No new road construction. T.9 N., R.19 W., Section 32, SBBM. Mount Pinos Ranger District - September, 1990 Newsletter.

Mount Pinos Prescribed Burn. Analysis to determine appropriate treatment of 800 acres of decadent chaparral to improve deer herd habitat on Mount Pinos, T.9 N., R.21 W., SBBM. Mount Pinos Ranger District - September, 1990 Newsletter.

Wild Turkey Release. Analysis to determine the impact of introducing Merriams wild turkeys onto National Forest lands. Analysis will consider introductions to timbered areas such as Mount Pinos, San Emigdio Mountain, Pine Mountain, Alamo Mountain, Frazier Mountain, Mount Abel, Sawmill Mountain, Brush Mountain, and Tecuya Mountain. Mount Pinos and Ojai Ranger Districts - May, 1990 Newsletter.

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.

VENTURA COUNTY

Environmental Analyses Being Scoped

Seneca Resources Oil Exploration. Proposal by Seneca Resources Corporation to drill an exploratory oil well on an existing Federal oil and gas lease in the Sespe Oil Field, approximately 7 miles north of Fillmore. Seneca is requesting permission to construct a 0.6 acre drill pad for a single test well. Road access to the site already exists. Construction and drilling operation would take approximately 4-5 weeks. If the well is successful, Seneca may eventually drill seven more wells from the same location. If the well proves non-productive, all disturbed areas will be reclaimed. T.5 N., R.19 W., Section 21, SBBM. Public comments will be accepted through November 30, 1990. Address questions or concerns to Al Hess, Lands and Minerals Officer. Ojai Ranger District - November, 1990 Newsletter.

Environmental Analyses Completed **None.**

Environmental Analyses Documented **None.**

Environmental Analyses in Progress

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.

Goldhill/Alamo Event Analysis. Proposal to hold competitive motorized events on roads and OHV routes in the Goldhill, Frazier Mountain, Alamo Mountain areas. Mount Pinos Ranger District - July, 1990 Newsletter.

B&M Mineral Exploration. Proposal to excavate and process material from a 30-foot by 30-foot by 20-foot deep hole adjacent to the San Guillermo drainage near Lockwood Valley Road, T.7 N., R.21 W., Section 10, SBBM. Material will be processed through a screen and water concentrator. No new road construction necessary. Mount Pinos Ranger District - September, 1990 Newsletter.

Wild Turkey Release. Analysis to determine the impact of introducing Merriams wild turkeys onto National Forest lands. Analysis will consider introductions to timbered areas such as Mount Pinos, San Emigdio Mountain, Pine Mountain, Alamo Mountain, Frazier Mountain, Mount Abel, Sawmill Mountain, Brush Mountain and Tecuya Mountain. Mount Pinos and Ojai Ranger Districts - 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, SBB M. Mount Pinos Ranger District - March, 1990 Newsletter.

Goldhill Campground and Staging Area Development. Determine conceptual plan for improving facilities at Goldhill Campground 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 Campground and Hungry Valley State Vehicle Recreation Area 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 4 X4 trail around four meadow areas and rehabilitate impacts. 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 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 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.

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.

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.

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