



# LOS PADRES NATIONAL FOREST ENVIRONMENTAL NEWSLETTER

March 1991

## 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

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 Gerry Little

## MONTEREY COUNTY

**Environmental Analyses Being Scoped** **None.**  
*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.

**Environmental Analyses Completed**  
*Piney Creek Guzzler Modification.* A Decision Memo was signed 1/29/91 approving a proposal to enhance the effectiveness of the existing upland game guzzlers. T.19 S., R.4 E., Section 1, MDM. Monterey Ranger District - January, 1991 Newsletter.

**Environmental Analyses Documented** **None.**

**Environmental Analyses In Progress**  
*Optical Interferometer in Vicinity of Anderson Peak.* Analysis of a U.S. Naval Observatory proposal to place an electronic amplification (navigational) device and associated facilities along Anderson Peak Ridge or Chews Ridge. The Navy is preparing an Environmental Impact Statement. The public scoping period was November 16, 1990 through January 16, 1991. The Draft EIS should be completed in September, 1991. T.20 S., R.3 E., MDM. Monterey Ranger District - November, 1989 Newsletter.

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

## SAN LUIS OBISPO COUNTY

**Environmental Analyses Being Scoped**  
*Cosgrove Special Use Road.* Analysis to determine whether or not to issue a permit to allow construction, use and maintenance of approximately 275 feet of private access road across National Forest System lands. Public scoping will occur in March. T.28 S., R.11 E., Section 26, MDM. Santa Lucia Ranger District - March, 1991 Newsletter.

*Rockfront Allotment Management Plan.* Analysis of the Rockfront grazing Allotment Management Plan (AMP) to insure that it is in compliance with the Land Management

Plan and that all revisions and reissuance of the permit are done in compliance with NEPA. Public scoping will begin in March, 1991. T.32 S., R.17 E., MDM. Santa Lucia Ranger District - January, 1991 Newsletter.

*Wild Horse Management Plan Revision.* Analysis of the Wild Horse Management Plan, which was approved in 1980, to see if revisions need to be made to fit current conditions. Public scoping letters were sent out February 20. T.29 S., R.15 E., MDM. Santa Lucia Ranger District - January, 1991 Newsletter.

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

**Environmental Analyses Documented**  
*West Cuesta Rehabilitation, Part II.* A Decision Notice and Finding of No Significant Impact was signed on December 21, 1990. This Decision Notice documents the analysis to 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.

**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 to determine 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.32 S., R.18 E., 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.

*Santa Lucia District Trails Management Plan.* Analysis of current and future management of the trail system in the San Luis Obispo County portion of the Forest. A Draft Environmental Impact Statement should be completed by June 1, 1991. Santa Lucia Ranger District - July, 1990 Newsletter.

*Garcin Land Exchange.* Analysis of a 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.

**Environmental Analyses Postponed**  
*West Cuesta Shooting Area.* Due to changes in District work priorities, this analysis to determine the future of target shooting along West Cuesta Ridge has been postponed until further notice. T.29 S., R.12 E., and T.30 S., R.12 E., MDM. Santa Lucia Ranger District - November, 1990 Newsletter.

## SANTA BARBARA COUNTY

**Environmental Analyses Being Scoped**  
*Sisquoc Allotment Management Plan.* Analysis of the Sisquoc grazing Allotment Management Plan (AMP) to insure that it is in compliance with the Land Management Plan and that all revisions and reissuance of the permit are done in compliance with NEPA. Public scoping will begin in March, 1991. T.9 N., R.29 W., SBBM. Santa Lucia Ranger District - January, 1991 Newsletter.

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

**Environmental Analyses Documented** **None.**

**Environmental Analyses In Progress**  
*Aliso Trail Re-Route.* Analysis of a proposal to re-route 3-4 miles of the Aliso Trail which accesses McPherson Peak. The 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.* Analysis of a proposal to re-route a one mile section of the trail within the Dick Smith Wilderness. The trail is on an old dozer line, is very steep, and is difficult to access. T.7 N., R.26 W., Sections 1 and 2, SBBM. Mount Pinos Ranger District - November, 1990 Newsletter.

*Southern California Edison 66kv Powerline.* Analysis of a 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. A Draft EIS/EIR was released for public review in June, 1990. Revisions are being made. Santa Barbara Ranger District - March, 1988 Newsletter.

*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. Santa Barbara Ranger District - May, 1990 Newsletter.

*Santa Cruz Vegetation Management Project.* Analysis of a 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.* Analysis to determine the 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.* Analysis of a 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

*Y Thinning.* Analysis of a proposal to thin approximately 5 acres at the existing Penny Pines plantation at the Mil Potrero Highway ("Y") intersection for health, vigor and survival of the plantation. T.9 N., R.21 W., Section 26, SBBM. Mount Pinos Ranger District - March, 1991 Newsletter.

### Environmental Analyses Completed

None.

### Environmental Analyses Documented

*Wilderness Institute Ski Proposal.* A Decision Memo was signed January 18, 1991 approving issuance of a permit for weekend guided nordic ski tours and instruction through the Wilderness Institute. Approval was based on the conditions of no exclusive use of existing trails or parking locations and no improvements. Mount Pinos Ranger District - March, 1991 Newsletter.

### Environmental Analyses in Progress

*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.

*Mil Potrero Pre-Commercial Thinning/Salvage Sale.*

Analysis of a proposal to thin existing Jeffrey pine plantations and remove dead and dying Jeffrey pine on 60 acres. T.9 N., R.22 W., Section 24, SBBM. Mount Pinos Ranger District - May, 1990 Newsletter.

## VENTURA COUNTY

### Environmental Analyses Being Scoped

*Reyes Creek Trailhead.* Proposal to improve the existing Piedra Blanca (22W03) trailhead at Reyes Creek. Improvements at the trailhead may consist of minor grading work, paving of existing access road and parking area, and construction of a restroom facility. T.7 N., R.19 W., Section 27, SBBM. Mount Pinos Ranger District - January, 1991 Newsletter.

### Environmental Analyses Completed

None.

### Environmental Analyses Documented

None.

### Environmental Analyses in Progress

*Seneca Resources Oil Exploration.* Analysis of a 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 exists. Construction and drilling operation would take approximately 4-5 weeks. If the well is successful, Seneca may 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. Ojai Ranger District - November, 1990 Newsletter.

*Smith Fork/Snowy Trail Reroute.* Analysis of a proposal to relocate a portion of Snowy Creek Trail in conjunction with a wildlife habitat enhancement project in the Smith Fork area. T.7 N., R.19 W., Section 10, SBBM. Mount Pinos Ranger District - July, 1989 Newsletter.

*Goldhill/Alamo Event Analysis.* Analysis of a 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.

*Department of Water Resources Stream Gauge.* Analysis of a 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.* Development of a 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", restrooms, 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.* Analysis to determine if a route between Goldhill Campground and Hungry Valley State Vehicle Recreation Area is acceptable, and where the route might be. 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.*

Analysis of a proposal to re-route the existing 4X4 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.* Analysis of proposal to re-route a steep eroded section of the trail and rehabilitate the eroded area. Route 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.* Analysis of 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.* Analysis of a proposed easement for an existing road extending from the Rose Valley Lower Lake to private land. 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**

Kathleen Jordan - 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: January , 1991.**

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.