



LOS PADRES NATIONAL FOREST ENVIRONMENTAL NEWSLETTER

May 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, the responsible Forest Service office, and the date the project was first addressed in the newsletter. Analyses are listed by county and by categories which correspond to the environmental analysis process.

Environmental Analyses Being Scoped

This section 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. The Decision Memo contains the responsible forest officer's explanation of his/her decision to exclude a proposed action from documentation in an EA or EIS.

Environmental Analyses Documented

This section addresses recently completed EA's and Draft and Final EIS's.

Environmental Analyses In Progress

This section 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 None.

Environmental Analyses Completed None.

Environmental Analyses Documented None.

Environmental Analyses In Progress

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 District - November, 1989.

Optical Interferometer. 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 a Draft Environmental Impact Statement which should be completed in September, 1991. T.20 S., R.3 E., MDM. Monterey District - November, 1989.

Nacimiento Creek Soil and Water Rehabilitation. 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 District - September, 1990.

SAN LUIS OBISPO COUNTY

Environmental Analyses Being Scoped

Rockfront Allotment Management Plan. Analysis of the Rockfront Grazing Allotment Management Plan (AMP) to insure that it is in compliance with the Forest Plan and that all revisions and reissuance of the permit are in compliance with NEPA. Public scoping will begin in May, 1991. T.32 S., R.17 E., MDM. Santa Lucia District - January, 1991.

Environmental Analyses Completed

Chimineas Road Rehabilitation and Maintenance. A Decision Memo was signed March 5, 1991 allowing rehabilitation and maintenance, including one reroute and closure, on administrative roads within the Chimineas and Gifford grazing allotments. T.32 S., R.18 E., MDM. Santa Lucia District - May, 1990.

Environmental Analyses Documented

Hi Mountain Enduro. A Decision Notice and Finding of No Significant Impact was signed March 13, 1991, approving the issuance of a special use permit to the Cal Poly Penguins motorcycle club for their April enduro. That decision was withdrawn April 12, 1991, due to inadequacies in the environmental document. A new document will be prepared which will include an expanded biological evaluation and a broader range of alternatives, including one which will consider the feasibility of holding the enduro during the fall. Public scoping will occur when the new environmental analysis begins (date to be determined). Santa Lucia District - May, 1991.

Cosgrove Special Use Road. A Decision Notice and Finding of No Significant Impact was signed April 11, 1991, allowing construction, use and maintenance of approximately 275 feet of private access road across National Forest lands. T.28 S., R.11 E., Section 26, MDM. Santa Lucia District - March, 1991.

Environmental Analyses in Progress

Wild Horse Management Plan Revision. Review of the current Wild Horse Management Plan (approved in 1980) to see if revisions are needed. T.29 S., R.15 E., MDM. Santa Lucia District - January, 1991.

Black Mountain Fuels Management Plan. Analysis to determine appropriate treatment, including prescribed burning, of 35,000 acres in the Black Mountain area. T. 29 S., R.15 E., MDM. Santa Lucia District - May, 1990.

Big Rocks Fuels Management Plan. Analysis to determine appropriate treatment of 29,000 acres located north and east of Twitchell Reservoir. T.32 S., R.16 and 17 E., MDM. Santa Lucia District - July, 1989.

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 is being prepared. Santa Lucia District - July, 1990.

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 District - March, 1988.

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 Forest Plan and that all revisions and reissuance of the permit are in compliance with NEPA. Public scoping will begin in May, 1991. T.9 N., R.29 W., SBBM. Santa Lucia District - January, 1991.

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 trail which accesses McPherson Peak. T.10 N., R.27 W., Sections 31, 32 and 33; T.9 N., R.27 W., Section 6, SBBM. Mount Pinos District - November, 1990.

Falls Trail Reroute. Analysis of a proposal to re-route the trail in the San Rafael Wilderness. T.7 and 8 N., R.27 W., SBBM. Santa Lucia District - May, 1989.

Santa Barbara Trail Re-Route. Analysis of a proposal to re-route a one mile section of the trail within the Dick Smith Wilderness. T.7 N., R.26 W., Sections 1 and 2, SBBM. Mount Pinos District - November, 1990.

Southern California Edison 66kv Powerline. Joint Santa Barbara County/Forest Service analysis of a proposal to construct a 19.3 mile, 66kv transmission line between Goleta and Gaviota, including a small segment on National Forest land. Revisions to the Draft EIS/EIR are being made. Santa Barbara District - March, 1988.

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. T.6 N., R.27 W., Section 31. Santa Barbara District - May, 1990.

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 District - September, 1989.

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 District - March, 1988.

KERN COUNTY

Environmental Analyses Being Scoped

None.

Environmental Analyses Completed

None.

Environmental Analyses Documented

Mil Potrero Pre-Commercial Thinning/Salvage Sale. This analysis has been documented and approved in a Decision Memo dated March 28, 1991. The project will involve thinning existing Jeffrey pine plantations and removing dead and dying trees on 60 acres. T.9 N., R.22 W., Section 24, SBBM. Mount Pinos District - May, 1990.

Environmental Analyses In Progress

Y Thinning. Analysis of proposal to thin approximately 5 acres of the Penny Pines plantation at the Mil Potrero Highway ("Y") intersection. The purpose of the thinning is to promote the health, vigor and survival of the trees. T.9 N., R. 21 W., Section 26, SBBM. Mount Pinos District - March, 1991.

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 District - September, 1990.

VENTURA COUNTY

Environmental Analyses Being Scoped

Piru Creek Dredging Operation. Analysis of a proposal to dredge seven sample holes in Piru Creek, just south of Hardluck Campground. Operator would remove approximately 5 cubic yards of stream bottom material from each hole, process it through a dredging machine and return it to the hole. Concentrates (heavier gold-bearing materials) would be removed from the National Forest for further processing. The project would occur over a five year period. T.7 N., R.19 W., Section 24, SBBM. The public scoping period closes May 24, 1991. For further information, contact Lands/Minerals Officer, Judy Adams. Mount Pinos District - May, 1991.

Reyes Creek Fishing Access. Proposal to modify a campsite to provide for full accessibility and to build a ramp and walkway to improve fishing opportunities for the physically challenged. T.7 N., R.23 W., Section 27, SBBM. Mount Pinos District - May, 1991.

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

Environmental Analyses Completed

Seneca Oil Exploration. A Decision Notice and Finding of No Significant Impact was signed April 8, 1991. The decision was to permit Seneca Resources Corporation to drill a maximum of two wells on an existing Federal lease in the Sespe Oil Field, approximately 7 miles north of Fillmore. Seneca requested permission to construct a 0.6 acre drill pad from which to drill the wells. Road access to the site exists. Construction is scheduled to begin in early June, 1991; pad construction and drilling are expected to last about six weeks. The decision approves the project proposed by Seneca with mitigation added to eliminate or reduce the impacts on the affected lands and resources. T.5 N., R.19 W., Section 21, SBBM. Ojai District - November, 1990.

Environmental Analyses Documented

Rose Valley Road Permit. A Decision Memo was signed April 19, 1991. The decision is to issue a permit for use of an existing Forest road serving as access to private lands inside the National Forest. This is an administrative action extending the rights of use of an existing road to another private landowner. T.5 N., R.22 W., Section 4, SBBM. Ojai District - March, 1988.

Environmental Analyses In Progress

Smith Fork/Snowy Trail Reroute. Analysis of a proposal to re-route a portion of the 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 District - July, 1989.

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 District - July, 1990.

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. T.7 N., R.19 W., Section 13, SBBM. Mount Pinos District - March, 1990.

Goldhill Campground and Staging Area Development. Development of a conceptual plan for improving facilities at the campground and adjacent 80 acres purchased for OHV use with greensticker funds. Includes campsites, OHV "play area", restrooms, parking. T.7 N., R.20 W., Sections 6 & 18, SBBM. Mount Pinos District - March, 1990.

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. 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 District - March, 1990.

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 District - March, 1990.

Fishbowls Trail Re-Route. Analysis of a proposal to re-route the trail to avoid private land and the low-lying zone along Piru Creek which is susceptible to floods. 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 District - March, 1990.

Recreational Shooting Policy Review. District-wide review of existing shooting patterns and closures to determine if changes should be made, with focus on the Highway 33 corridor. Ojai District - May, 1989.

Environmental Analyses Postponed

Tejon OHV Trail Re-Route and Widening. Analysis of a proposal to re-route a steep eroded section of the trail and rehabilitate the eroded area. Mount Pinos District - March, 1990.

RESPONSIBLE OFFICES

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Ojai District

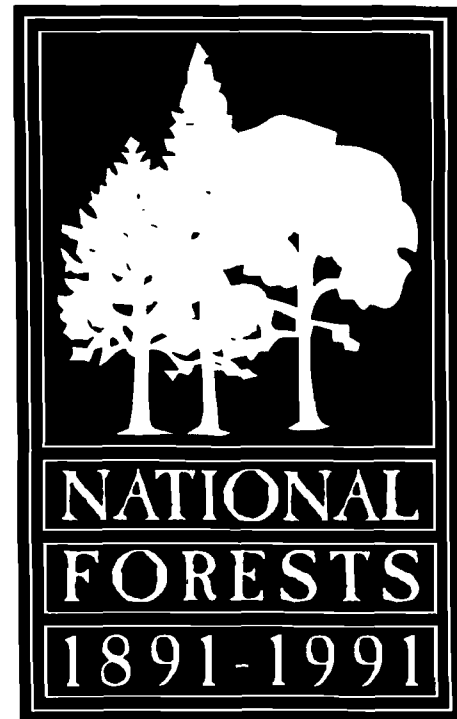
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Last Environmental Newsletter Issued: March, 1991.

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 contact Kathy Good in the Forest Supervisor's Office.



**Wise Use of
Your Natural
Resources**