



LOS PADRES NATIONAL FOREST ENVIRONMENTAL NEWSLETTER

July 1991

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. The newsletter is issued every other month and is intended to complement public participation 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. The 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 the environmental analyses described, opportunities for public participation, or the availability of documents, please contact the Forest Service 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 Planning Staff, Forest Supervisor's Office.

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. A letter asking for comment from known interested parties was sent on June 10, with the comment period open until August 15, 1991. T.32 S., R.17 E., MDM. Santa Lucia District - January, 1991.

Environmental Analyses Completed None.

Environmental Analyses Documented None.

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 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. The DEIS will be completed sometime after December 1, 1991. 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 revisions and reissuance of the permit are in compliance with NEPA. A letter asking for comment from known interested parties was mailed June 10, with the comment period open until August 15, 1991. T.9 N., R.29 W., SBBM. Santa Lucia District - January, 1991.

Los Prietos Boys Camp Improvements. Analysis of a proposal by Santa Barbara County to improve and relocate certain facilities at Los Prietos Boys Camp within the existing special use permit boundary. Public scoping will begin this summer. T.5 N., R.28 W., SBBM. Santa Barbara Ranger District - July, 1991.

Broadcast Peak Electronic Site Management Plan. Analysis for the Broadcast Peak Electronic Site Management Plan will take place in 1991-92. Public scoping will begin this summer. T.5 N., R.29 W., SBBM. Santa Barbara Ranger District - July, 1991.

Santa Cruz Vegetation Management Project. The Forest Service will re-enter a scoping phase for this project sometime in August. The project encompasses about 15,000 acres northeast of Lake Cachuma between Happy Canyon and Santa Cruz Creek. The objectives are to reduce fuel loading and wildfire acreage, improve water quality and quantity, increase wildlife habitat capability, and protect the San Rafael Wilderness from high risk fire occurrence areas associated with the Lake Cachuma Recreation Area. The primary tool to achieve these results will be prescribed fire. Santa Barbara District - September, 1989.

Environmental Analyses Completed **None.**

Environmental Analyses Documented

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. A Supplemental DEIS containing a Hybrid Alternative (which is entirely off National Forest lands) was released for public comment by Santa Barbara County and the Forest Service on or about June 21. The Forest Service comment period closes August 12, 1991. For more information, contact Alice McCurdy, Santa Barbara County Resource Management Department, 805-568-2020, or Marian Kadota, Santa Barbara Ranger District. Santa Barbara District - March, 1988.

Environmental Analyses In Progress

Aliso Trail Reroute. Analysis of a proposal to reroute 3-4 miles of the trail which accesses McPherson Peak. T.10 N., R.27 W., Sections 31, 32, 33; T.9 N., R.27 W., Section 6, SBBM. Mount Pinos District - November, 1990.

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

Santa Barbara Trail Reroute. Analysis of a proposal to reroute 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.

Upper Oso Parking Lot Rehabilitation and Trailhead Development. Analysis to determine appropriate parking and trailhead upgrading needed for various user groups using two existing parking areas in Upper Oso Campground. T.6 N., R.27 W., Section 31. Santa Barbara District - May, 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.

KERN COUNTY

Environmental Analyses Being Scoped **None.**

Environmental Analyses Completed **None.**

Environmental Analyses Documented **None.**

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 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

Construction of Powerlines in Sespe Oil Field. Analysis of proposal to construct powerlines to 5 existing drill sites in the Sespe oil field. Total length would be approximately 1/2 mile. The purpose is to convert the power source at the sites from diesel engine to electricity in order to improve air quality. T.5 N., R.19 W. Ojai Ranger District - July, 1991.

Environmental Analyses Completed

Undergrounding of Powerlines in Sespe Oil Field. A Decision Memo was signed June 17, 1991 approving the undergrounding of 3,500 feet of existing powerlines in the Sespe oil fields near Hopper Mountain. The undergrounding was requested by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service to protect the condor. T.4 N., R.19 W., Section 33. Ojai Ranger District - July, 1991.

Environmental Analyses Documented

None.

Environmental Analyses In Progress

Piru Creek Dredging Operation. Analysis of 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 2 4, 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.

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.

Smith Fork/Snowy Trail Reroute. Proposal to reroute a portion of the trail in conjunction with a wildlife habitat enhancement project at Smith Fork. 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 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 Reroute. Analysis of a proposal to reroute 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 Highway 33 corridor. Ojai District - May, 1989.

RESPONSIBLE OFFICES

Los Padres National Forest

Lawrence Bembry - Acting Forest Supervisor
6144 Calle Real
Goleta, CA 93117
(805) 683-6711

Monterey District

Kathleen Jordan - District Ranger
406 S. Mildred
King City, CA 93930
(408) 385-5434

Santa Lucia District

Keith Guenther - District Ranger
1616 N. Carlotti Drive
Santa Maria, CA 93454
(805) 925-9538

Santa Barbara District

Patrick Pontes - District Ranger
Star Route
Santa Barbara, CA 93105
(805) 967-3481

Ojai District

Ron Bassett - District Ranger
1190 E. Ojai Avenue
Ojai, CA 93023
(805) 646-4348

Mount Pinos District

Trinidad Juarez - District Ranger
Star Route, Box 400
Frazier Park, CA 93225
(805) 245-3731

Last Environmental Newsletter issued: May, 1991.

For inquiries regarding printing or distribution of this newsletter, please contact Kathy Good in the Forest Supervisor's Office.



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