



LOS PADRES NATIONAL FOREST ENVIRONMENTAL NEWSLETTER

November 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. 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. It 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 Planning Officer Gerry Little in the Forest Supervisor's Office.

MONTEREY COUNTY

Environmental Analyses Being Scoped

Twitchel Allotment Management Plan. Analysis of the Twitchel Grazing Allotment Management Plan (AMP) to ensure that it is in compliance with the Forest Plan and that all revisions and reissuance of the permit are in compliance with the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA). T.22 S., R.4 E., Sections 23-25, MDBM. Monterey Ranger District - November, 1991.

Environmental Analyses Completed

Abbott Lakes Fish Habitat Enhancement. In a Decision Memo signed September 15, 1991, the District Ranger approved plans to enhance fish habitat in Abbott Lakes in the Arroyo Seco area. Improvements include the placement of spawning gravel and brush to provide hiding habitat. Monterey Ranger District - November, 1991 .

Environmental Analyses Documented

Nacimiento Creek Soil and Water Rehabilitation. In a decision dated May 31, 1991, the District Ranger approved plans to rehabilitate old rutted non-system roads near Nacimiento Creek. T.22 S., R.5 E., Sections 15 and 16, MDBM. Monterey District - September, 1990.

Environmental Analyses in Progress

Pacific Unified School District. EIS to determine the location of permanent school structures along the Big Sur Coast between the Monterey/San Luis Obispo County line and Bumes Creek. T.23 S., R.5 E., Section 19, MDBM. Monterey District - November, 1989.

Optical Interferometer. Analysis of a U.S. Naval Observatory proposal to place an optical interferometer (a type of observatory) and associated facilities along Anderson Peak Ridge or Chews Ridge. T.20 S., R.3 E., MDBM. The Navy is preparing a Draft Environmental Impact Statement. For further information contact: Commanding Officer, Western Division, Naval Facilities Engineering Command, Attn: Patricia Duff, Code 1831, POB 727, San Bruno, CA, 94066. Monterey District - November, 1989.

SAN LUIS OBISPO COUNTY

Environmental Analyses Being Scoped None.

Environmental Analyses Completed

Gully Stabilization on Figueroa Mountain. In a Decision Memo signed September 3, 1991, the District Ranger approved a proposal to do erosion-control maintenance on two gullies in the Figueroa Mountain area. T.8 N., R.30 W., Sections 25 and 35, SBBM. Santa Lucia Ranger District - November, 1991.

Environmental Analyses Documented None.

Environmental Analyses In Progress

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

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., MDBM. 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., MDBM. 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., MDBM. 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., MDBM. Santa Lucia District - March, 1988.

SANTA BARBARA COUNTY

Environmental Analyses Being Scoped

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

Los Prietos Boys Camp Improvements. Analysis of proposal by the County of Santa Barbara to improve and relocate certain facilities at the Los Prietos Boy's Camp

within the existing special use permit boundary. T.5 N., R.28 W., SBBM. Public scoping will begin sometime this autumn. Santa Barbara Ranger District - July, 1991.

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

Santa Cruz Vegetation Management Project. Analysis of a proposed vegetation management project encompassing approximately 15,000 acres northeast of Lake Cachuma between Happy Canyon and Santa Cruz Creek. T.6 and 7 N., R.28 W., SBBM. 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 zones associated with the Lake Cachuma Recreation Area. The primary tool to achieve these results will be prescribed fire. Scoping will begin sometime this winter. Questions regarding this project should be directed to District Ranger Patrick Pontes. Santa Barbara District - September, 1989.

Environmental Analyses Completed

Santa Ynez Valley Arabian Horse Assn Competitive Ride. In a Decision Memo signed October 9, 1991, the District Ranger approved a proposal to hold a riding event on approximately fifty miles of trails and roads in the Santa Ynez River watershed. Santa Barbara Ranger District - September, 1991.

Los Angeles Orienteering Club Event. In a Decision Memo signed September 20, 1991, the District Ranger approved a proposal to hold an orienteering event in a 400 acre parcel off East Camino Cielo. T.5 N., R.27 W., Sections 18, 19, 20, and T.5 N., R.28 W., Section 24, SBBM. Santa Barbara Ranger District - September, 1991.

Nine Trails Ultra Run. In a Decision Memo signed October 22, 1991, the District Ranger approved a proposal to hold a recreational run on 17.5 miles of Santa Barbara front country trails. T.4 N., R.23 and 27 W., SBBM. Santa Barbara Ranger District - September, 1991.

Aliso Trail Re-Route. The District Ranger has approved a proposal to re-route a three to four mile section of the trail accessing 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.

Environmental Analyses Documented None.

Environmental Analyses In Progress

Sisquoc Allotment Management Plan. Analysis of the Sisquoc Grazing Allotment Management Plan (AMP) to ensure that it is in compliance with the Forest Plan and that all revisions and reissuance of the permit are in compliance with NEPA. T.9 N., R.29 W., SBBM. Santa Lucia District - January, 1991.

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

Upper Oso Parking Lot Rehabilitation and Trailhead Development. Analysis to determine appropriate parking and trailhead design to meet the needs of various user groups. T.6 N., R.27 W., Section 31, SBBM. 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

Nordic Skiing. Analysis of proposed nordic skiing instruction and guiding as well as grooming of ski trails in a limited area on Mount Pinos. Proposed activities are similar to those permitted in previous years. Public comments should be submitted by November 15, 1991. T.9 N., R.21 W., Sections 33, 34 and 35, SBBM. Mount Pinos District - November, 1991.

Environmental Analyses Completed

Mountain Bike Races. In a Decision Memo signed October 1, 1991, the District Ranger approved a proposal to conduct two mountain bicycle races on existing trails near Tecuya Mountain and O'Neil Park north of Frazier Park. T.9 N., R.20 W., Sections 22, 23, 24, 26, 27 and 35, SBBM; and T.9 N., R.19 W., Sections 30 and 31. SBBM. Mount Pinos District - September, 1991.

Y Thinning. In a Decision Memo signed August 29, 1991, the District Ranger approved plans to thin approximately five acres of the Penny Pines plantation at the Mil Potrero Highway "Y" intersection. T.9 N., R.21 W., Section 26, SBBM. Mount Pinos District - March, 1991.

Environmental Analyses Documented **None.**

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 District - September, 1990.

VENTURA COUNTY

Environmental Analyses Being Scoped **None**

Environmental Analyses Completed

Wild Cattle Removal. In a Decision Memo signed November 1, 1991, the District Ranger approved the live removal of an estimated 100 feral cattle from public lands inside and outside the Sespe Condor Sanctuary north of the Oak Flat Ranger Station. The cattle are damaging forest resources and pose a threat to public safety. Ojai District - November, 1991.

Environmental Analyses Documented None.

Environmental Analyses In Progress

Lockwood Valley OHV Trail Rehabilitation. Proposal to rehabilitate unauthorized OHV trails in Lockwood Valley. T.8 N., R.20 W., Sections 30 and 31, SBBM. The project would include ripping, seeding, mulching, and limited fencing of ten acres. Mount Pinos District - September, 1991.

Removal of Aircraft Wreckage. Analysis of a proposal by an aircraft salvage company to remove debris from several old crash sites on National Forest lands district-wide. Ojai District - September, 1991.

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

Smith Fork/Snowy Trail Reroute. Analysis of a proposal to re-route a section of the Snowy 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 on an 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 and 18, SBBM. Mount Pinos District - March, 1990.

Yellow Jacket OHV Trail Re-Route and Expansion. Analysis of a proposal to re-route the Yellow Jacket 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.

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.

Analyses Postponed

Goldhill to Hungry Valley OHV Trail. The analysis of a possible route between Goldhill Campground and Hungry Valley State Vehicle Recreation Area has been postponed indefinitely. Mount Pinos District - March, 1990.

Fishbowls Trail Re-Route. The analysis of a possible re-route of the Fishbowls Trail to avoid private land and the low lying area along Piru Creek has been postponed indefinitely. Mount Pinos District - March, 1990.

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Last Environmental Newsletter Issued: September, 1991.

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