

Los Padres National Forest

*** ENVIRONMENTAL NEWSLETTER ***

March, 1992

NOTE TO OUR READERS: We apologize for the different format this month, but we are experiencing problems with our computer!

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. 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.

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

Monterey County Cloud Seeding Unit. In a Decision Memo signed January 31, the District Ranger approved a proposal by Monterey County Water Resources Agency to place an experimental ground-based propane cloud seeding unit within the FAA VORTAC facility on Anderson Peak. T.20 S., R.3 E., Section 21, MDBM. Monterey Ranger District - March, 1992.

Monterey County Road Maintenance. In a Decision Memo signed December 16, 1991, the District Ranger approved a proposal to remove down trees and hazardous trees within 150 feet of centerline on Forest Service roads and Monterey County maintained roads traversing National Forest lands. Monterey Ranger District - March, 1992.

Environmental Analyses Documented

None.

Environmental Analyses In Progress

Silver Peak Prescribed Burn. Review of the existing Silver Peak Prescribed Burn EA for compliance with current policy and regulations. T.24 S., R.6 E., Section 17 and portions of sections 8, 9, 15, 16, 18, 19, 20, 21, 29 and 30, MDBM. Monterey Ranger District - March, 1992.

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 Burnes 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

None.

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.

Environmental Analyses Postponed or Cancelled

Garcin Land Exchange. This analysis has been terminated. The landowners have withdrawn their proposal. Santa Lucia District - March, 1988.

SANTA BARBARA COUNTY

Environmental Analyses Being Scoped

Pino Alto Interpretive Trail Reconstruction. Analysis of a proposal to repair and widen an existing paved interpretive trail to more fully allow access to people with disabilities. T.8 N., R.29 W., Section 30, SBBM. Scoping began in January, 1992. Santa Lucia Ranger District - March, 1992.

Foresters Leap Trail Reconstruction. Analysis of a proposal to reconstruct a two mile section of the Sisquoc River Trail near Foresters Leap in the San Rafael Wilderness. T.8 N., R.27 W., Sections 7, 17, 20 and 21, SBBM. Scoping began in January, 1992. Santa Lucia Ranger District - March, 1992.

Broadcast Peak Electronic Site Management Plan. Analysis for the Broadcast Peak Electronic Site Management Plan. Scoping will take place sometime this winter or spring. T.5 N., R.29 W., SBBM. 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

Figueroa Hazard Tree Removal. In a Decision Memo signed February 13, the District Ranger approved a proposal to cut down and remove approximately 150 dead trees posing a public safety hazard in Figueroa Campground and along the Lookout Road to the Cumbre picnic site. T.8 N., R.29 W., SBBM. Santa Lucia Ranger District - March, 1992.

Environmental Analyses Documented

None.

Environmental Analyses in Progress

Condor Feeding Platforms. Analysis of a proposal by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service to construct seven feeding sites (one on the Santa Barbara District, six on the Ojai District) to aid in the recovery of the California Condor. The sites would be located on flat rocky outcrops and where necessary, low voltage electrified fences would be constructed to protect the condors and their food from black bears. The fences would be the only structures at the sites and would be activated only in the presence of FWS personnel. The sites would be in place as long as needed. The analysis will address limited use of motorized vehicles (ie. quad runners) inside proposed wilderness to transport condor

food. Scoping took place in February. For further information, contact District Biologist George Garcia. Ojai Ranger District - March, 1992.

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. Santa Barbara Ranger District - July, 1991.

Paradise Homeowners Association Community Building. Analysis of a proposal to re-issue a special use permit for the improvement and use of the community building. T.5 N., R.28 W., Section 3, SBBM. Santa Barbara Ranger District - March, 1992.

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. Mount Pinos District - November, 1990.

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.

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.

Environmental Analyses Postponed or Cancelled

Garcin Land Exchange. Proposal to exchange National Forest lands for privately owned lands in the vicinity of Highway 166 to consolidate land ownership. The landowners have withdrawn their proposal. Santa Lucia District - March, 1988.

Falls Trail Reroute. Proposal to re-route the Falls Trail in the San Rafael Wilderness. This analysis has been postponed indefinitely because of a change in priorities. Santa Lucia District - May, 1989.

KERN COUNTY

Environmental Analyses Being Scoped

Dwarf Mistletoe Suppression. Analysis of a proposal to suppress western dwarf mistletoe in campgrounds and organizational camps within the Mount Pinos Recreation area. The project encompasses approximately 150 acres and includes combinations of light thinning, and single tree cuts, pruning branches, and planting non-host and resistant tree species. The purpose is to maintain healthy stands of trees within campgrounds and organizational camps for recreational and amenity values. T.8 N., R.21 W., Section 4; T.9 N., R.21 W., Sections 33-35; and T.9 N., R.21 W., Sections 23, 24 and 26, SBBM. Mount Pinos District - March, 1992.

Mountain Cablevision Fiber Optic Cable. Analysis of a proposal received from Mountain Cablevision to install a fiber optic cable adjacent to the existing Mil Potrero Highway road and utility right-of-way from the intersection of Cuddy Valley Road and Mil Potrero Highway to the private property boundary of Pine Mountain Club. T.9 N., R.21 W., Sections 22, 23 and 26, SBBM. Mount Pinos District - March, 1992.

Environmental Analyses Completed

None.

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

Seneca Resources Oil Exploration. Analysis of a proposal by Seneca Resources Corporation to drill an exploratory well on an existing Federal oil and gas lease in the Sespe Oil Field, approximately 7 miles north of Fillmore. This is the continuation of an analysis which began in 1990. T.5 N., R.15 W., Section 21, SBBM. For further information, contact District Lands Officer Al Hess. Ojai Ranger District - November, 1990.

Ojai Valley Gun Club. Analysis of a proposal to renew the existing special use permit for the club's facilities in Rose Valley. T.5 N., R.22 W., Section 4, SBBM. Ojai Ranger District - January, 1992.

Environmental Analyses Completed

None.

Environmental Analyses Documented

None.

Environmental Analyses in Progress

Condor Feeding Platform. Analysis of a proposal by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service to construct seven feeding sites (six on the Ojai Ranger District, one on the Santa Barbara District) to aid in the recovery of the California Condor. The sites would be located on flat rocky outcrops and where necessary, low voltage electrified fences would be constructed to protect the condors and their food from black bears. The fences would be the only structures at the sites and would be activated only in the presence of FWS personnel. The sites would be in place as long as needed. Analysis will address limited use of motorized vehicles (ie. quad runners) inside proposed wilderness to transport condor food. Scoping took place in February. For further information, contact District Biologist George Garcia. Ojai Ranger District - March, 1992.

Construction of Powerlines in Sespe Oil Field. Analysis of a 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. The District is awaiting a report from the State Historic Preservation Office. Ojai District - July, 1991.

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.

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.

RESPONSIBLE OFFICES

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Last Environmental Newsletter issued: January, 1992.

NOTE: 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. For information on the environmental analysis process, contact Forest Planning Officer Gerry Little. For inquiries regarding distribution of this newsletter, contact Kathy Good.

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