



# Los Padres National Forest ENVIRONMENTAL NEWSLETTER

September, 1992

## 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 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. For general information on the environmental analysis process, contact Forest Planning Officer Gerry Little. For all other matters regarding this newsletter, contact Kathy Good in the Public Affairs Office.

## MONTEREY COUNTY

### Environmental Analyses Being Scoped

*Twitchel Allotment Management Plan.* This analysis of the Twitchel Grazing Allotment Management Plan for compliance with the Forest Plan and NEPA has been temporarily delayed. A cultural resources review of the area has begun. The Forest Service archeologist is in consultation with the State Office of Historic Preservation regarding the cultural and historical significance of the area. T.22 S., R.4 E., Sections 23-25, MDB&M. Monterey District - November, 1991.

*Miguel Camp Water Impoundment Repair and Prescribed Burn Plan.* Analysis of a cooperative project with the CA Department of Fish and Game to ensure compliance with the Forest Plan and NEPA. T.23 S., R.5 E., Sections 11 and 14, MDB&M. Monterey District - September, 1992.

### Environmental Analyses Completed

*Silver Peak Prescribed Burn.* The review of the existing Silver Peak Prescribed Burn EA is complete. All identified issues were found to have been covered in the existing EA. T.24 S., R.6 E., Section 17 and portions of Sections 8, 9, 15, 16, 18, 19, 20, 21, 29 and 30, MDB&M. Monterey District - March, 1992.

### Environmental Analyses Documented

*Optical Interferometer.* A U.S. Naval Observatory (USNO) proposal to place an optical interferometer and associated facilities along Anderson Peak Ridge T.20 S., R.3 E., Section 16-17, or Chews Ridge, T.18 S., R.4 E., Section 6, MDB&M, and at a related site near Flagstaff, AZ. A Draft Environmental Impact Statement (issued July, 1992) was prepared by U.S. Department of Defense, Department of the Navy. 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.

### Environmental Analyses In Progress

*Pacific Unified School District.* EIS to determine the placement of permanent school facilities and structures on the expanded site of the present school, T.23 S., R.5 E., Section 19, MDB&M. For further information contact: Dr. Nancy Knapp, Associate Superintendent, Pacific Unified School District, Pacific Valley #1, Big Sur, CA 93920, (805-927-4507). Monterey District - November, 1989.

## **SAN LUIS OBISPO COUNTY**

**Environmental Analyses Being Scoped** None.

**Environmental Analyses Completed**  
*Cerro Alto Campground Well.* A Decision Memo was signed on September 1, approving the drilling of a new well in Cerro Alto Campground. T.29 S., R.11 E., Section 12, MDB&M. Santa Lucia District - September, 1992.

**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 permit revisions are in compliance with NEPA. T.32 S., R.17 E., MDB&M. 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., MDB&M. 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., MDB&M. 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., MDB&M. 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 will be ready for public review sometime in October. Santa Lucia District - July, 1990.

## **SANTA BARBARA COUNTY**

**Environmental Analyses Being Scoped**  
*Broadcast Peak Electronic Site Management Plan.* Analysis for the Broadcast Peak Electronic Site Management Plan. Scoping may take place sometime this fall. T.5 N., R.29 W., SBBM. Santa Barbara District - July, 1991.

**Environmental Analyses Completed**  
*Pino Alto Interpretive Trail Reconstruction.* A Decision Memo was signed on July 21, approving the 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 District - March, 1992.

**Environmental Analyses Documented**  
*Colson Quarry.* A Decision Notice/Finding of No Significant Impact was signed on July 29, allowing the Colson Quarry to remove 200 tons of rock material.

Excavation is limited to the area of the present quarry. Sidecasting of material will not be allowed. T.10 N., R.31 W., Section 16, SBBM. Santa Lucia District - September, 1992.

**Environmental Analyses In Progress**  
*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. Questions or comments regarding this project should be directed to District Ranger Patrick Pontes. Santa Barbara District - September, 1989.

*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. Santa Lucia District - March, 1992.

*Seismic Exploration.* Analysis of a proposal from Western Geophysical to conduct seismic oil exploration activities using fibroseis "thumper" trucks in Quatal Canyon, Santa Barbara Canyon and Pato Canyon. T.9 N., R.24 W., Sections 25, 34, 35 and 36; T.8 N., R.25 W., Section 1; T.9 N., R.25 W., Section 27, SBBM. Mount Pinos District - May, 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 District - July, 1991.

*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 permit revisions 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.

## KERN COUNTY

### Environmental Analyses Being Scoped

*O'Neil Canyon Gate Installation.* Analysis of a proposal to install one 14-foot gate and one 4-foot gate along existing fenceline in O'Neil Canyon. Gates will allow pedestrian and equestrian access but will prevent vehicular access. T.9 N., R.19 W., Section 29, SBBM. Mount Pinos District - September, 1992.

*O'Neil Canyon Reforestation.* Analysis of a proposal to reforest five acres of O'Neil Canyon as part of a wildlife enhancement program. The proposal includes planting 50 trees/acre of valley oak and canyon oak; and manual site preparation/release around each tree to remove competitive grasses, forbs, and brush. T.9 N., R.19 W., Section 29, SBBM. Mount Pinos District - September, 1992.

*Tecuya Fire Reforestation.* Analysis of a proposal to reforest approximately five acres of pinyon pine type stands burned within portions of the Tecuya Fire. The proposal includes planting 400 trees/acre of pinyon pine, Jeffrey pine, and black oak; and manual site preparation/release around each tree to remove competitive grasses, forbs, and brush. T.9 N., R.20 W., Section 27, SBBM. Mount Pinos District - September, 1992.

*Abandoned Mine Rehabilitation.* Analysis of a proposal to rehabilitate two areas disturbed by past mining operations. The project encompasses 10 acres on San Emigdio Mountain. The proposal includes filling, contouring and vegetating barren areas. T.9 N., R.22 W., Sections 13 and 15, SBBM. Mount Pinos District - May, 1992.

**Environmental Analyses Completed** None.

### Environmental Analyses Documented

*Mountain Bike Proposal.* A Decision Memo was signed on July 16, approving a proposal to use approximately 8.5 miles of National Forest roads and off-highway vehicle routes for competitive bicycle events in the Frazier Park area. T.9 N., R.20 W., Sections 22, 23, 24, 25, 26, and 35; T.9 N., R.19 W., Sections 30 and 31, SBBM. Mount Pinos District - July, 1992.

*Education Permits.* A Decision Memo was signed on July 16, approving issuance of permits for various outdoor education programs in the Mount Abel area. T.9 N., R.22 W., Section 26, SBBM. Mount Pinos District - July, 1992.

*Guzzler Installation.* A Categorical Exclusion was signed on August 31, 1992, approving installation of one parabolic guzzler in the Tecuya Mountain area. T.9 N., R.20 W., Section 19, SBBM. Mount Pinos District - May, 1992.

### Environmental Analyses In Progress

*T.A.T. Mineral Exploration.* Analysis of a proposal to conduct mineral exploration just east of the Frazier Park community. The proposal includes use of a backhoe to excavate several trenches in an alluvial fan area. Contents of each trench will be removed from the site and processed using water separation to remove heavier gold bearing minerals. Remaining material will be returned to the trench and rehabilitated. T.9 N., R.19 W., Section 32, SBBM. Mount Pinos District - July, 1992.

*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

*Re-route of Snowy Trail.* Re-analysis of a proposal to re-route a portion of the Snowy Trail to protect sensitive resources within the Smith Fork parcel. Scoping will occur in September. T.9 N., R.19 W., Section 14, SBBM. Mount Pinos District - September, 1992.

*Rose Valley Sheriff's Facility.* Analysis of a proposal to renew the existing special use permit for the Ventura County Sheriff's Department Rose Valley Work Camp. T.5 N., R.22 W., Section 4, SBBM. Ojai District - May, 1992.

*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 District - January, 1992.

*Piru Range Allotment.* Update of existing management plan for the Piru range allotment located northeast of Lake Piru. T.5 N., R.18 W., Sections 1, 11, 12, 13, 14, 15, 22, 23, 24, SBBM. Ojai District - September, 1992.

*Sespe Wilderness Trailheads.* Development of a plan to improve or construct seven trailheads for the newly designated Sespe Wilderness proposed to be located at Lion Campground (Sespe Creek), Blue Point Campground (Piru Creek), Dough Flat and Reyes Peak on the Ojai District; and Sewart Mountain, Mutau Flat and Cedar Creek/Fishbowls area on the Mt. Pinos District. Ojai and Mount Pinos Districts - September, 1992.

*Ojai Watershed Projects.* Analysis of a proposal to rehabilitate two small watershed areas on the Ojai District. One area consists of about 1/2 mile (3/4 acre) of old roadbed located west of Wheeler Gorge Campground. The second area is a steep, unstable 1/2 acre slope located between Superior Road and Santa Ana Creek. Rehabilitation of the areas will include ripping and applying mulch to the soil and seeding with native species. T.5 N., R.23 W., Section 15, and T.4 N., R. 24 W., Section 1, SBBM. Ojai District - September, 1992.

### **Environmental Analyses Completed**

*Guzzler Installation.* A Categorical Exclusion was signed on August 31, approving installation of one parabolic guzzler in Seymour Canyon. T.8 N., R.21 W., Section 10, SBBM. Mount Pinos District - May, 1992.

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

### **Environmental Analyses In Progress**

*Seymour Utility Line Construction.* Analysis for issuance of special use authorizations for underground utility lines within approximately one mile of the existing roadbed on Seymour Canyon Road. A proposal has been received from Southern California Edison to install electric line in the same location as a telephone line was constructed in 1989. T.8 N., R.21 W., Sections 13 and 24, SBBM. Mount Pinos District - September, 1992.

*Fish Fire and Lockwood Fire Reforestation.* Analysis of a proposal to reforest 150 acres of Jeffrey pine type stands burned within portions of the Fish and Lockwood fires. The proposal includes planting 200 trees per acre of jeffrey pine, incense cedar, and black oak; and manual site preparation/release around each tree to remove competitive grasses, forbes and brush. T.7 N., R.21 W., Sections 31, 32 and 35, SBBM. Mount Pinos District - July, 1992.

*Seismic Exploration.* Analysis of a proposal from Western Geophysical to conduct seismic oil exploration activities using fibroseis "thumper" trucks in Quatal Canyon, Santa Barbara Canyon and Pato Canyon. T.9 N., R.24 W., Sections 25, 34, 35 and 36, SBBM; T.8 N., R.25 W., Section 1; T.9 N., R.25 W., Section 27, SBBM. Mount Pinos District - May, 1992.

*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 District - November, 1990.

*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, and 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 acre parcel purchased for OHV use with State Green Sticker 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**

### **Los Padres National Forest**

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### **Monterey District**

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### **Santa Lucia District**

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### **Santa Barbara District**

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### **Ojai District**

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### **Mount Pinos District**

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**Last Environmental Newsletter Issued: July, 1992**

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