



# Los Padres National Forest ENVIRONMENTAL NEWSLETTER

May, 1993

## 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 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.* Analysis of the Twitchel Grazing Allotment Management Plan (AMP) to ensure that it is in compliance with the Forest Plan and NEPA. The heritage resource (archeological) field review has been completed. The State Historic Preservation Office (SHPO) has not forwarded its findings. T.22 S., R.4 E., Sections 23-25, MDB&M. Monterey District - November, 1991.

### Environmental Analyses Completed

None.

### 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. 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 proposed permanent school facilities and structures on the expanded site of the existing school. T.23 S., R.5 E., Section 19, MDB&M. The District archeological report has been completed and is in the Forest Supervisor's Office for approval. The State Historic Preservation Office will need to review for determination of potential impacts on cultural resources. For further information contact: Dr. Nancy Knapp, Associate Superintendent, Pacific Unified School District, Pacific Valley #1, Big Sur, CA 93920. Monterey District - November, 1989.

## SAN LUIS OBISPO COUNTY

### Environmental Analyses Being Scoped

None.

### Environmental Analyses Completed

*Cerro Alto Campground Toilet Replacement.* A decision has been made to replace approximately three

vault toilets in Cerro Alto Campground. T.28 S., R.11 E., MDBM. Santa Lucia District - January, 1993.

**35-Canyon Water Catchment.** A Decision Memo was signed by the District Ranger on April 12, 1993 approving installation of a wildlife watering device consisting of an underground tank with an overhead apron to catch rainwater. T.32 S., R.17 E., Section 11, MDBM. Santa Lucia District - January, 1993.

**Garcia Potrero Spring.** A Decision Memo was signed by the District Ranger on April 12, 1993 approving installation of an above-ground tank and relocation of a trough at Garcia Potrero Spring. This involves underground installation of approximately 300 feet of pipe. T.31 S., R.16 E., Section 27, MDBM. Santa Lucia District - January, 1993.

**Garland Spring Reconstruction.** A Decision Memo was signed by the District Ranger on April 12, 1993 approving reconstruction of a spring box involving underground installation of approximately 300 feet of pipe to an existing trough. T.31 S., R.16 E., Section 27, MDBM. Santa Lucia District - January, 1993.

#### **Environmental Analyses Documented**

**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 has been issued describing five alternatives and their effects. Copies are available at San Luis Obispo County libraries and Forest Service offices. The public comment period for the EIS closes May 28, 1993. Santa Lucia District - January, 1993.

#### **Environmental Analyses In Progress**

**Arroyo Grande Rappel Tower.** Analysis of a proposal to install a rappel training tower at the Arroyo Grande Station, 460 Hi Mountain Road. T.31 S., R.14 E., MDB&M. Santa Lucia District - January, 1993.

**Agua Escondido Spring.** Analysis of a proposal to divert the flow of Agua Escondido Spring from the top of the road to a pipe beneath the road. A five gallon wildlife trough will be installed at the end of the pipe. T.31 S., R.16 E., Section 35, MDBM. Santa Lucia District - January, 1993.

**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.

**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 E. and 17 E., MDB&M. Santa Lucia District - July, 1989.

## **SANTA BARBARA COUNTY**

### **Environmental Analyses Being Scoped**

#### **Proposed Improvements to State Highway 154.**

Analysis of a Caltrans proposal for improved turnouts and turning lanes affecting four areas (approximately one half acre total) of National Forest System land. T.5 N., R.28 W., Sections 26 and 27, SBBM. Santa Barbara Ranger District - March, 1993.

**Lion Canyon Condor Release.** Analysis of a proposal to establish a second condor release site along Sierra Madre Ridge. The objectives are to establish a site in a remove area of the condor's historical range and to release condors in closer proximity to their historical foraging grounds. The environmental analysis is a cooperative project of the Forest Service and the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service. T.9 N., R.27 W., Section 23, SBBM. Mount Pinos District - March, 1993.

### **Environmental Analyses Completed**

**Brookshire Cattleguard.** A Decision Memo was signed by the District Ranger on April 12, 1993 approving installation of a cattleguard on the road to Brookshire Camp to contain cattle in the Porter grazing allotment. T.11N., R.31 W., Section 23, SBBM. Santa Lucia District - January, 1993.

**Foresters Leap Trail Reconstruction.** A decision has been made to reconstruct a two mile section of the Sisquoc River Trail near Foresters Leap in the San Rafael Wildmess. T.8 N., R.27 W., Sections 7, 17, 20 and 21, SBBM. Santa Lucia District - March, 1992.

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

### **Environmental Analyses In Progress**

#### **G. Antolini and Son/Colson Quarry Operations.**

Analysis of a proposed 10 year plan of operations for removal of approximately 2,000 tons of building stone per year. Proposed operations are in previously disturbed areas. Approximately 15,000 tons of waste will be generated each year. T.10 N., R.31 W., Sections 16 and 21, SBBM. Santa Lucia District - December, 1992.

**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 N. 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 Wildmess from high risk fire occurrence zones associated with the Lake Cachuma Recreation Area. The primary tool to achieve these results will be

prescribed fire. Santa Barbara District - September, 1989.

*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 a proposal by Santa Barbara County 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.

## KERN COUNTY

**Environmental Analyses Being Scoped** None.

**Environmental Analyses Completed** None.

**Environmental Analyses Documented** None.

### 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 eight hundred 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

*Bald Hills and Last Chance Trails.* Analysis of a proposal to reconstruct the Bald Hills Trail in the

Matilija Wilderness and the Last Chance Trail in the Sespe Wilderness. Both trails have fallen into disrepair. Projects would involve re-establishing trail tread, installing waterbars, and brushing. T.5 and 6 N., R.24 W., and T.5 and 6 N., R.21 W., SBBM. Ojai Ranger District - May, 1993.

*Pine Mountain Mistletoe Control Project.* Development of a management plan to eradicate dwarf mistletoe and project native Jeffrey pine stands in Pine Mountain and Reyes Peak Campgrounds and surrounding areas. Activities will include removal of dead and dying trees, branch and broom pruning, thinning, and reforestation. T.6 N., R.23 W., Sections 3, 4, and 5, SBBM. Ojai District - November, 1992.

*Lion Campground Mistletoe Control Project.* Development of a management plan to control true mistletoe in cottonwoods at Lion Campground. The project will involve removal of dead or dying trees, branch pruning, and planting of native species that are not susceptible to true mistletoe infection. T.6 N., R.22 W., Section 36, SBBM. Ojai District - November, 1992.

*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. A Notice of Intent to Prepare an EIS was published in the Federal Register on December 30, 1992. T.9 N., R.19 W., Section 14, SBBM. Mount Pinos District - September, 1992.

*Rose Valley Facility.* Solicitation of a proposal to occupy the Rose Valley facility recently vacated by the Ventura County Sheriff's Department. The Forest Service will issue a prospectus soliciting bids to use these facilities. An important consideration in awarding a permit to the successful bidder will be their ability to perform trail and campground maintenance and other work of benefit to the public in the National Forest. 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 the 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. Trailheads are proposed for 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. Ojai District - November, 1992.

**Environmental Analyses Completed** None.

**Environmental Analyses Documented** None.

**Environmental Analyses In Progress**

*Dry Salvage Sale.* Analysis of a proposal to conduct a selected salvage sale of pinyon pine that has been killed by insect infestation. The proposal entails felling and bucking of dead timber on approximately 25 acres in the Dry Canyon area. Access would be on existing routes temporarily reopened for the duration of the sale. T.7 N., R.22 W., Section 6, and T.8 N., R.22 W., Section 31, SBBM. Mount Pinos District - January, 1993.

*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 seven 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.

**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.

*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: March, 1993**