



## Los Padres National Forest ENVIRONMENTAL NEWSLETTER

January 1994

### 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**                      None.

#### Environmental Analyses Completed

*Repair of Sycamore Canyon Road.* In a decision signed January 3, 1994, the District Ranger approved repair of the failing road shoulder. The project is 1.4 miles west of Highway 1. T.19 S., R.2 E., Section 36, MDB&M. Monterey District - January, 1994.

#### 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. 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

*New Los Padres Dam.* Analysis of a proposal by the Monterey Peninsula Water Management District to construct a new Los Padres Dam approximately 1/4 mile downstream from the existing dam. T.18 S., R.3 E., Section 5, MDB&M. The new dam would be higher than the existing one and would provide a water supply for the Monterey Peninsula and maintain the native Carmel River steelhead fishery. The selected alternative may affect the Ventana Wilderness so the Forest Service is a participating agency in the environmental analysis. Contact: Henrietta Stern, MPWMD, 187 Eldorado Street, Suite E, Monterey, CA 93940, (408) 649-4866. The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers is reviewing this proposal. Monterey District-September, 1993.

*Rattlesnake Creek Watershed Project.* Analysis to select best management practices to stop erosion and rehabilitate resources in the Rattlesnake drainage and the North Fork of the San Antonio River. The project site is at the boundary of Fort Hunter Liggett and the National Forest in the Wagon Caves area off Milpitas

Road. T.21 S., R.5 E., Section 26, MDB&M. Monterey District - July, 1993.

*Willow Creek Toilet Installation.* Analysis to select the best management practice to minimize impact to Sea Cliff Buckwheat, *Eriogonium parvifolium* and Santa Cruz Manzanita, *Arctostaphylos cruzensis*. The biological evaluation is complete. The Forest Service is waiting for U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service concurrence. Monterey District - January, 1994.

**Environmental Analyses Postponed/Cancelled**  
*Twitchell Allotment Management Plan.* Analysis of the Twitchell Grazing Allotment Management Plan (AMP) to ensure that it is in compliance with the Forest Plan and NEPA. The Forest received State Historic Preservation Office (SHPO) concurrence, asking that the homestead site be preserved. The project is postponed. T.22 S., R.4 E., Sections 23-25, MDB&M. Monterey District - November, 1991.

## SAN LUIS OBISPO COUNTY

**Environmental Analyses Being Scoped** None.

**Environmental Analyses Completed** None.

**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 was issued in February 1993, describing five alternatives and their effects. Public comments on the DEIS are being studied preparatory to development of the Final EIS and Plan. Santa Lucia District - July, 1990.

**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.

*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 District - March, 1993.

**Environmental Analyses Completed**  
*Sierra Madre Ridge Cattleguard Installations.* A Decision Memo was signed on October 18, 1993 approving a proposal to install two cattleguards on Sierra Madre Ridge. T.10 N., R.29 W., Section 10; T.9 N., R.27 W., Section 26, SBBM. Mount Pinos District - November, 1993.

*Montgomery Potrero Fencing.* A Decision Memo was signed on December 6, 1993, approving a proposal to fence 167 acres of Montgomery Potrero to exclude cattle and protect heritage resources. Public access to the campground and potrero will not be affected. T.9 N., R.27 W., Section 27, SBBM. Mount Pinos District - November, 1993.

**Environmental Analyses Documented** None.

**Environmental Analyses in Progress**  
*Tamarisk Removal Project.* Analysis of a proposal to remove tamarisk from National Forest lands within the Gibraltar Reservoir area north into Indian and Mono Creeks. Tamarisk is a non-native plant that invades riparian areas and displaces native vegetation. Removal of tamarisk would benefit native plants and animals within the affected riparian areas. T.5 N., R.26 W., Sections 4, 5, 6; T.6 N., R.26 W., Sections 22, 25, 27, 30, 31, 34, SBBM. Santa Barbara District - January, 1994.

*Camp Cielo.* Analysis of a proposal to issue a new twenty year special use permit to an existing organization camp due to a change in ownership. T.6 N., R.29 W., Section 32, SBB&M. Santa Barbara District - July, 1993.

*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.

*Deer Park Canyon Seismic Exploration.* Analysis of a proposal from Hunt Oil to conduct seismic oil exploration activities using fibroseis "thumper" trucks in Deer Park Canyon. T.9 N., R.24 W, Sections 20, 21, and 22, SBBM. Mount Pinos District - September, 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; 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 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

*Mesa and Tecuya Fire Reforestation Project.* Analysis of a proposal to reforest approximately 30 acres of the Tecuya Fire and 25 acres of the Mesa Fire. Area would be planted with 200 trees per acre using a mixture of pinyon pine, Jeffrey pine, and black oak to improve wildlife habitat, hasten the re-establishment of coniferous forest types burned over by wildfire, and improve visual resources. T.9 N., R.20 W., Section 27; T.8 N., R.19 W., Sections 5 and 6, SBBM. Mount Pinos District - November, 1993.

*Mt. Pinos Snow-Park Project.* Analysis of a proposal to redesign and expand recreational parking facilities within the Mt. Pinos Winter Sports Area. The project would involve the construction of new parking lots, redesign of existing parking lots, and an increase in roadside parking and sanitation and solid waste disposal sites. T.9 N., R.21 W., Sections 33-36 and 26; T.8 N., R.21 W., Sections 3-5, 8 and 9; T.9 N., R.20 W., Section 32, SBBM. Mount Pinos District - November, 1993.

**Environmental Analyses Completed** **None.**

### Environmental Analyses Documented

*Mount Pinos Prescribed Burn.* A Decision Notice was signed on December 10, 1993 approving 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.

### 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.

*Tecuya Watershed Rehabilitation.* Analysis of a proposal to rehabilitate and fence illegal off-highway vehicle trails on Tecuya Ridge. T.9 N., R.21 W., Sections 24 and 35. Mount Pinos District - November, 1993.

## VENTURA COUNTY

### Environmental Analyses Being Scoped

*Piru Creek Mining Activities.* An EIS to determine whether to approve Plans of Operation for mining activities along Piru Creek from Pyramid Lake to Lockwood Flats. These activities include but are not limited to dredging, panning, sluicing, and high banking. Resources potentially affected include archeological sites, water quality and four sensitive wildlife species which depend on riparian areas. Piru Creek is presently being studied for Wild and Scenic River nomination. Mount Pinos District - November, 1993.

*Long Dave Valley.* An analysis to determine whether to re-route off-highway vehicle trails in the vicinity of Long Dave Valley in order to protect sensitive archeological areas, improve watershed conditions, and mitigate private property concerns. OHV trails potentially affected include Gold Hill Trail, Long Dave Canyon Road, Long Dave Canyon Trail, and Tejon Trail. T.8 N., R.20 W., Sections 22-28 31-36; T.7 N., R.20 W., Sections 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, SBBM. Mount Pinos District - November, 1993.

*Badlands OHV Trail.* An analysis of potential routes to connect off-highway vehicle use areas, specifically from Grade Valley Road to Ballinger Canyon. The analysis will also evaluate selected routes to serve as a replacement for the Toad Springs OHV trail. T.7 N., R.21 W., Sections 4-6; T.7 N., R.22 W., Sections 6, 7; T.7 N., R.23 W., Sections 1, 11, 12; T.8 N., R.21 W., Sections 30-32; T.8 N., R.22 W., Sections 19, 25-36; T.8 N., R.23 W., Sections 5-7, 15-18, 22-26, 35-36; T.9 N., R.23 W., Sections 28-29, 32-33; T.9 N., R.23 W., Sections 7, 14-29; T.9 N., R.24 W., Sections 6-13, 21-27, 35-36, SBBM. Mount Pinos District - November, 1993.

**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 District - May, 1993.

**Pine Mountain Mistletoe Control Project.** Development of a management plan to eradicate dwarf mistletoe and protect 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 3-5, 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.** Analysis of a proposal to re-route a portion of the Snowy Trail to protect sensitive resources within the Smith Fork parcel. T.9 N., R.19 W., Section 14, SBBM. Mount Pinos District - September, 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 Allotment Management Plan.** Analysis of the Piru Grazing Allotment Management Plan northeast of Lake Piru to ensure that it is in compliance with the Forest Plan and that all permit revisions are in compliance with NEPA. T.5 N., R.18 W., Sections 1, 11-15, 22-24, SBBM. Ojai District - September, 1992.

#### **Environmental Analyses Completed**

**Rose Valley Facility.** A Decision Memo was signed by the Forest Supervisor on September 21, 1993 approving a proposal to issue a special use permit to "The Crew" to occupy the Forest Service facilities at Rose Valley. The Crew is a non-profit youth organization based in Ojai that does trail construction and maintenance and other environmental work benefitting the National Forest. T.5 N., R.22 W., Section 4, SBBM. Ojai District - May, 1992.

#### **Environmental Analyses Documented**

#### **Environmental Analyses in Progress**

##### **Disposal Sites for Maintenance of Highway 33.**

Analysis of a proposal for two disposal sites along Highway 33. The proposed sites will accommodate approximately 15,000 cubic yards of slough material from slides and normal winter maintenance of the highway. T.6 N., R.24 W., Section 2; T.7 N., R.23 W., Section 30, SBBM. Mount Pinos District - January, 1994.

**Sespe Wilderness Trailheads.** Development of a plan to improve or construct seven trailheads for the Sespe Wilderness. Trailheads are proposed for Lion Campground, Blue Point Campground, Dough Flat, Reyes Peak, Sewart Mountain, Mutau Flat and Cedar Creek/Fishbowls. Ojai and Mount Pinos Districts - September, 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, 34-36; T.8 N., R.25 W., Section 1; T.9 N., R.25 W., Section 27, SBBM. Mount Pinos District - May, 1992.

**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/Cancelled**

**Dry Canyon 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 falling and bucking dead timber on approximately 25 acres. Project cancelled. T.7 N., R.22 W., Section 6, and T.8 N., R.22 W., Section 31, SBBM. Mount Pinos District - January, 1993.

**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. The proponent has withdrawn the proposal. T.5 N., R.15 W., Section 21, SBBM. 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. The proponent has withdrawn the proposal. Ojai District - September, 1991.

**None.**

## RESPONSIBLE OFFICES

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### Santa Barbara District

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**Last Environmental Newsletter issued: November, 1993**

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