



Los Padres National Forest ENVIRONMENTAL NEWSLETTER

September 1994

DEAR FRIEND...

The purpose of the Environmental Newsletter is to provide you with an overview of proposed activities and projects in Los Padres National Forest. It is our hope that this information will help you become involved early in the planning process for those proposals which might interest or affect you.

The newsletter is issued every other month. It includes a brief explanation and location of each project, the date it was first addressed in this publication, and a contact point for further information. Projects are listed by county and by the categories described below.

For further information regarding specific projects, opportunities for participation or the availability of documents, please contact the Forest Service office listed. 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.

Analyses Being Scoped

This category includes new projects for which public input is being or is about to be solicited.

Analyses Completed

This category includes projects 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.

Analyses Documented

This category addresses recently completed EA's and Draft and Final EIS's.

Analyses in Progress

This section includes projects currently under analysis.

MONTEREY COUNTY

Analyses Being Scoped None.

Analyses Completed None.

Analyses Documented

Rattlesnake Creek Watershed Project. In a decision made September 9, the District Ranger has determined best management practices to stop erosion and rehabilitate resource damage contributing to erosion 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.21S., R.5E., Section 26, MDB&M. Monterey District - July, 1993.

New Los Padres Dam. Proposal by the Monterey Peninsula Water Management District to construct a new dam approximately 1/4 mile downstream from the existing dam. T.18S., R.3E., Section 5, MDB&M. The new dam would be higher than the existing one. The present structure would be inundated with a full pool of 24,000 acre feet of storage. The purpose of the new dam is to augment the water supply for the Monterey Peninsula and maintain the native Carmel River steelhead fishery. The selected alternative will affect the Ventana Wilderness by transferring 21 acres in Danish Creek and adding 142 acres to the Ventana Wilderness. For this reason, the Forest Service participated in the environmental analysis. For further information on this project, contact: Henrietta Stern, MPWMD, 187 Eldorado Street, Suite E, Monterey, CA 93940, (408) 649-4866. Monterey District - September, 1993.

Optical Interferometer. Proposal by the U.S. Naval Observatory (USNO) to place an optical interferometer and associated facilities along Anderson Peak Ridge, T.20S., R.3E., Section 16-17, or Chews Ridge, T.18S., R.4E., Section 6, MDB&M, and at a related site near

Flagstaff, AZ. The analysis is approximately six months behind schedule. Contact: Commanding Officer, Western Division, Naval Facilities Engineering Command, Attn: Patricia Duff, Code 1831, POB 727, San Bruno, CA, 94066. Monterey District - November, 1989.

Analyses In Progress

Indians West. Analysis similar to that underway for the Rattlesnake Creek Watershed Project, but westerly to the Indians Ranch. A field review has been completed. The next step will be scoping. Monterey District - May, 1994.

Pfeiffer Beach Facility. Proposal to rehabilitate the existing day use facility and install a boardwalk from the facility to the beach. A public scoping meeting was held September 10; input should be submitted to the District by September 28. T.19S., R.1E., Section 35, MDB&M. Monterey District - May, 1994.

SAN LUIS OBISPO COUNTY

Analyses Being Scoped None.

Analyses Completed

Hi Mountain Road Cattle Guards. In a decision made July 28, the District Ranger has approved the proposed Hi Mountain cattleguard installation project. T.30S., R.15E., Sections 30 and 31, MDB&M. Santa Lucia District - March, 1994.

Pacific Bell Buried Telephone Line. In a decision made September 9, the District Ranger approved a proposal by Pacific Bell to replace an aerial telephone line destroyed by the Highway 41 Fire with an underground line in essentially the same location. T.29S., R.12E., Section 35 MDB&M. Santa Lucia District - September, 1994.

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.

Analyses in Progress

Balloon Spring Enhancement. Proposal to reconstruct the spring box and replace the pipe and trough. T.29S.,

R.15E., Section 15, MDB&M. Santa Lucia District - March, 1994.

Fox Spring Enhancement. Proposal to reconstruct the spring box and replace 30 feet of pipe and the trough. T.29S., R.15E., Section 22, MDB&M. Santa Lucia District - March, 1994.

Wildhorse Spring Enhancement. Proposal to construct the spring box and replace the pipe and trough. T.29S., R.15E., Section 15, MDB&M. Santa Lucia District - March, 1994.

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.32S., R.17E., MDB&M. Santa Lucia District - January, 1991.

Rockfront Creek Crossing. Proposal to replace the damaged soil cement water crossing at the Cuyama River and Forest Road 30502 with a concrete structure. The existing structure has been damaged. T.32S., R.18E., Section 25, MDB&M. Santa Lucia District - March, 1994.

Alamo Fuels Management Plan. Analysis to determine appropriate treatment of 6500 acres located north and east of Twitchell Reservoir. T.32S., R.16E. and 17E., MDB&M. Santa Lucia District - July, 1989.

SANTA BARBARA COUNTY

Analyses Being Scoped

Aliso National Recreation Trail Rehabilitation. Proposal to re-route and construct three sections of the trail for a total length of approximately five thousand feet. The realignment will eliminate three steep trail segments. Rehabilitation will involve reconstructing water bars, installing fencing and seeding abandoned trail segments. T.5N., R.20E., Section 36, SBBM. Santa Barbara District - September, 1994.

Equestrian Event. The Santa Ynez Valley Arabian Horse Association filed an application requesting authorization for a competitive trail ride to be held annually in November on the Santa Barbara Ranger District. The association is requesting approval to hold the event this year and for the next four years. The competitive ride would use approximately 50 miles of trails/roads primarily within the Lower Santa Ynez Recreation Area. The event would accommodate a maximum of 65 horses. Santa Barbara District - September, 1994.

Happy Canyon Allotment Management Plan. Analysis of the Happy Canyon Range 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.7N., R.29W., SBBM. Santa Barbara District - July 1994.

Proposed Improvements to State Highway 154. Caltrans proposal for improved turnouts and turning lanes affecting four areas (approximately one half acre total) of National Forest System land. T.5N., R.28W., Sections 26 and 27, SBBM. Santa Barbara District - March, 1993.

Analyses Completed None.

Analyses Documented None.

Analyses in Progress

McPherson Peak Communications Site Plan. Proposal by the Forest Service to prepare a site management plan for McPherson Peak communications site. The plan would provide direction for the future management of the site. It would delineate site boundaries, determine the kinds of uses which are (or would be) appropriate to the site, and identify any areas that could be developed. If the selected alternative allowed expansion of the site, the plan would also address the technical specifications and management requirements for existing, as well as new facilities that might be constructed. T.9N., R.27W., Section 6, SBBM. Santa Lucia District - May, 1994.

Deer Park Canyon Test Well. Proposal by Hunt Oil Company to drill a 10,000 foot test well to explore for oil and gas in Deer Park Canyon. Proposal includes construction of a 1.37 acre well pad and approximately 200 feet of temporary access road. A surface reclamation plan will be required. T.9N., R.24W., Section 18, SBBM. Mt. Pinos District - May, 1994.

Tamarisk Removal Project. 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.5N., R.26W., Sections 4, 5, 6; T.6N., R.26W., Sections 22, 25, 27, 30, 31, 34, SBBM. Santa Barbara District - January, 1994.

Camp Cleo. Proposal to issue a new twenty year special use permit to an existing organization camp

due to a change in ownership. T.6N., R.29W., Section 32, SBB&M. Santa Barbara District - July, 1993.

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

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.9N., R.29W., SBBM. Santa Lucia District - January, 1991.

KERN COUNTY

Analyses Being Scoped

Winter Sports Special Use Permits. Proposal to issue special use permits for concessionaire cross-country ski area and nordic ski instruction. Proposal includes issuance of intermittent permits for ski instruction, guided tours and group events. T.9N., R.21W., Sections 32-35 and T.8N., R.21W., Section 6, SBBM. Mount Pinos District - September, 1994.

Analyses Completed None.

Analyses Documented None.

Analyses in Progress

Mesa and Tecuya Fire Reforestation Project. 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 piñon 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.9N., R.20W., Section 27; T.8 N., R.19W., Sections 5 and 6, SBBM. Mount Pinos District - November, 1993.

Mt. Pinos Snow-Park Project. 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.9N., R.21W., Sections 33-36 and 26; T.8N., R.21W., Sections 3-5, 8 and 9; T.9N., R.20W., Section 32, SBBM. Mount Pinos District - November, 1993.

T.A.I. Mineral Exploration. Proposal to conduct mineral exploration just east of the Frazier Park community. Includes use of a backhoe to excavate several trenches in an alluvial fan. 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.9N., R.19W., Section 32, SBBM. Mount Pinos District - July, 1992.

VENTURA COUNTY

Analyses Being Scoped

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

Analyses Completed None.

Analyses Documented None.

Analyses in Progress

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. 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.8N., R.20W., Sections 22-28 31-36; T.7N., R.20W., Sections 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, SBBM. Mount Pinos District - November, 1993.

Badlands OHV Trail. Analysis of potential routes to connect off-highway vehicle use areas from Grade Valley Road to Ballinger Canyon. Analysis will also evaluate selected routes to serve as a replacement for the Toad Springs OHV trail. T.7N., R.21W., Sections 4-6; T.7N., R.22W., Sections 6, 7; T.7N., R.23W., Sections 1, 11, 12; T.8N., R.21W., Sections 30-32; T.8N., R.22W., Sections 19, 25-36; T.8N., R.23W., Sections 5-7, 15-18,

22-26, 35-36; T.9N., R.23W., Sections 28-29, 32-33; T.9N., R.23W., Sections 7, 14-29; T.9N., R.24W., Sections 6-13, 21-27, 35-36, SBBM. Mount Pinos District - November, 1993.

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

Lion Campground Connector Trail. Proposal to construct a short (.3 mi) trail from Rose Valley Road into the westernmost two loops of Lion Campground. This will aid public use of these two loops as a walk-in campground from May through September for protection of wildlife habitat. T.6N., R.22W., Section 36, SBBM. Ojai District - March, 1994.

Interpretive Displays. Proposal to construct two interpretive displays to provide information to the public on National Forest points of interest and wilderness areas. One site is Oak Flat Station north of Fillmore, T.5N., R.19W., Section 31, SBBM. The other site is Matillija Trailhead in Matillija Canyon, T.5N., R.24W., Section 22, SBBM. Ojai District - March, 1994.

Special Use Permit. Proposal to issue a 5-year special use permit to Los Padres Wilderness Outfitters to guide equestrian tours in the Sespe Wilderness and other National Forest lands. Holder has held annual special use permits since 1986. If permit is issued, holder will be required to meet requirements of permit and annual operating plans, including environmental requirements. Ojai District - March, 1994.

Beaver Campground Habitat Improvement Project. Proposal to close a portion of Beaver Campground road from May to September for enhancement of wildlife habitat. T.5N., R.22W., Section 1, SBBM. Ojai District - March, 1994.

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.6N., R.23W., Sections 3-5, SBBM. Ojai District - November, 1992.

Bald Hills and Last Chance Trails. Proposal to reconstruct the Bald Hills Trail in the Matillija 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.5N and 6N., R.24W., and T.5N and 6N., R.21W., SBBM. Ojai District - May, 1993.

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.5N., R.18W., Sections 1, 11-15, 22-24, SBBM. Ojai District - September, 1992.

Sespe Wilderness Trailheads. Development of a plan to improve or construct seven trailheads for the Sespe Wilderness at: Lion Campground, Blue Point Campground, Dough Flat, Reyes Peak, Sewart Mountain, Mutau Flat and Cedar Creek/Fishbowl. 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.9N., R.24W., Sections 25, 34-36; T.8N., R.25W., Section 1; T.9N., R.25W., 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.

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