



Los Padres National Forest ENVIRONMENTAL NEWSLETTER

May 1995

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 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 EAs and Draft and Final EISs.

Analyses in Progress

This section includes projects currently under analysis.

MONTEREY COUNTY

Analyses Being Scoped None.

Analyses Completed None.

Analyses Documented

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 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 further information contact: Henretta 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. 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. 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. The public comment period for the document closed on April 28. Public input will be reviewed and a decision issued later this spring. T.19S., R.1E., Section 35, MDB&M. Monterey District - May, 1994.

SAN LUIS OBISPO COUNTY

Analyses Being Scoped

Navajo Allotment Permit Re-issuance. Proposal to analyze grazing permit re-issuance for the Navajo Allotment. Proposal includes 120 yearling cattle for about 4 months. T.28S., R.16E., Section 20 and 21, MDB&M. Scoping ends May 31, 1995. Santa Lucia District - May, 1995.

Big and Little Falls Allotment Permit Re-issuance. Proposal to analyze grazing permit re-issuance for the Big and Little Falls Allotment. Proposal includes 15 cow/calf pairs for about 8.5 months. T.30S., R.14E., Sections 28-33, MDB&M. Scoping ends May 31, 1995. Santa Lucia District - May, 1995.

Analyses Completed

Rockfront Creek Crossing. In a Decision Memo signed April 26, the District Ranger approved a proposal to replace the damaged soil cement water crossing at the Cuyama River and Forest Road 30502 with a concrete structure. T.32S., R.18E., Section 25, MDB&M. Santa Lucia District - March, 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. Santa Lucia District - July, 1990.

Analyses in Progress None.

Analyses Cancelled or Postponed

The following analyses have been terminated due to a change in priorities: Balloon Spring Enhancement, Fox Spring Enhancement, Wildhorse Spring Enhancement, Rockfront Allotment Management Plan, Alamo Fuels Management Plan.

SANTA BARBARA COUNTY

Analyses Being Scoped

Santa Barbara Trail Re-route. Proposal to re-route a one mile section of the Santa Barbara Trail in the Dick Smith Wilderness. T.7N., R.26W., Sections 1 and 2, SBBM. Mount Pinos District - May 1995.

Cabins in the Lower Santa Ynez Recreation Area. Ongoing proposals to issue special use permits for private use of existing cabins on National Forest land in the Lower Santa Ynez Recreation area due to

change in ownership and/or expired permit. T.5N., R.28W., Sections 2,3,4, SBBM. Santa Barbara District - January 1995.

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.

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

Seismic Exploration. In a Decision Memo signed April 11, 1995, the District Ranger approved a proposal 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, 35 and 36; T.8N., R.25W., Section 1; T.9N., R.25W., Section 27, SBBM. Mount Pinos District - May, 1992.

Analyses Documented None.

Analyses in Progress

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.

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 Cielo. 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, SBBM. Santa Barbara District - July, 1993.

Analyses Cancelled or Postponed

The following analysis has been terminated due to a change in priorities: Sisquoc Allotment Management Plan.

KERN COUNTY

Analyses Being Scoped

Frazier Woods Organizational Camp. Analysis of proposal to purchase and upgrade the Frazier Woods Camp to make the camp fully accessible to individuals who are physically challenged. Proposal includes increasing the capacity from 50 people to 150-200 people. Several new buildings are proposed for construction. T.9N., R.21 W., Section 25, SBBM. Mount Pinos District - May, 1995.

Cuddy Allotment Permit Re-issuance. Proposal to analyze grazing permit re-issuance for the Cuddy Allotment. Proposal includes 19 cow/calf pairs. Scoping ends May 31, 1995. Mt. Pinos District - May, 1995.

Johnson Canyon Allotment Permit Re-issuance. Proposal to analyze grazing permit re-issuance for the Johnson Canyon Allotment. Proposal includes 3 cow/calf pairs. Scoping ends May 31, 1995. Mt. Pinos District - May, 1995.

Lakewood Fire Rehabilitation. Proposal to rehabilitate 39 acres of the 1994 Lakewood Fire. The area would be

reforested and erosion control measures implemented. Analysis would also cover a small public fuelwood sale. T.9N., R.20W., Sections 33 and 34. Mount Pinos District - March, 1995.

Analyses Completed None.

Analyses Documented None.

Analyses in Progress

Mt. Pinos Winter Parking Improvement. 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.

I.A.T. Mineral Exploration. Proposal to conduct mineral exploration just east of the community of Frazier Park. 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

Sislar Allotment Permit Re-issuance. Proposal to analyze permit re-issuance for the Sislar Allotment. Proposal includes 6 cow/calf pairs. Scoping ends May 31, 1995. Ojai District - May, 1995.

Rice/Wills Allotment Permit Re-issuance. Proposal to analyze permit re-issuance for the Rice/Wills Allotment. Proposal includes 16 cow/calf pairs. Scoping ends May 31, 1995. Ojai District - May, 1995.

Quatal Allotment Permit Re-issuance. Proposal to analyze permit re-issuance for the Quatal Allotment. Proposal includes 4 yearlings. Scoping ends May 31, 1995. Mt. Pinos District - May, 1995.

Yellowjacket Meadow Rehabilitation. Proposal to re-route a portion of the Yellowjacket OHV trail so that it no longer traverses six meadows. The proposal includes building re-routes of approximately 500 yards each around three wet meadows and three dry.

meadows to remove future impacts of OHV traffic on the meadows and correct existing resource damage to the meadow system. T.7N., R.21W., Sections 11, 12, and 15, SBBM. Mount Pinos District - May, 1995.

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

Seismic Exploration. In a Decision Memo signed April 11, 1995, the District Ranger approved a proposal 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, 35 and 36; T.8N., R.25W., Section 1; T.9N., R.25W., Section 27, SBBM. Mount Pinos District - May, 1992.

Analyses Documented

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. A Draft Environmental Impact Statement was issued in April, 1995 describing four alternatives and their effects. Public comment period closes May 22, 1995. Mount Pinos District - September, 1992.

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.

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 Matilija Trailhead in Matilija 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.

Bald Hills and Last Chance Trails. 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.5N and 6N., R.24W., and T.5N and 6N., R.21W., SBBM. Ojai District - May, 1993.

Sespe Wilderness Trailheads. Development of a plan to improve or construct six trailheads for the Sespe Wilderness at: Lion Campground, Dough Flat, Reyes Peak, Sewart Mountain, Mutau Flat and Cedar Creek/Fishbowls. Ojai and Mount Pinos Districts - September, 1992.

Analyses Cancelled or Postponed

The following analysis has been cancelled due to a change in priorities: Plru Allotment Management Plan.

RESPONSIBLE OFFICES

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Last newsletter issued: March, 1995

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