



Los Padres National Forest ENVIRONMENTAL NEWSLETTER

November 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 NEPA Coordinator, Jim Turner. 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.

FORESTWIDE

Analyses in Progress

Oil and Gas Leasing Analysis. Forestwide environmental analysis (EIS) to identify lands which should or should not be made available for oil and gas leasing. The effort is in response to the 1987 Federal Onshore Oil and Gas Leasing Reform Act which directs the Forest Service to conduct availability and suitability studies of National Forest lands for oil and gas leasing. The decisions made as a result of this forestwide analysis will not result in on-the-ground activities. Any exploration, drilling or field development which might be proposed following the forestwide study would require further environmental analysis and separate site-specific decisions. Public scoping occurred in September and October. For further information, contact Al Hess, Oil and Gas EIS Project Leader, at 805-681-2794. September, 1995.

MONTEREY COUNTY

Analyses Being Scoped None.

Analyses Completed None.

Analyses Documented None.

Analyses In Progress

Indians West. Analysis of unauthorized road use in the area west of Wagon Caves to the Indians Ranch to mitigate ongoing damage to soils, water quality and heritage resources. Monterey District - May, 1994.

SAN LUIS OBISPO COUNTY

Analyses Being Scoped None.

Analyses Completed None.

Analyses Documented None.

Analyses in Progress

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. 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. Santa Lucia District - May, 1995.

SANTA BARBARA COUNTY

Analyses Being Scoped

Winchester Gun Club. Proposal to renew an existing use with a 10 year special use permit for a target range. T.5N., R.28W., Section 19 and T.5N., R.29W., Section 24, SBBM. Santa Barbara District - September, 1995.

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.

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

McPherson Peak Communications Site Plan. A plan has been approved which will provide direction for the future management of the site. The plan delineates site boundaries, determines the kinds of uses which are appropriate to the site, and identifies any areas that could be developed. T.9N., R.27W., Section 6, SBBM. Santa Lucia District - May, 1994.

Analyses in Progress

Tamarisk and Arrundo Removal Project. Proposal to remove tamarisk and arrundo from National Forest lands on the Santa Barbara District. Tamarisk and arrundo are noxious non-native plants that aggressively invade riparian ecosystems displacing native vegetation and affecting wildlife habitat. Manual eradication and eradication by herbicide will be evaluated. Santa Barbara District - January, 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.

Broadcast Peak Communications Site Plan. Proposal by the Forest Service to prepare a site management plan for Broadcast 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.5N., R.29W., Section 7, SBBM. Santa Barbara District - September, 1995.

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 Postponed or Cancelled

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. T.9N., R.24W., Section 18, SBBM. Mt. Pinos District - May, 1994.

KERN COUNTY

Analyses Being Scoped

None.

Analyses Completed

None.

Analyses Documented

None.

Analyses in Progress

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. Includes increasing the capacity from the current 50 people to 150-200 people and constructing several new buildings. T.9N., R.21W., 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. Mt. Pinos District - May, 1995.

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.I. 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 None.

Analyses Completed None.

Analyses Documented None.

Analyses in Progress

Deer Park Allotment Permit Reissuance. Proposal to analyze permit re-issuance for the Deer Park Allotment. Proposal includes 22 cow/calf pairs. Mount Pinos District - July, 1995.

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

Quatal Allotment Permit Re-issuance. Proposal to analyze permit re-issuance for the Quatal Allotment. Proposal includes 4 yearlings. Mt. 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.

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 including but 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. Proposal to re-route OHV trails in the vicinity of Long Dave Valley to protect archeological areas, improve watershed conditions, and mitigate private property concerns. Trails potentially affected include Gold Hill, Long Dave Canyon, Lockwood Creek and Tejon. T.8N., R.20W., Sections 22-28, 31-36; T.7N., R.20W., Sec 1-6, 8, 9 and 15, 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 .3 mi trail from Rose Valley Road to the westernmost two loops of Lion Campground for protection of wildlife habitat. T.6N., R.22W., Section 36, SBBM. Ojai District - March, 1994.

Interpretive Displays. Proposal to construct an interpretive display at the Matilija Trailhead 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. 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. Would involve re-establishing trail tread, minor reroutes for resource protection, localized minor blasting, 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. Proposal to improve or construct 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.

RESPONSIBLE OFFICES

Los Padres National Forest

David W. Dahl - Forest Supervisor
6144 Calle Real
Goleta, CA 93117
(805) 683-6711

Monterey District

Acting District Ranger
406 S. Mildred
King City, CA 93930
(408) 385-5434

Santa Lucia District

K.J. Silverman - District Ranger
1616 N. Carlotti Drive
Santa Maria, CA 93454
(805) 925-9538

Santa Barbara District

Gloria Silva - District Ranger
Star Route
Santa Barbara, CA 93105
(805) 967-3481

Ojai District

Larry Maetic - District Ranger
1190 E. Ojai Avenue
Ojai, CA 93023
(805) 646-4348

Mount Pinos District

Mark Bethke - District Ranger
HC1, Box 400
Lockwood Valley Road
Frazier Park, CA 93225
(805) 245-3731

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