



Los Padres National Forest ENVIRONMENTAL NEWSLETTER

July, 1996

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. Scoping occurred in September and October, 1995; a newsletter summarizing results is available. 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	

Pfeiffer Beach. Proposal to rehabilitate the existing day use facility. Includes Sycamore Canyon Road Transportation Study. T.19S., R.1E., Section 35, MDB&M. Monterey District - May, 1994.

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	

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	
Analyses Completed	
Analyses Documented	
Analyses in Progress	

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.

Analyses Completed
Tamarisk and Arrundo Removal Project. An Environmental Assessment has been completed for the proposal to remove tamarisk and arrundo from National Forest lands in the

Santa Ynez River drainage. Tamarisk and arrundo are noxious non-native plants that aggressively invade riparian ecosystems displacing native vegetation and affecting wildlife habitat. The proposed action would incorporate manual techniques and the use of the herbicide glyphosate. Public comments on the EA are due on or before August 7, 1996. For further information, contact Karen Danielsen, Forest Botanist, at 681-2753. Santa Barbara District - January, 1994.

Cuyama Front Prescribed Burn (Phase 1). In a Decision Memo signed April 3, 1996, the Ranger has approved a plan to prescribe burn approximately 1500 acres of decadent chaparral on the western slope of Fox Mountain. T.8N., R.25W., Sections 6, 11-14 and 18, SBBM. Mount Pinos District - January, 1996.

Analyses Documented None.

Analyses in Progress

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.

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

Los Prietos Boys Camp. Santa Barbara County has filed for a special use application requesting authorization to operate a "boot camp" for an additional 40 boys at the Los Prietos Boys Camp location. This request includes constructing two new facilities: a 40-bed dorm and vocational/recreational building. The boot camp would be for non-violent delinquent youths from Santa Barbara, Ventura and San Luis Obispo Counties. T.5N., R.28W., Section 2, SBBM. Santa Barbara Ranger District - March, 1996.

Sierra Madre Spring Restoration. Proposal to protect six springs (Oak, Montgomery 1&2, Cherry Orchard, Pine Corral and Black Willow) in the Sierra Madre Ridge area from cattle and human impacts. T.8N., R.26 W., Section 22, and T.9N., R.27W., Sections 22, 27 and 36, SBBM. Mount Pinos District - January, 1996.

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.

KERN COUNTY

Analyses Being Scoped

None.

Analyses Completed

Illegal Trail Rehabilitation. In a Decision Memo signed March 19, 1996, the Ranger approved a plan to rehabilitate several non-system illegal OHV trails in the vicinity of Frazier Park. T.9N., R.20W., Sections 25, 26 and 35, and T.9N., R.19W., Sections 30 and 31. Mount Pinos District - March, 1996.

Analyses Documented

Frazier Woods Organizational Camp. An Environmental Assessment has been completed addressing a 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. The EA is available for public review and comment. T.9N., R.21W., Section 25, SBBM. Mount Pinos District - May, 1995.

Analyses in Progress

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.

VENTURA COUNTY

Analyses Being Scoped

Outfitter Guide Permit. Proposal to issue a 5-year special use permit to Pink Moment Jeep Tours to provide jeep tours for the general public on existing National Forest roads on Ojai Ranger District. Ojai - May, 1996.

Sespe Trail Reroute. Proposal to relocate the trail in the Bear Creek area. Trail relocation (approximately 1 mile) will reduce the number of stream crossings, aid public safety, and avoid a large natural landslide covering the existing trail in this area. T.6N., R.21W., Section 34 and T.5N., R.21W., Sections 4 and 5, SBBM. Ojai District - March, 1996.

North Fork Matilija Trail Reconstruction. Proposal to reconstruct this existing trail in Matilija Wilderness to allow for public access and use. T.5N., R.24W., Sections 1, 2,

12-15, 22 and T.6N., R.24W., Section 21, SBBM. Ojai District - March, 1996.

Analyses Completed

Guzzler Installations. In a Decision Memo signed on March 5, 1996, the Ranger approved a proposal to install four cement wildlife guzzlers within the Grade Valley area during the summer of 1996. T.7N., R.21W., Sections 16, 17, 20 and 33, SBBM. Mount Pinos District - January, 1996.

Analyses Documented

Long Dave Valley. A Decision Notice has been signed approved a 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., Section 1-6, 8, 9 and 15, SBBM. Mount Pinos District - November, 1993.

Analyses in Progress

Shelf Road and Sisar Prescribed Burns. Proposal to analyze the effects of two small prescribed burns along the Ojai front country in cooperation with the Ventura County Fire Protection District. Shelf Road Burn (500 acres) T5 N., R.22W., Section 31 and T.5N., R.23W., Section 36. Sisar Burn (100 acres) T.4N., R.22W., Sections 1, 2, 12, SBBM. Ojai District - May, 1996.

Coyote Water Development. Proposal to develop one water development on the west end of the Coyote Range Allotment for livestock and wildlife use in the summer of 1996. T.4N., R.24W., Section 8, SBBM. Ojai District - May, 1996.

Grade Fire Rehabilitation. Proposal to rehabilitate approximately 88 acres of burned land in the southwest part of Lockwood Valley. Activities include reforestation, fuelwood gathering and slope stabilization. T.7N., R.21W., Sections 4 and 9, SBBM. Mount Pinos District - January, 1996.

Highway 33 Disposal Sites. Proposal by Caltrans to establish longterm seasonal disposal sites at different locations along Highway 33. The disposal sites must accommodate approximately 600,000 yards of slide and slough material over a ten year period. Caltrans is preparing the environmental document. Ojai and Mount Pinos Districts - January, 1996.

Deer Park Allotment Permit Re-issuance. 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.

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 small parking lot and a .3 mile long 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 nine interpretive and informational displays at existing trailheads and administrative sites. Ojai District - March, 1994.

Outfitter Guide 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 LastChance 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 T.6N., R.24W., and T.5N. and T.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

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