



Los Padres National Forest ENVIRONMENTAL NEWSLETTER

September, 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 under each project. 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 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. 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

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.

The public comment period on the EA closed on August 7, 1996. For further information, contact Karen Danielsen, Forest Botanist, at 681-2753. Santa Barbara District - January, 1994.

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.

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. This site management plan 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 and 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

None.

Analyses Documented

Frazier Woods Organizational Camp. A Decision Notice was signed on July 16, 1996 approving 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. 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.

Sepe Trail Reroute. Proposal to relocate approximately 1 mile of the trail in the Bear Creek area to reduce the number of stream crossings, aid public safety, and avoid a large natural landslide covering the 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 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

Shelf Road and Sisar Prescribed Burns. A Decision Memo was signed on August 23, 1996 approving two 1,000 acre prescribed burns along the Ojai front country in cooperation with the Ventura County Fire Protection District. Shelf Road Burn - T.5 N., R.22W., Section 31 and T.5N., R.23W., Section 36. Sisar Burn - T.4N., R.22W., Sections 1, 2, 12, SBBM. Ojai District - May, 1996.

Grade Fire Rehabilitation. A Decision Memo was signed in August, 1996 approving a 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.

Analyses Documented

None.

Analyses in Progress

Coyote Water Development. Proposal to develop one water development on the west end of the Coyote Range Allotment for livestock and wildlife use. T.4N., R.24W., Section 17, SBBM. Ojai District - May, 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 on 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.

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