



Los Padres National Forest Schedule of Proposed Environmental Actions

July-September, 1997

DEAR FRIEND...

The purpose of the "Schedule of Proposed Environmental Actions" is to provide you with an overview of environmental analyses currently in progress or recently completed in Los Padres National Forest pursuant to the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA). We hope that this information will help you become involved early in the decision-making process for those projects which might interest or affect you.

The Schedule is issued quarterly (January, April, July, October). Projects are listed by county and by the categories described below. Each description includes a brief explanation and location of the project, current status, the estimated decision date, and the name of the project leader.

For further information regarding specific projects, opportunities for participation, or the availability of documents, please contact the appropriate project leader at the Forest Service office listed under each project. For general information on the environmental analysis process, contact NEPA Coordinator, Jim Turner, in the Forest Supervisor's Office. For all other matters regarding the Schedule, 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 (DM).

Analyses Documented

This category addresses recently completed EA's and EIS's for which a Decision Notice (DN) has been issued.

Analyses in Progress

This section includes projects currently under analysis.

FORESTWIDE

Analyses Being Scoped

Forest Plan Amendment. Proposal to amend the Forest Land and Resource Management Plan to incorporate revised riparian management standards and to add additional direction in certain drainages for anadromous fish. Would also revise the definition of riparian zones for fish-bearing streams, permanent non-fish streams, and wetlands, reservoirs and lakes. Scoping closes

August 1, 1997. Estimated decision date: DN, September, 1997. Contact: Jim Turner, Planning Officer, SO.

Analyses in Progress

Oil and Gas Leasing Analysis. Forestwide environmental analysis to identify lands which should or should not be made available for oil and gas leasing. The decisions made as a result of this 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. Draft EIS expected by December, 1997. Estimated decision date: DN, May, 1998. Contact: Al Hess, Team Leader, SO.

MONTEREY COUNTY

Analyses Being Scoped

Big Sur Coast Noxious Weed Management. Proposal by the Big Sur Multi-Agency Advisory Group to initiate inter-agency noxious weed control along National Scenic Highway 1 on the Big Sur Coast. Estimated decision date: February, 1998. Contact: Jeff Kwasny, Wildlife Biologist, MRD.

Boronda Ridge Outfitter/Guide Route. Proposal to modify two existing Outfitter/Guide Special User Permits to conduct equestrian trail rides along Boronda Ridge on National Forest System lands. T.20S., R.2E., Sections 2, 11 and 14, MDB&M. Estimated decision date: August 31, 1997. Contact: William Metz, Recreation Officer, MRD.

Analyses Completed

Wild Incident Fuelwood Sales. In a Decision Memo signed June 12, 1997, approval was given for three small fuelwood sales to remove fire-killed trees from along travelways on ridge areas in the Wild Fire area. Contact: Dick Zechentmayer, Resource Officer, MRD.

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. Estimated decision date: August, 1997. Contact: William Metz, Recreation Officer, MRD.

Piney Creek Dispersed Recreation Area Rehabilitation. Proposal to modify present land management practices and to reopen area roads closed by storm damage over the past two years and to restore damaged riparian areas. T.19S., R.5E.

Sections 7 and 18, MDB&M. Estimated decision date: mid-September, 1997. Contact: William Metz, Recreation Officer, MRD.

SAN LUIS OBISPO COUNTY

Analyses Being Scoped

Ragged Point Inn Outfitter/Guide Permit. Proposal to conduct horseback trail rides on National Forest System lands, formerly Sur Sur Ranch, east of Ragged Point Inn, T.25S., R.6E., Sections 4, 5 and 9, MDB&M. Estimated decision date: September, 1997. Contact: William Metz, Recreation Officer, MRD.

Black Butte Research Natural Area. Proposal to establish Black Butte Research Natural Area (RNA) as recommended in the Forest Plan and amend the Forest Plan only as needed to change RNA status to "established". Proposed RNA is 3 miles north-east of San Luis Obispo on the north slope of Cuesta Ridge in the Santa Lucia Wilderness. T.30S., R.13E., portions of sections 6-9 and 16-17, MDM. Scoping started May 16, 1997. Estimated decision date: October, 1997. Contact: Kelly Fike, c/o USFS-RSL, 1920 20th Street, Sacramento, CA, 95814; 916-454-0816.

Navajo Allotment Permit Re-issuance. Analysis of authorization of permitted livestock grazing. Proposal includes 125 yearling cattle for about 4 months. T.28S., R.16E., Sections 20 and 21, MDB&M. Scoping closed April 26. Estimated decision date: summer, 1997. Contact: Melody Fountain, Resource Officer, SLRD.

Analyses Completed None.

Analyses Documented None.

Analyses in Progress None.

SANTA BARBARA COUNTY

Analyses Being Scoped

Buster Access Road. Proposal to issue a special use permit for an access road to private land off Paradise Road. The proposed road would be new construction of approximately 1/4 mile. T.5N., R.28W., Section 3, SBBM. Estimated decision date: October 1, 1997. Contact: Marian Kadota, Lands Officer, SBRD.

Sisar Canyon Land Exchange. Proposal to exchange approximately 290 acres of non-federal land located in Sisar Canyon on the Ojai Ranger District for an equal value of Federal land located on the Santa Barbara and Ojai Ranger Districts, totalling approximately 229 acres. Non-federal land: T.4N., R.22W., Section 1; T.4N., R.21W., Section 6; T.5N., R.22W, Section 36; T.5N., R.21W., Section 31, SBBM. Federal land: T.5N, R.23W., Section 34-35; T.5N., R.28W., Section 34, SBBM. Estimated decision date: September 30, 1997. Contact: Katie Campbell and Sharon Sprouse, SO.

Red Rock Parking Lot. Proposal to pave or chip-seal the existing dirt parking area to reduce erosion and to provide accessible toilet facilities. The parking area is at the end of Paradise Road in the Lower Santa Ynez Recreation Area. This area is ap-

proved for parking in the Forest Plan and the Santa Ynez Recreation Plan. T.5N., R.27W., Section 9, SBBM. Estimated decision date: DM, July 18, 1997. Contact: John Bridgwater, Resource Officer, SBRD.

Live Oak Day Use Area. Proposal to re-pave or chip-seal the existing paved parking area to reduce erosion and to provide accessible toilet facilities. The parking area is on Paradise Road in the Lower Santa Ynez Recreation Area. This area is approved for parking in the Forest Plan and the Santa Ynez Recreation Plan. T.5N., R.27W., Section 9, SBBM. Estimated decision date: DM, July 18, 1997. Contact: John Bridgwater, Resource Officer, SBRD.

Falls Day Use Area. Proposal to re-pave or chip-seal the existing paved parking area to reduce erosion and to provide accessible toilet facilities. The parking area is on Paradise Road in the Lower Santa Ynez Recreation Area. This area is approved for parking in the Forest Plan and the Santa Ynez Recreation Plan. T.5N., R.27W., Section 9, SBBM. Estimated decision date: DM, July 18, 1997. Contact: John Bridgwater, Resource Officer, SBRD.

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. Water would be piped to off-site locations to maintain water sources for cattle, equestrians and hikers. T.8N., R.26W., Section 22, and T.9N., R.27W., Sections 22, 27 and 36, SBBM. Scoping will begin during the summer of 1997. Estimated decision date: DM, September, 1997. Contact: Mike Foster, Resource Officer, MPRD.

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. Estimated decision date: unknown. Contact: Marian Kadota, Lands Officer, SBRD.

Analyses Completed

Highway 154 Disposal Site Rehabilitation. A Decision Memo was signed on May 30, 1997, authorizing a five year project with Caltrans to rehabilitate a disposal site on Highway 154. T.5N.R.28W., Section 25, SBBM. This project includes collecting local native seed, germinating the seed in containers, planting the 1-year stock and irrigating the site with drip irrigation. Contact: Marian Kadota, Lands Officer, SBRD.

Camuesa D Prescribed Burn. A Decision Memo was signed on May 21, 1997, approving a plan to use management-ignited prescribed fire to manage 3,210 acres of chaparral in the Camuesa Watershed, T.5N., R.27W., Section 1-2; T.5N., R.26W., Section 6; T.6N., R.26W., Section 30 and 31; T.6N., R.27W., Sections 21-23, 25-28, 34-36. Contact: Ann Marx, Fuels Specialist, SBRD.

Analyses Documented None.

Analyses in Progress

Camp Cielo aka Circle V Ranch. 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. Estimated decision date: unknown. Contact: John Bridgwater, Resource Officer, SBRD.

Broadcast Peak Communications Site Plan. This site management plan would delineate site boundaries, determine the kinds of uses which are appropriate to the site, and identify any areas that could be developed. 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. Estimated decision date: unknown. Contact: Marian Kadota, Lands Officer, SBRD.

KERN COUNTY

Analyses Being Scoped None.

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. Estimated decision date: DN, summer, 1997. Contact: Don Trammell, Recreation Officer, MPRD.

VENTURA COUNTY

Analyses Being Scoped

Sisar Canyon Land for Land Exchange Proposal. Proposal to exchange approximately 290 acres of non-federal land located in Sisar Canyon on the Ojai Ranger District for an equal value of Federal land located on the Santa Barbara and Ojai Ranger Districts, totalling approximately 229 acres. Non-federal land: T.4N., R.22W., Section 1; T.4N., R.21W., Section 6; T.5N., R.22W., Section 36; T.5N., R.21W., Section 31. SBBM. Federal land: T.5N., R.23W., Section 34-35; T.5N., R.28W., Section 34, SBBM. Estimated decision date: September 30, 1997. Contact: Katie Campbell and Sharon Sprouse. SO.

San Emigdio Mesa Research Natural Area. Proposal to establish the San Emigdio Research Natural Area (RNA), as recommended in the Forest Plan, and to amend the Forest Plan only as needed to change RNA status to "established". Location of proposed RNA is 15 miles west of Frazier Park, on the southwest slope of Cerro Noroeste, near Mt. Abel, in the Chumash Wilderness; T.8N., R.22W., portions of sections 7-8 and 12-13. SBBM. Scoping began May 16, 1997. Estimated decision date: October, 1997. Contact: Kelly Fike, c/o USFS-RSL, 1920 20th Street, Sacramento, CA, 95814; 916-454-0816.

Sespe Fire Management Plan. Proposal to develop a fire management plan for Forest lands within the Sespe Watershed. The plan would allow prescribed natural fire (lightning) to play its natural ecological role, define management-ignited pre-

scribed burn units, and allow for all three fire suppression tactics (control, contain and confine) to be implemented within the watershed. Estimated decision date: December, 1997. Contact: George Garcia, Acting Resource Officer, ORD.

Reyes Creek Habitat Enhancement. Proposal to improve trout habitat along portions of lower Reyes Creek in the area adjacent to Reyes Creek Campground. T.7N., R.23W., Sections 21 and 22, SBBM. Scoping will occur in July, 1997. Estimated decision date: DM, August, 1997. Contact: Mike Foster. Resource Officer, MPRD.

Analyses Completed

Sespe Trail aka Bear Creek Reroute. In a Decision Memo signed on July 7, 1997, approval was given 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. T.6N., R.21W., Section 34 and T.5N., R.21W., Sections 4 and 5, SBBM. Contact: Charlie Robinson, Recreation Officer, ORD.

Grade Valley Habitat Restoration. In a Decision Memo signed on June 6, 1997, approval was given to construct a livestock enclosure in the Piru Allotment to protect a sensitive riparian area in the headwaters of Piru Creek. T.6N., R.21W., Section 4, SBBM. Contact: Mike Foster, Resource Officer, MPRD.

Analyses Documented

None.

Analyses in Progress

Highway 33 Disposal Sites. Proposal by Caltrans to establish longterm seasonal disposal sites at different locations along Highway 33 (Ojai and Mount Pinos Districts). The disposal sites must accommodate approximately 600,000 yards of slide and slough material over a ten year period. Joint NEPA/CEQA (State of California) document. Estimated decision date: September, 1997. Contact: Larry Hornberger, Forest Engineer, SO.

Ojai Gun Club. Proposal to renew the existing special use permit for the club's facilities in Rose Valley (Ojai District). T.5N., R.22W., Section 4, SBBM. Estimated decision date: unknown. Contact: Marian Kadota, Lands Officer, SBRD.

Piru Creek Mining Activities. Analysis 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. Piru Creek is being studied for Wild and Scenic River nomination. Estimated release of draft EIS: summer, 1997. Contact: Mike Foster, Resource Officer, MPRD.

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 route 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. EA planned for publication: August, 1997.
Estimated decision date: October, 1997. Contact: Don Trammell, Recreation Officer, MPRD.

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