



# Los Padres National Forest Schedule of Proposed Environmental Actions

October - December, 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) as required by Chapter 31.3, FSH 1909.15.

### 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

None.

### Analyses in Progress

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 closed

August 1, 1997. Estimated decision date: DN, January, 1998. Contact: Jim Turner, Planning Officer, SO.

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 January, 1998. Estimated decision date: May, 1998. Contact: Al Hess, Team Leader, SO.

### Other

The Forest has completed the "LPNF Monitoring and Evaluation Report" which is an assessment of the applicability of the Forest Plan and its implementation through management actions. It reports on the progress made toward achieving the goals of the Plan and the effects of applying the Plan standards and guidelines. The monitoring report will be available at the end of October and public comments are welcome. For further information, contact: Jim Turner, Forest Planning Officer, SO.

## MONTEREY COUNTY

### Analyses Being Scoped

Wild Incident Fire-killed Tree Removal. Removal of fire-killed trees along Alms Ridge Road and associated travel ways on the Alms Ridge area. T.22S., R.5E., portions of Sections 31 and 32, MDB&M. Estimated decision date: unknown. Contact: Richard Zechentmayer, Resource Officer.

### Analyses Completed

None.

### Analyses Documented

None.

### Analyses In Progress

Piney Creek Area Dispersed Recreation Area Rehabilitation. To modify present land management practices and to reopen area roads closed by storm damage over the past two years. To repair damage to riparian areas. T.19S., R.5E., Sections 17 & 18, MDB&M. Estimated decision date: unknown. Contact: William Metz, Recreation Officer.

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: unknown. Contact: William Metz, Recreation Officer, MRD.

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.

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: unknown. Contact: William Metz, Recreation Officer, MRD.

## SAN LUIS OBISPO COUNTY

### Analyses Being Scoped

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. Estimated decision date: unknown. Contact: Melody Fountain, Resource Officer, SLRD.

### Analyses Completed

None.

### Analyses Documented

None.

### Analyses in Progress

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.

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: late winter, 1998. Contact: William Metz, Recreation Officer, MRD.

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.

## SANTA BARBARA COUNTY

### Analyses Being Scoped

Gaviota Land for Land Exchange Proposal. Proposal to exchange approximately 86 acres of Federal land located in the Gaviota area south of Bald Mountain on the Santa Barbara Ranger District for an equal value of non-federal land located in Ventura County on the Mt. Pinos Ranger District. The Forest Service is presently negotiating for the non-federal exchange base. Federal land: Lots 15 and 16, T.5N., R.31 W., Section 14, SBBM. Contact: Katie Campbell, Lands Staff, SO.

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: December 1, 1997. Contact: Marian Kadota, Lands 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 or pumped 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 in November, 1997. Estimated decision date: DM, January, 1998. 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

Red Rock Parking Lot. In a Decision Memo signed in August, the District Ranger approved a proposal to resurface 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 approved for parking in the Forest Plan and the Santa Ynez Recreation Plan. T.5N., R.27W., Section 9, SBBM. Contact: John Bridgwater, Resource Officer, SBRD.

Live Oak Day Use Area. In a Decision Memo signed in August, the District Ranger approved a proposal to resurface 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. Contact: John Bridgwater, Resource Officer, SBRD.

Falls Day Use Area. In a Decision Memo signed in August, the District Ranger approved a proposal to resurface 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. Contact: John Bridgwater, Resource Officer, SBRD.

### Analyses Documented

None.

### Analyses in Progress

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: November 15, 1997. Contact: Katie Campbell, Lands Staff or Sharon Sprouse, Recreation Staff, SO.

Wildlife Guzzlers. Proposal to install four 900-gallon concrete wildlife guzzlers in the Frazier Mountain, Tecuya and Grade Valley areas of Mt. Pinos Ranger District. Brush piles will be put in place as cover for birds and small mammals using the guzzlers. The proposed locations of these guzzlers are: T.8N., R.20W., Section 9; T.9N., R.21 W., Section 24; T.9N., R.21W.,

Section 14; and T.7N., R.21W., Section 20. Scoping will begin in October, 1997. Estimated decision date: DM, January, 1998. Contact: Don Trammell, Recreation Officer, MPRD.

Authorization of Grazing on Cuddy Allotment. Proposal to re-issue a 10-year term on-off permit to authorize grazing of 19 cow/calf pairs on the Cuddy Allotment from May 15 to November 15. The Cuddy Allotment is located approximately 7 air miles west of Frazier Park. The allotment boundaries occur in T.9N., R.20W., T.8N. and R.20W.; T.9N., R.21W.; and T.8N., R.21W., SBBM. Estimated decision date: December, 1997. Contact: Mike Foster, Resources Officer, MPRD.

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, Fall, 1997, following the review of public comments. Contact: Don Trammell, Recreation Officer, MPRD.

Road Maintenance. Proposal to perform road and facility maintenance along National Forest system roads on the Mt. Pinos Ranger District. The project will include felling and removing dead trees along roadsides and one campground. Trees will be cut down and removed by contractors. Approximately 86 trees and 120 cords of wood will be removed off of the following roadsides: Scott Russell (9N21), Tecuya Ridge (9N19A), Mt. Pinos Highway (9N24), San Emigdio (9N52), Marion (9N27), Mt. Abel (9N07), and McGill Campground. Estimated decision date: Fall, 1997. Contact: John Kelly, Timber Management Officer, MPRD.

## VENTURA COUNTY

### Analyses Being Scoped

Foothill Prescribed Burn. Proposal to treat approximately 500 acres of chaparral vegetation through the use of management ignited prescribed fire. The project will be conducted jointly

with the Ventura County Fire Protection District. T.5N., R.22W., Sections 34 and 35, SBBM. Contact: George Garcia, Acting Resource Officer, ORD.

Reyes Peak Repeater. Proposal to place a radio repeater outside the wilderness near Reyes Peak. The purpose is to improve radio communications in order to enhance the safety of Forest Service employees and the public using the National Forest. It will also support other activities such as forest fire suppression, emergency responses on Highway 33, search and rescue, and wilderness trail maintenance crews. Improvement of an access trail is planned. T.6N., R.23W., Section 11, SBBM. Estimated decision date: February, 1998. Contact: Leslie Jehnings, Recreation Planner, ORD.

Gaviota Land for Land Exchange Proposal. Proposal to exchange approximately 86 acres of Federal land located in the Gaviota area south of Bald Mountain on the Santa Barbara Ranger District for an equal value of non-federal land located in Ventura County on the Mt. Pinos Ranger District. The Forest Service is presently negotiating for the non-federal exchange base. Federal land: Lots 15 and 16, T.5N., R.31 W., Section 14, SBBM. Contact: Katie Campbell, Lands Staff, SO.

### Analyses Completed

Howard Creek Special Use Permit. In a Decision Memo signed on September 5, 1997, a Special Use Permit was issued for an access road and gate to private lands on Howard Creek. The Special Use Permit also authorized an existing water transmission line. T.5N., R.22W., Section 5, SBBM. Contact: Terry Austin, Resource Forester, ORD.

### Analyses Documented

None.

### Analyses in Progress

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: November 15, 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. 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 prescribed 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.

**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: January, 1998. Contact: Larry Hornberger, Forest Engineer, SO.

**Authorization of Grazing on Cuddy Allotment.** Proposal to re-issue a 10-year term on-off permit to authorize grazing of 19 cow/calf pairs on the Cuddy Allotment from May 15 to November 15. The Cuddy Allotment is located approximately 7 air miles west of Frazier Park. The allotment boundaries occur in T.9N., R.20W., T.8N. and R.20W.; T.9N., R.21W.; and T.8N., R.21W., SBBM. Estimated decision date: December, 1997. Contact: Mike Foster, Resources Officer, MPRD.

**Authorization of Grazing on Quatal Allotment.** Proposal to reissue a 10-year term permit to authorize grazing of 10 cow/calf pairs on the Quatal Allotment from April 1 through July 31. The Quatal Allotment is located in Quatal Canyon, about 17 air miles south of Maricopa in T.9N., R.24W., and T.8N., and R.24W., Sections 2, 3 and 4, SBBM. Estimated decision date: January, 1998. Contact: Mike Foster, Resources Officer, MPRD.

**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 presently being studied for Wild and Scenic River nomination. Estimated release of draft EIS: Fall, 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 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. EA planned for publication: January, 1998. Contact: Don Trammell, Recreation Officer, MPRD.

**Wildlife Guzzlers.** Proposal to install four 900-gallon concrete wildlife guzzlers in the Frazier Mountain, Tecuya and Grade Valley areas of Mt. Pinos Ranger District. Brush piles will be put in place to be used as cover for birds and small mammals using the guzzlers. The proposed locations of these guzzlers are: T.8N., R.20W., Section 9; T.9N., R.21 W., Section 24; T.9N., R.21W., Section 14; and T.7N., R.21W., Section 20. Scoping will begin in October, 1997. Estimated decision date: DM, January, 1998. Contact: Don Trammell, Recreation Officer, MPRD.

## RESPONSIBLE OFFICIALS

### Los Padres National Forest (SO)

Jeanine Derby - Forest Supervisor  
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### Santa Lucia District (SLRD)

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### Ojai District (ORD)

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### Mount Pinos District (MPRD)

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