



# Los Padres National Forest Schedule of Proposed Environmental Actions

January - March, 1998

## 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. Estimated decision

date: DN, April, 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 May, 1998. Estimated decision date: July, 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. For further information, contact: Jim Turner, Forest Planning Officer, SO.

## MONTEREY COUNTY

### Analyses Being Scoped

Monterey Institute for Research in Astronomy (MIRA). Proposal to modify the existing MIRA Small Telescope Facility Special Use Permit site plan to incorporate observatory, computer and storage buildings. T.19S., R.4E., Section 6, MDB&M. Contact: William Metz, Recreation Officer, MRD.

Outfitter/Guide Special Use Permit. Proposal to conduct hiking and horseback trips (one to two clients/trip, one to trips/month) for photography and hunting on National Forest System lands within the Monterey Ranger District. Contact: William Metz, Recreation Officer, MRD.

### Analyses Completed

Wild Incident Fire-killed Tree Removal. In a Decision Memo signed in January 1998, the District Ranger approved a proposal to remove and sell an estimated 306 cubic feet of individually marked fire and insect-killed trees on Alms Ridge by sealed bid. T.22S., R.5E., portions of Sections 31 and 32, MDB&M. Contact: Andrea Maliarik, Archeologist, MRD.

Piney Creek Area Dispersed Recreation Area Rehabilitation. In January 1998, the District Ranger approved a proposal to modify land management practices and reopen area roads closed by storm damage. Authorized activities include barrier replacement, gate installation and road grading. T.19S., R.5E.,

Sections 17 & 18, MDB&M. Estimated decision date: unknown. Contact: William Metz, Recreation Officer, MRD.

### Analyses Documented

Pfeiffer Beach Day Use Area Rehabilitation. In a Decision Notice/Finding of No Significant Impact signed on December 18, 1997, the District Ranger approved a proposal to rehabilitate the day use area and concurrently implement Option D of the Sycamore Canyon Road Traffic Analysis, with modifications. Authorized activities include repaving an existing 45 space parking lot, repaving the first auxiliary parking lot to accommodate 20 parking spaces, constructing a 4-unit vault toilet, constructing a beach access trail, constructing a kiosk and entrance turn-around lane, and constructing a vehicle turn-around lane on Sycamore Canyon Road, approximately 150 yards from the Highway 1 intersection. T.19S., R.1E., Section 35, MDB&M. Contact: William Metz, Recreation Officer, MRD.

### Analyses In Progress

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: June, 1998. Contact: Jeff Kwasny, Wildlife Biologist, MRD.

## SAN LUIS OBISPO COUNTY

### Analyses Being Scoped

None.

### Analyses Completed

Ragged Point Inn Outfitter/Guide Permit. In August 1997, the District Ranger approved a proposal to conduct horseback trail rides on National Forest System Lands, formerly the Sur Sur Ranch, east of Ragged Point Inn. This project is consistent with the Forest Plan. T.25S., R.6E., Sections 4, 5 and 9, MDB&M. Contact: William Metz, Recreation Officer, MRD.

### Analyses Documented

None.

### Analyses in Progress

Navajo Allotment Permit Re-issuance. Proposal to reissue a 10 year term permit to authorize grazing of 125 yearling cattle from February 1 to May 30. T.28S., R.16E., Sections 20 and 21, MDB&M. Estimated decision date: March, 1998. Contact: Melody Fountain, Resource Officer, SLRD.

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. Estimated decision date: unknown. Contact: Kelly Fike, c/o USFS-RSL, 1920 20th Street, Sacramento, CA, 95814; 916-454-0816.

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: June, 1998. Contact: Jeff Kwasny, Wildlife Biologist, MRD.

## SANTA BARBARA COUNTY

### Analyses Being Scoped

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 February, 1998. Estimated decision date: DM, April, 1998. Contact: Mike Foster, Resource Officer, MPRD.

### Analyses Completed

Buster Access Road. In a December, 1997 Decision Memo, the District Ranger approved a proposal to issue a special use permit for an access road to private land off Paradise Road. The road will include new construction of approximately 1/4 mile. T.5N., R.28W., Section 3, SBBM. Contact: Marian Kadota, Lands Officer, SBRD.

### Analyses Documented

None

### Analyses in Progress

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 Santa Barbara County on the Santa Barbara Ranger District. Federal land: Lots 15 and 16, T.5N., R.31 W., Section 14, SBBM. Non-federal land: T.5N., R.29W., E 1/2 NE 1/4, Section 25, SBBM. Contact: Katie Campbell, Lands Staff or Sharon Sprouse, Recreation Staff, SO.

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, totaling 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: February, 1998. 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, SBBM. Estimated decision date: DM, January, 1998. Contact: Rick Howell, Biological Technician, 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: January, 1998. 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: Joan Brandoff-Kerr, Lands Specialist, 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.

### Analyses Postponed

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. Analysis may be reinitiated in the Spring of 1998, at which time scoping will occur. 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 Improvements. 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: unknown. Contact: Don Trammell, Recreation Officer, MPRD.

Road Maintenance. Proposal to perform road and facility maintenance along National Forest system roads and Kern County Roads on the Mt. Pinos Ranger District. The project will include felling and removing dead trees along roadsides by contractors. Approximately 70 trees and 100 cords of wood will be removed from the following roadsides: Scott Russell (9N21), Tecuya Ridge (9N19A), Cuddy Valley Road aka Mt. Pinos Highway, Mil Potrero Highway, San Emigdio (9N52), Marion and Caballo Campground Road (9N27), and Cerro Noroeste Highway aka Mt. Abel Road. Estimated decision date: Spring, 1998. Contact: John Kelly, Timber Management Officer, MPRD.

## VENTURA COUNTY

Analyses Being Scoped None.

Analyses Completed None.

Analyses Documented None.

### Analyses in Progress

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.

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: February, 1998. Contact: Katie Campbell, Lands Staff or Sharon Sprouse, Recreation Staff, 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: unknown. 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: January, 1998. 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: January, 1998. 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: February, 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: Winter, 1998. 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: June, 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 placed 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. Estimated decision date: DM, February, 1998. Contact: Rick Howell, Biological Technician, MPRD.

### **Analyses Postponed**

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. Analysis has been deferred until further notice. Contact: Larry Mastic, District Ranger, ORD.

## **RESPONSIBLE OFFICIALS**

### **Los Padres National Forest (SO)**

Jeanine Derby - Forest Supervisor  
Margaret Boland - Deputy Forest Supervisor  
6144 Calle Real  
Goleta, CA 93117  
(805) 683-6711

### **Monterey District (MRD)**

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

### **Santa Lucia District (SLRD)**

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

### **Santa Barbara District (SBRD)**

Gloria Silva - District Ranger  
HC 58 Paradise Road  
Santa Barbara, CA 93105  
(805) 967-3481

### **Ojai District (ORD)**

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

### **Mount Pinos District (MPRD)**

Mark Bethke - District Ranger  
34580 Lockwood Valley Road  
Frazier Park, CA 93225  
(805) 245-3731

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