



# Los Padres National Forest Schedule of Proposed Environmental Actions

April - June, 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

Outfitter/Guide Special Use Permit. Proposal to modify an existing Monterey Ranger District Outfitter/Guide Special Use Permit (SUP) to a forestwide SUP for the purpose of conducting outfitter/guide activities on the Mount Pinos, Ojai, Santa Barbara, and Santa Lucia Districts. Estimated decision date: unknown. Contact: William Metz, Recreation Officer, MRD.

### 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, Summer 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 August 1998. Estimated decision date: unknown. Contact: Al Hess, Team Leader, 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 horseback trips along a coastal terrace on National Forest System lands in the Pacific Valley area. T.23S., R.5E., Sections 7, 18 and 19, MDB&M. Estimated decision date: June 1998. Contact: William Metz, Recreation Officer, MRD.

### Analyses Completed

Outfitter/Guide Special Use Permit. In March 1998, the District Ranger approved a proposal to conduct hiking and horseback trips (one to two clients/trip, one to two trips/month) for photography and hunting on National Forest System lands within the Monterey Ranger District. Contact: William Metz, Recreation Officer, MRD.

Boronda Ridge Outfitter/Guide Route. In March 1998, the District Ranger approved a 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. Contact: William Metz, Recreation Officer, MRD.

**Analyses Documented** None.

### Analyses In Progress

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

## SAN LUIS OBISPO COUNTY

**Analyses Being Scoped** None.

**Analyses Completed** None.

**Analyses Documented** None.

### Analyses in Progress

Ragged Point Inn Outfitter/Guide Permit. Proposal to modify an existing Outfitter/Guide Special Use Permit to conduct expanded horsepacking and guided trail ride activities on National Forest System lands east of Ragged Point Inn, including the area formerly known as the Sur Sur Ranch. This project is consistent with the Forest Plan (1988). T.25S., R.6E., Sections 4, 5 and 9; T.24S., R.6E., Sections 28, 27, 33, 34, 35 and 36; and T.24S., R.7E., Section 31, MDB&M. Estimated decision date: June 1998. Contact: William Metz, Recreation Officer, MRD.

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

## SANTA BARBARA COUNTY

### Analyses Being Scoped

Reciprocal Easement Proposal. Proposal for the United States to acquire a public trail right-of-way across private land on the Snyder Trail, and to grant a reciprocal road right-of-way for access to the landowner's property across National Forest System land. Trail r/w to acquire: T.5N., R.28W., Section 11, SBBM. Federal land r/w to grant: T.5N., R.28W., Section 2, SBBM. Contact: Katie Campbell, Lands Staff, SO.

Sierra Madre Spring Restoration. Proposal to protect two springs (Judell 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 27, SBBM. The scope of this project has been reduced due to a reduction in funding and the timing of the project has been delayed due to storm damage to access roads. Estimated decision date: DM, June 1998. Contact: Mike Foster, Resource Officer, MPRD.

Aliso Canyon Prescribed Burn. Proposal to use prescribed fire to treat the chaparral stands on the hillsides above Aliso Canyon, approximately six to seven air miles southwest of New Cuyama, T.9N., R.27W., portions of Sections 4, 5, 8, and 9. The proposal includes the use of a terra-torch and hand-carried drip torches to ignite the dead fuels and live standing chaparral in the Aliso Canyon watershed in the Fall of 1998 or the Winter of 1999. Forest Service personnel would apply fire along a 2 mile stretch of Aliso Canyon Road, from approximately 1 mile south of Aliso Canyon Campground to the area near Hog Pen Spring. The resulting fire would be allowed to burn uphill to produce a mosaic pattern or burned and unburned chaparral. Existing fuelbreaks atop Sierra Madre Ridge would be used to prevent the spread of fire outside of the project area. No new fire lines would be constructed. Estimated decision date: DM, June 1998. Contact: Mike Foster, Resource Officer, MPRD.

Deer Park Allotment. Proposal to authorize grazing of 23 cow/calf pairs on Deer Park Allotment from March 1 through June 30. The Deer Park Allotment is located in the Deer Park Canyon watershed, about 14 air miles south of Maricopa. T.9N., R.24W., Sections 7, 8, 14-18, 20-23, 27 and 28, SBBM. Estimated decision date: August 1998. Contact: Mike Foster, Resource Officer, MPRD.

### Analyses Completed

Camino Cielo Block L Prescribed Burn. In a January 23, 1998 Decision Memo, the District Ranger approved a proposal to treat 130 acres of chaparral vegetation utilizing management ignited prescribed fire to maintain an existing fuelbreak along Camino Cielo Ridge as described and previously approved in the Santa Barbara Front Fuel Management Block Environmental Analysis (EA, 1981). The burn area is described and designated as Camino Cielo Block L Prescribed Burn, and is located in Section 15 of T.5N., R.28W., SBBM. Contact: Carol Henson, Acting Fuels Specialist, SBRD.

Camino Cielo Block R Prescribed Burn. In a January 23, 1998 Decision Memo, the District Ranger approved a proposal to treat 108 acres of chaparral vegetation utilizing management ignited prescribed fire to maintain an existing fuelbreak along Camino Cielo Ridge as described and previously approved in the Santa Barbara Front Fuel Management Block Environmental Analysis (EA, 1981). The burn area is described and designated as Camino Cielo Block R Prescribed Burn, and is located in Sections 22, 23, 26, 27 of T.5N., R.27W., SBBM. Contact: Carol Henson, Acting Fuels Specialist, 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. Estimated decision date: May 1998. 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: July 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, April 1998. Contact: Rick Howell, Biological Technician, 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.

## 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. 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 follow-

ing 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.

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 allotment is located approximately 7 air miles west of Frazier Park. The 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: May 1998. Contact: Mike Foster, Resources Officer, MPRD.

## VENTURA COUNTY

**Analyses Being Scoped** None.

### Analyses Completed

MCI Road Special Use Permit. In a Decision Memo signed in February, the District Ranger approved a proposal to issue a ten-year special use permit to MCI Telecommunications Corporation for the use and maintenance of a portion of Laguna Ridge Fuelbreak Road. MCI requested permission to cross National Forest lands in order to gain access to their communications site on private land. Contact: Terry Austin, Resource Forester, ORD.

**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. Estimated decision date: April 1998. 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: July 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: April 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: summer 1998. Contact: Jim Turner, Forest Planner or Tony Varia, Forest Engineer, SO.

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: May 1998. Contact: Mike Foster, Resources Officer, MPRD.

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: June 1998. Contact: Mike Foster, Resources Officer, MPRD.

Ojai Valley 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: Summer 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, April 1998. Contact: Rick Howell, Biological Technician, MPRD.

## 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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