



Los Padres National Forest Schedule of Proposed Environmental Actions

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October - December, 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: unknown. 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 in January 1999, and Final EIS in May 1999. Contact: Al Hess, Team Leader, Ojai Ranger District.

MONTEREY COUNTY

Analyses Being Scoped

Coast Highway Management Plan (CHMP). The CHMP is a two-phase effort: Phase 1 relates to storm damage activities and Phase 2 is a more comprehensive planning effort that addresses corridor management on a larger scale. The Phase 1 effort is intended to develop interagency agreements and facilitate storm damage response for future years including consideration of potential material disposal sites, on and off National Forest System lands. Environmental Assessments will be conducted on each potential site before any decision is made to permit their use as material deposit sites. Contact: Jeff Kwasny, Wildlife Biologist, MRD.

Monterey Institute for Research in Astronomy (MIRA). Proposal to modify the existing MIRA Special Use Permit to incorporate a Small Telescope Facility (observatory, computer and storage buildings) within the existing site plan. T.19S., R.4E., Section 6, MDB&M. Estimated decision date: March 1999. Contact: William Metz, Recreation Officer, MRD.

Outfitter/Guide Special Use Permit. Proposal to modify an existing Outfitter/Guide Special Use Permit to conduct horse-back rides 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: March, 1999. Contact: William Metz, Recreation Officer, MRD.

Analyses Completed

None.

Analyses Documented

None.

Analyses In Progress

Control of Invasive Weeds on the Big Sur Coast. Proposal to treat non-native invasive weeds at ten sites (approximately 36 acres) on the Big Sur Coast with herbicides. The method of application would be by backpack mounted apparatus, spraying herbicides directly on target plants. An EA is necessary in order to carry out any herbicide treatment on National Forest System lands. The EA will analyze the site specific effects on the environment by the proposed treatments. Estimated decision date: December 1998. Contact: Jeff Kwasny, Wildlife Biologist, MRD.

SAN LUIS OBISPO COUNTY

Analyses Being Scoped

Sur Sur Ranch Public Access. Proposal to construct parking area, vault toilet, information kiosk, live-stock corral, and reconfiguration of existing intersection onto Highway 1, east of Ragged Point Inn. T.25S., R.6E., Sections 4 and 9, MDB&M. Estimated decision date: June 1999. Contact: William Metz, Recreation Officer, MRD.

Coast Highway Management Plan (CHMP). The CHMP is a two-phase effort: Phase 1 relates to storm damage activities and Phase 2 is a more comprehensive planning effort that addresses corridor management on a larger scale. The Phase 1 effort is intended to develop interagency agreements and facilitate storm damage response for future years including consideration of potential material disposal sites, on and off National Forest System lands. EAs will be conducted on each potential site before any decision is made to permit their use as material deposit sites. Contact: Jeff Kwasny, Wildlife Biologist, MRD.

Cerro Alto Trail Reroute. Proposal to reroute a steep 1000-foot section of the trail to avoid continued trail erosion. The project will consist of brush removal and establishing a new trail tread. Trail grade will be approximately 6% to 7%. T.29S., R.11E., Section 12, MDB&M. Contact: Manuel Madrigal, Recreation Officer, SLRD.

Analyses Completed None.

Analyses Documented None.

Analyses Postponed

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. Postponed as a result of project planning for the Sur Sur Ranch Public Access/Trailhead Project. Contact: William Metz, Recreation Officer, MRD.

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. The official 30 day comment period will begin in mid-October. Estimated decision date: December 1998. Contact: Melody Fountain, Resource Officer, SLRD.

Big and Little Falls Allotment. Proposal to analyze grazing on Big and Little Falls Allotment for permit re-issuance. Proposal

includes 15 cow/calf pairs for about 8.5 months. T.30 S., R.14E., sections 28-33, MDB&M. This analysis was completed and the document sent to interested parties on September 1, 1998. The official 30 day comment period will begin in mid-October. A Decision Notice is expected to be completed in December 1998. Contact: Melody Fountain, SLRD.

SANTA BARBARA COUNTY

Analyses Being Scoped None.

Analyses Completed None.

Analyses Documented

Camp Cielo aka Circle V Ranch. In a Decision Notice signed on October 1, 1998, the District Ranger approved a proposal to issue a new twenty year period to the Society of St. Vincent de Paul for an existing youth organization camp located in Tequepis Canyon, known as the Circle V Ranch, aka Camp Cielo. T.6N., R.29W., Section 32, SBBM. Contact: Joan Brandoff-Kerr, Lands Specialist, SBRD.

Sisar Canyon Land Exchange. In a Decision Notice signed on July 28, 1998, Forest Supervisor Jeanine Derby approved a proposal to exchange approximately 290 acres of non-federal land located in Sisar Canyon on the ORD for an equal value of Federal land located on the SBRD and ORD, 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. Contact: Jytte Kronberg, Lands Staff, SO.

Reciprocal Easement Proposal. In a Decision Notice signed by Forest Supervisor Jeanine Derby on June 30, 1998, and approved by Regional Forester Lynn Sprague on August 7, 1998, the decision was made to approve a 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: Jytte Kronberg, Lands Staff, SO.

Analyses in Progress

Happy Canyon Allotment. Proposal to analyze grazing on the Happy Canyon Allotment on the Santa Barbara Ranger District. Includes 73 cow/calf pairs and 3 bulls from March 1 to February 28. T.7N., R.29W., SBBM. The official 30 day comment period will begin in mid-October. A Decision Notice is expected to be completed in December, 1998. Contact: Gary Montgomery, Range Specialist, SLRD.

De Vault, Durbiano, Venadito SUP for Livestock Area. Proposal to analyze grazing on three small special use pastures in order to re-issue grazing permits. Proposal includes De Vault for 10 yearling cattle from March 1 to July 30; Durbiano for 5 horses from January 1 to December 31; and Venadito for 5 cow/calf pairs from February 15 to June 30. This analysis was completed and the document sent to interested parties on August 31, 1998. The official 30 day comment period will begin in mid-October. A Decision Notice is expected to be completed in December 1998. Contact: Gary Montgomery, Range Specialist, SLRD.

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, January 1999. Contact: Mike Foster, Resource Officer, MPRD.

Aliso Canyon Prescribed Burn. Proposal to use prescribed fire on the hillsides above Aliso Canyon, approximately 6-7 air miles southwest of New Cuyama, T.9N., R.27W., portions of Sections 4, 5, 8, and 9, 16 and 17. Includes the use of a terra-torch and hand-carried drip torches to ignite the dead fuels and live standing brush on approximately 400 acres within a 750 acre block of standing chaparral in Fall of 1998 or Winter of 1999. The resulting fire would be allowed to burn uphill to produce a mosaic pattern of 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, December 1998. Contact: Mike Foster, Resource Officer, MPRD.

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

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. Work on this project has been deferred indefinitely and there is no estimated decision date for this project. Contact: Mike Foster, Resource Officer, MPRD.

KERN COUNTY

Analyses Being Scoped None.

Analyses Completed None.

Analyses Documented None.

Analyses in Progress

Los Angeles Orienteering. Proposal to re-issue a 5-year special use permit to authorize orienteering events for 4 days per year with fewer than 70 participants from September 30, 1999 through September 30, 2004. The permit area for conducting events is located on Mt. Pinos around and below the Chula Vista parking lot between elevations 7200 and 8500 feet. T.8N., R.21W., Sections 3, 4, 5; T.9N., R.21W., Sections 33, 34, 35, SBBM. Estimated decision date: November 1998. Contact: Cheryl Dorsey, Assistant Recreation Officer, MPRD.

Los Angeles Orienteering. Proposal to issue a temporary special use permit to authorize a nationally sanctioned orienteering event on June 12 and 13, 1999, with fewer than 200 participants. The permit area for conducting events is located on Mt. Pinos around and below the Chula Vista parking lot between elevations 7200 and 8500 feet: T.8N., R.21W., Sections 3, 4, 5; T.9N., R.21W., Sections 33, 34, 35, SBBM. Estimated decision date: November 1998. Contact: Cheryl Dorsey, Assistant 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. 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 (9N07) and McGill Campground. Estimated decision date: Fall 1998. Contact: John Kelly, Timber Management Officer, MPRD.

Mount Pinos III Prescribed Burn. Proposal to use prescribed fire to treat the montane chaparral stands and forest floor fuels on the mountainsides between the Kern County road to McGill Campground and the McGill hiking trail, approximately 2 miles west of Pinyon Pines, about 1/2 mile south of the organization camps at the Cuddy Y, and 3 miles east/southeast of Pine Mountain Club; T.9N, R.21W, portions of sections 26, 34, 35 and 36. Proposal includes use of hand carried drip torches to ignite the dead fuels and live standing brush on approximately 500 acres within a 650 acre block of land in the Upper Cuddy Creek watershed. Proposed time frame is Fall of 1998 (no burning in the Spring in order to protect breeding birds). The fire would burn fire-adapted stands of mountain whitethorn. Treated brushfields would be more accessible to mule deer and sprouting shrubs would provide more palatable and nutritious browse for these big game animals. Would also reduce the amount of duff on the forest floor and would reduce the density of sapling trees in an effort to improve the fire resiliency of the mature Jeffrey pine forests that are intermixed with the brushfields. The county road and hiking trail would be used as firelines to prevent the spread of fire outside the project area. No new fire lines would be constructed. Estimated decision date: DM, November 1998. Contact: Mike Foster, Resource Officer, MPRD.

Analyses Postponed

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. The revised EA was issued on September 3, 1996. The proposal has subsequently been withdrawn from further consideration under NEPA. If this or a similar proposal is brought forward at a later date, the MPRD will re-initiate public scoping. Contact: Don Trammell, Recreation Officer, MPRD.

VENTURA COUNTY

Analyses Being Scoped None.

Analyses Completed None.

Analyses Documented

Cuddy Allotment. In a Decision Memo signed on September 3, 1998, the District Ranger approved a 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. Contact: Mike Foster, Resources Officer, MPRD.

Sisar Canyon Land Exchange. In a Decision Notice signed on July 28, 1998, Forest Supervisor Jeanine Derby approved a proposal to exchange approximately 290 acres of non-federal land located in Sisar Canyon on the ORD for an equal value of Federal land located on the SBRD and ORD, 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. Contact: Sharon Sprouse, Recreation Staff, SO.

Analyses in Progress

Pink Moment Jeep Tours Special Use Permit. Proposal to issue a one year special use permit to a new owner of Pink Moment Jeep Tours to conduct commercial jeep tours on existing roads. Contact: Charlie Robinson, Recreation Officer, ORD.

Sisar Allotment: Proposal to analyze allotment on the Ojai District for permit re-issuance. Proposal includes 6 cow/calf pairs. This analysis was completed and the document sent to interested parties on September 24, 1998. The official 30 day comment period will begin in mid-October. A Decision Notice is expected to be completed in December, 1998. Contact: Gary Montgomery, Range Specialist, SLRD.

Rice/Wills Allotment. Proposal to analyze allotment on the Ojai District for permit re-issuance. Proposal includes 16 cow/calf pairs. This analysis was completed and the document sent to interested parties on September 24, 1998. The official 30 day comment period will begin in mid-October. A Decision Notice is expected to be completed in December, 1998. Contact: Gary Montgomery, Range Specialist, SLRD.

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 fulfill 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: August 1998. Contact: Terry Austin, Resource Forester, ORD.

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. The EA for this project has been distributed for public comment. The public comment period has been extended to

October 25. Estimated decision date: November 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. T.5N., R.22W., Section 4, SBBM. Estimated decision date: unknown. Contact: Marian Kadota, Lands Officer, SBRD.

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. Piru Creek is presently being studied for Wild and Scenic River nomination. Estimated release of Draft EIS: Winter 1999. Contact: Mike Foster, Resources 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: March 1999. Contact: Don Trammell, Recreation Officer, MPRD.

Analyses Postponed

Highway 33 Disposal Sites. Analysis of longterm seasonal disposal sites at different locations along Highway 33 (ORD and MPRD). Contact: Jim Turner, Forest Planner or Tony Varia, Facilities Engineer, SO.

RESPONSIBLE OFFICIALS

Los Padres National Forest (SO)

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