



Los Padres National Forest

Schedule of Proposed Environmental Actions

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January - March 1999

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

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. A Draft EIS is expected in June 1999. Contact: Al Hess, Team Leader, Ojai Ranger District.

Analyses Postponed

Forest Plan Amendment. The proposal to amend the Forest Land and Resource Management Plan to incorporate revised riparian management standards and direction for anadromous fish has been postponed until September 1999. An expanded effort is being undertaken to amend the Forest Plans of all four southern California national Forests: the Angeles, Cleveland, San Bernardino and Los Padres. Additional information will be incorporated from the province-wide Forest and Foothills Assessment and from U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service Biological Opinions on Forest level consultations regarding management of threatened and endangered species. The result will be a coordinated, comprehensive amendment(s) which specifies management requirements for wildlife and plant species in the riparian and upland zones of the Forests. This effort is known collectively as the Southern California Conservation Strategy. Contact: Jim Turner, Planning Officer, SO.

MONTEREY COUNTY

Analyses Being Scoped

Big Sur Coastal Grazing Permits. Proposal to initiate analysis of authorized livestock grazing on the following seven grazing allotments: Torre canyon, Twitchell, Gorda, Alder Creek, Salmon Creek, Buckeye and San Carpoforo. This analysis will be used in the decision-making process whether or not to re-issue term grazing permits. Estimated decision date: unknown. Contact: Jeff Kwasny, Resource 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. Environmental analyses will be conducted on each potential site before any decision is made to permit their

use as material deposit sites. Contact: Jeff Kwasny, Resource Officer, 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: May 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: April 1999. Contact: Jeff Kwasny, Resource Officer, MRD.

SAN LUIS OBISPO COUNTY

Analyses Being Scoped

Rockfront Allotment Unit Boundary Fence and Cattle Guard. Proposal to construct one half mile of fence and install two cattle guards on Branch Creek Road to control livestock movement. T.32 S., R.17 E., Sections 14 and 25. A Decision Memo is expected to be completed in January 1999. Contact: Gary Montgomery, Range Specialist, SLRD.

San Carposforo Grazing Permit. Proposal to initiate analysis of authorized livestock grazing allotment. This analysis will be used in deciding whether or not to re-issue term grazing permits. Estimated decision date: unknown. Contact: Jeff Kwasny, Resource 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. Environmental analyses will be conducted on each potential site before any decision is made to permit their use as material deposit sites. Contact: Jeff Kwasny, Resource Officer, MRD.

Analyses Completed None.

Analyses Documented

Navajo Allotment Permit Re-issuance. In a Decision Notice

signed on December 2, 1998, the District Ranger approved a proposal to reissue a 10 year term permit to authorize grazing of 125 yearling cattle from February 1 to May 30, and for 9 yearling cattle for 12 months. T.28S., R.16E., Sections 20, 21, 27, 28 & 34, MDB&M. Contact: Melody Fountain, Resource Officer, SLRD.

Analyses Postponed or Withdrawn

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. Postponed as a result of changing forest project planning priorities. Contact: William Metz, Recreation Officer, MRD.

Analyses in Progress

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.

Integrated Vegetation Management for PG&E Line. Pacific Gas and Electric (PG&E) is proposing to use a combination of mechanical methods and herbicides to control woody vegetation along the powerline access road, transmission towers and isolated locations beneath sections of their 500kv Diablo-Midway powerline that passes through a small section of the SLRD. T.31S. R.17E., Sections 22, 23, 24, 26, 27, 28 & 32, MDM. The EA will analyze the site specific effects on the environment by the proposed treatments. Estimated decision date: February 1999. Contact: Dennis Cooper, Lands and Minerals Officer, SLRD.

AT&T Fiber Optics Cable Removal and Upgrade. AT&T Corporation (AT&T) proposes to upgrade its telecommunications line by removing an old coaxial cable and installing a new fiber optics cable. AT&T proposes to: 1. remove approximately 1.8 miles of old cable that crosses the SLRD, and 2. install new fiber optics cable in the same right-of-way. T.29S., R.12E., Section 35, MDM. The upgraded fiber optics cable will serve international needs. Estimated decision date: February/March 1999. Contact: Dennis Cooper, Lands and Minerals 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. Staff members are addressing public comments and finalizing the EA. A Decision Notice is expected in February 1999. Contact: Melody Fountain, SLRD.

SANTA BARBARA COUNTY

Analyses Being Scoped

Lizard's Mouth/Brush Peak Area Plan. Public scoping will begin in late February for an analysis which will address the following: Winchester Gun Club permit issuance; management of the area's cultural resources; and management of the area's recreation resources. T.5N., R.28S., Sections 18 & 19; T.5N., R.29W., Sections 13 & 14, SBBM. Estimated decision date: unknown. Contact: Marian Kadota, Lands Officer, SBRD.

Riverside/White Rock Campground and Picnic Area. Scoping will begin in mid-January for an analysis which will address construction of campground and day-use parking facilities along Paradise Road in the White Rock Area. T.5N., R.28W., Section 3, SBBM. Estimated decision date: Spring 1999. Contact: Jeff Benson, Recreation Forester, SBRD.

Analyses Completed

None.

Analyses Documented

Camp Cielo aka Circle V Ranch. In a Decision Notice signed on January 8, 1999, the District Ranger approved a proposal to issue a new twenty year permit to the Society of St. Vincent de Paul for an existing youth organization camp located in Tequepis Canyon, known as the Circle V Ranch, ask Camp Cielo. T.6N., R.29W., Section 32, SBBM. Contact: Joan Brandoff-Kerr, Lands Specialist, SBRD.

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. Staff members are addressing public comments and finalizing the EA. A Decision Notice is expected in February 1999. 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 DeVault 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. Staff members are addressing public comments and finalizing the EA. A Decision Notice is expected in February 1999. Contact: Gary Montgomery, Range Specialist, SLRD.

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 & 17. Includes the use of a heli-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 the Winter or Fall 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, March 1999. 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 or Withdrawn

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. This proposal has been withdrawn. If this or a similar proposal is brought forward at a later date, the MPRD will reinitiate public scoping. Contact: Mike Foster, Resources Officer, MPRD.

KERN COUNTY

Analyses Being Scoped

None.

Analyses Completed

Mount Pinos III Prescribed Burn. In a Decision Memo signed on November 13, 1998, the District Ranger approved a 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. The project area is 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 & 36. Hand-carried drip torches will be used 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. Contact: Mike Foster, Resource Officer, MPRD.

Los Angeles Orienteering. In a Decision Memo signed in December 1998, the District Ranger approved a 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 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. Contact: Cheryl Dorsey, Assistant Recreation Officer, MPRD.

Analyses Documented

None.

Analyses in Progress

Special Use Permit for Organization Camp. Proposal to renew a Special Use Permit to continue operating an existing year-round organizational camp on national forest system land located due west of the community of Pinyon Pines at the base of the northeast flank of Mt. Pinos. The site is currently occupied by the El Camino Pines/Frontier Pines Camp and is located along Frontier Road, 1/2 mile southwest of the intersection of Mount Pinos Highway and Mil Potrero Highway. T.9N., R.21W., Section 26. The applicant proposes to upgrade the facility to make the camp fully accessible to individuals who are physically challenged through minor modifications to existing buildings. A limited number of new buildings would be constructed and some existing structures would be relocated to more clustered locations. The applicant proposes to increase the capacity of the camp from approximately 140 people to approximately 200 people. An EA is planned for publication in March 1999. Contact: Loreigh Brannan, Special Uses Administrator, 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: January 1999. Contact: Cheryl Dorsey, Assistant Recreation Officer, MPRD.

Analyses Postponed or Withdrawn

Road Maintenance. A proposal to perform road and facility maintenance (fell and remove dead trees) along National Forest system roads and Kern County roads on the Mount Pinos Ranger District has been withdrawn. Contact: John Kelly, Timber Management Officer, MPRD.

VENTURA COUNTY

Analyses Being Scoped

Goldhill OHV Trail. Proposal to construct an off-highway vehicle trail to provide an alternate OHV route between the Hungry Valley State Vehicular Recreation Area and the MPRD's east-side OHV trail system. T.7N., R.19W., Sections 4, 5, 6, 7, 8 & 18, SBBM. Objective is to remove OHV use on Goldhill Road to improve public safety while maintaining existing recreation opportunities. Approximately 5 miles of trail would be constructed. A scoping letter will be issued in mid-January. An EA is planned for publication in March 1999. Contact: Don Trammell, Recreation Officer, MPRD.

Analyses Completed

None.

Analyses Documented

Quatal Allotment. In a Decision Notice and FONSI signed on December 9, 1998, the District Ranger approved reissuance of 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, 17 air miles south of Maricopa in T.9N., R.24W., and T.8N., and R.24W., Sections 2, 3 & 4, SBBM. Contact: Mike Foster, Resources Officer, MPRD.

Analyses in Progress

Sisar Allotment. Proposal to analyze allotment on the Ojai District for permit re-issuance. Proposal includes 6 cow/calf pairs. Staff members are addressing public comments and finalizing the EA. A Decision Notice is expected in February 1999. 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. Staff members are addressing public comments and finalizing the EA. A Decision Notice is expected in February 1999. 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: unknown. Contact: Terry Austin, Resource Forester, ORD.

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: Terry Austin, Resources Officer, ORD, or 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.

RESPONSIBLE OFFICIALS

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