



Los Padres National Forest

Schedule of Proposed Environmental Actions

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April - June 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 SUP. 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 Mt. Pinos, Ojai, Santa Barbara, and Santa Lucia Districts. Estimated decision date: September 30, 1999. 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 September 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: December 1999. 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: August 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.

Analyses Withdrawn

Outfitter/Guide Special Use Permit. Proposal to modify an existing Outfitter/Guide Special Use Permit to conduct horseback rides along a coastal terrace on National Forest System lands in the Pacific Valley area. Proposal withdrawn at request of applicant. Contact: William Metz, Recreation Officer, MRD.

SAN LUIS OBISPO COUNTY

Analyses Being Scoped

San Carpofozo 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: December 1999. 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

Rockfront Allotment Unit Boundary Fence and Cattle Guard. In a Decision Memo signed on January 29, 1999, the District Ranger approved a 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. Contact: Gary Montgomery, Range Specialist, SLRD.

Analyses Documented

None.

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: June 1999. Contact: Dennis Cooper, Lands and Minerals Officer, SLRD.

AT&T Fiber Optics Cable Removal and Upgrade. 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: June 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. Estimated decision date: June 1999. Contact: Melody Fountain, SLRD.

SANTA BARBARA COUNTY

Analyses Being Scoped

Lizard's Mouth/Brush Peak Area Plan. Public scoping will begin in late May 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.

Public scoping has begun for an analysis which will address construction of campground and day-use parking facilities along Paradise Road in the Lower Santa Ynez Recreation Area. The proposal includes constructing an overnight campground and day use parking area in the Manzanita and Cabin Lane areas, and extending the west end of the White Rock Picnic Area. T.5N., R.28W., Section 3, SBBM. Comments must be post-marked by April 23, 1999. An open house will be held on April 15, at 5:00 p.m. at the Los Prietos Ranger Station; please RSVP. Estimated decision date: Summer 1999. Contact: Jeff Bensen, Recreation Forester, SBRD.

Broadcast Peak Communications Site Plan. Public scoping will likely begin in late May 1999. 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: December 1999. Contact: Marian Kadota, Lands Officer, SBRD.

Analyses Completed **None.**

Analyses Documented **None.**

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

Analyses Postponed

Aliso Canyon Prescribed Burn. A proposal to use prescribed fire on the hillsides above Aliso Canyon has been deferred until 2000. Contact: Mike Foster, Resource Officer, MPRD.

KERN COUNTY

Analyses Being Scoped

None.

Analyses Completed

Los Angeles Orienteering. In a Decision Memo signed on January 19, 1999, the District Ranger approved a 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 area is 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 Fall 1999. Contact: Loreigh Brannan, Special Uses Administrator, 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, SBEM. 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. Estimated decision date: May 1999. Contact: Don Trammell, Recreation Officer, MPRD.

Analyses Completed None.
Analyses Documented None.

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 September 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 September 1999. Contact: Gary Montgomery, Range Specialist, SLRD.

Sisar II Prescribed Burn. Proposal to conduct a 275 acre prescribed burn project in cooperation with the Ventura County Fire Department, California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection, and Ventura County Air Pollution Control District. The Sisar II project is an extension of several prescribed burn projects in the Ojai frontcountry, including the Fairview/Foothill and Shelf burns which are being implemented this year, and the Sisar I burn which was implemented last fall. The project is located on the east side of Sisar Creek and the west side of Bear Creek in T.4N., R.22W., Section 1, and T.4N., R.21W., Section 6, SBBM. The purpose of the project is to lower the risk of large destructive wildfire hazards by reducing fuel loading and removing brush in the urban interface to increase defensible space. A combination of pile and broadcast burning will be accomplished with the use of hand-carried drip torches, a terra-torch, and a heli-torch. The objective is to remove 60% of the standing fuels in a manner resembling a low to medium intensity, naturally occurring, backing fire. Contact: Diane Cross, Fuels Planner, ORD.

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 control, contain and confine fire tactics 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.

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 archeo-

logical 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 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: Summer 1999. Contact: Don Trammell, Recreation Officer, MPRD.

RESPONSIBLE OFFICIALS

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