



Los Padres National Forest

# Schedule of Proposed Environmental Actions

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July - September 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 Autumn 1999. Contact: Al Hess, Team Leader, Ojai Ranger District.

## MONTEREY COUNTY

### Analyses Being Scoped

Big Sur Coastal Grazing Permits. Authorization of livestock grazing on the following eight grazing areas/allotments: Torre Canyon, Twitchell, Gorda, Alder Creek, Salmon Creek, Buckeye and San Carpofo and other recently acquired National Forest System lands. Public scoping will begin July 30, 1999, for a 20-day comment period. If interested in this analysis, please request to have a scoping letter mailed to you. It will include a description of the proposed action, purpose and need, and the decision to be made, together with location maps. This analysis will be used in the decision-making process to authorize or not authorize grazing, and if authorized, to what extent. Estimated decision date: November 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 inter-agency 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: April 2000. 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 twelve sites (approximately 36 acres) on the Big Sur Coast with herbicides. The method of application will be by low pressure apparatus, spraying herbicides directly on target plants. Estimated decision date: September 1999. Contact: Jeff Kwasny, Resource Officer, MRD.

## **SAN LUIS OBISPO COUNTY**

### **Analyses Being Scoped**

Morro Creek Allotment. Proposal to analyze grazing on the Morro Creek Allotment for permit re-issuance. Proposal includes two permittees with on-off permits. The number of cattle using the Forest Service portion of the allotment would total about 10 head. T.29S., R.11E., Sections 11, 12, 13, 14, 18, 19, MDM. Expect the EA to be released for public comment in July and a Decision by September 1999. Contact: Melody Fountain, Resource Officer, SLRD.

San Carpofoero Grazing Permit. Authorization of livestock grazing on the San Carpofoero allotment and other recently acquired National Forest System lands. Public scoping will begin July 30, 1999, for a 20-day comment period. If interested in this analysis, please request to have a scoping letter mailed to you. It will include a description of the proposed action, purpose and need, and the decision to be made, together with maps. This analysis will be used in the decision-making process to authorize or not authorize grazing, and if authorized, to what extent. Estimated decision date: November 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 inter-agency 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**

Big and Little Falls Allotment. In a Decision Notice signed on June 9, 1999, the District Ranger approved the proposal to authorize grazing on the Big and Little Falls Allotment for 15 cow/calf pairs and 1 bull from April 15 to December 15 annually under a 10-year term grazing permit. T.30 S., R.14E., sections 28-33, MDB&M. Contact: Melody Fountain, SLRD.

### **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: Summer 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: Summer 1999. Contact: Dennis Cooper, Lands and Minerals Officer, SLRD.

## **SANTA BARBARA COUNTY**

### **Analyses Being Scoped**

Winchester Gun Club (formerly Lizard's Mouth/Brush Peak Area Plan). Public scoping will begin in early fall for an analysis on the Winchester Gun Club special use permit renewal. T.5N., R.28W., Sections 18 & 19; T.5N., R.29W., Sections 13 & 14, SBBM. Estimated decision date: unknown. Contact: Marian Kadota, Lands Officer, SBRD.

Riverside/White Rock Recreation Facilities. Public scoping continues for an analysis which will address construction of recreation and interpretive facilities along Paradise Road in the Manzanita and Cabin Lane areas, and west of the White Rock Picnic Area, in the Lower Santa Ynez Recreation Area. T.5N., R.28W., Section 3, SBBM. The public scoping period has been extended to August 28, 1999. An open house will be held on Saturday,

August 14, from 8:30 a.m. until 3:00 p.m., in the Mission Room of the Holiday Inn-Goleta, 5650 Calle Real. Estimated decision date: Winter 2000. Contact: Jeff Bensen, Recreation Forester, SBRD.

Broadcast Peak Communications Site Plan. Public scoping will likely begin in summer 1999. The proposal would delineate site boundaries, determine the kinds of uses appropriate to the site, and identify areas for potential development. 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.

<b>Analyses Completed</b>	<b>None.</b>
<b>Analyses Documented</b>	<b>None.</b>
<b>Analyses in Progress</b>	

Diablo Prescribed Burn. Proposal to use management ignited prescribed fire to treat the chaparral stands and reduce the fuel loading in the Agua Caliente subwatershed, T.5N., R.26W., Section 1; T.5N., R.25W., Sections 2-6; T.6N., R.25W., Sections 13-30; T.6N., R.26W., Sections 13, 24, 25, 35 and 36, SBBM. The proposal includes the use of a helitorch to ignite dead fuels and living standing chaparral during the fall of 1999 and winter of 2000. The resulting fire would be allowed to burn uphill to produce a mosaic pattern of burned and unburned chaparral. Existing roads, fuelbreaks and natural barriers will be used to prevent the spread of fire outside the project area. No new fire lines will be constructed. Estimated decision date: DM, October 1999. Contact: Carol Henson, Fuels Officer, SBRD.

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

## KERN COUNTY

### Analyses Being Scoped

Kern County Land Exchange. Proposal to conduct a land exchange with Kern County. The Forest Service would exchange approximately 10 acres of National Forest System lands located in the Frazier Park area, and 10 acres of land adjacent to Camp Condor, in exchange for approximately 90 acres of land in the Camp Condor area which is currently owned by Kern County. The land which is being exchanged is currently occupied by the Kern County Fire Station #57, administrative buildings and two old burn dumps. Scoping will begin in late July 1999. The project is categorically excluded from documentation. The project file will be completed by September 1999. T.9N., R.20W., Sections 26 and 35, and T.9N., R.22W., Sections 22 and 23, SBBM. Contact: Mark Bethke, District Ranger, MPRD.

<b>Analyses Completed</b>	<b>None.</b>
<b>Analyses Documented</b>	<b>None.</b>
<b>Analyses in Progress</b>	

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, 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. Estimated decision date: December 1999. Contact: Don Trammell, Recreation Officer, MPRD.

<b>Analyses Completed</b>	<b>None.</b>
<b>Analyses Documented</b>	<b>None.</b>

## 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: Diane Cross, Fuels Planner, 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: Jerome Caston, District Ranger, 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 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: October 1999. Contact: Mike Foster, Resources Officer, MPRD.

## Analyses Postponed

**Badlands OHV Trail.** Analysis of potential routes to connect off-highway vehicle use areas from Grade Valley Road to Ballinger Canyon and routes to serve as a replacement for the Toad Springs OHV trail. Contact: Don Trammell, Recreation Officer, MPRD.

## RESPONSIBLE OFFICIALS

### Los Padres National Forest (SO)

Jeanine Derby - Forest Supervisor  
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### Monterey District (MRD)

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### Santa Lucia District (SLRD)

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(805) 925-9538

### Santa Barbara District (SBRD)

Gloria Silva - District Ranger  
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(805) 967-3481

### Ojai District (ORD)

Jerome Caston - Acting District Ranger  
1190 E. Ojai Avenue, Ojai, CA 93023  
(805) 646-4348

### Mount Pinos District (MPRD)

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