



Los Padres National Forest Schedule of Proposed Environmental Actions



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July-September, 2001

Welcome to the SOPA

The purpose of the "Schedule of Proposed Environmental Actions" (SOPA) 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 SOPA is issued quarterly (January, April, July, October). Projects are listed by county and by analysis category. Each description includes a brief explanation and location of the project, current status, the estimated decision date, and the name of the project leader. **Analyses Being Scoped** - new projects for which public input is being or is about to be solicited. **Analyses Completed** - projects that 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** - recently completed EA's and EIS's for which a Decision Notice (DN) has been issued. **Analyses in Progress** - projects currently under analysis.

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 Forest Planner, Jim Turner, in the Forest Supervisor's Office. For all other matters regarding the SOPA, contact Kathy Good in the Public Affairs Office.

FORESTWIDE

Analyses Being Scoped None.
Analyses in Progress

Oil and Gas Leasing Analysis. Forestwide 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 analysis and separate site-specific decisions. A Draft EIS is expected in Fall 2001. Contact: Al Hess, Team Leader, ORD.

MONTEREY COUNTY

Analyses Being Scoped

Monterey Defensible Fuel Profile Zones.

Proposal to manage fuels using prescribed fire and mechanical treatments adjacent to roads and campgrounds. The proposal also includes maintenance of existing fire lines and safety zones by planting of native grasses and trees. The purpose of this project is to create safety zones to protect Forest users and enhance fire suppression capability. The Monterey DFPZ project consists of ten units outside of wilderness areas including the following: three units within the Arroyo Seco Gorge; one unit in Reliz Canyon; one unit the Piney Creek area; one unit at Skinner Ridge and one unit at Manuel Peak. The remaining areas are along Tassajara Road, Cone Peak Road, Nacimiento-Fergusson Road and Coast Ridge Road. Public scoping will begin in July 2001. Estimated decision date: September 2001. Contact: Steve Davis, Battalion Chief, MRD.

South Coast Ridge Road Timber Stand

Improvement. Proposal to cut the brush around seedlings and saplings on 40 acres along the South Coast Ridge Road. Estimated decision date: Spring 2002. Contact: John Kelly, Forester, MPRD.

Hunting Guide and Outfitter/Guide SUP.

Proposal to conduct guided hunting trips using stock and camping equipment on forest lands within the Ventana and Silver Peak wildernesses. Estimated decision date: September 2001. Contact Manuel Madrigal, Recreation Officer, MRD.

Analyses Completed None.

Analyses Documented

Control of Invasive Weeds on Big Sur Coast.

The District Ranger on April 4, 2001, signed a Decision Notice and Finding of No Significant Impact for the EA that addressed the use of

underway; public comments are requested by August 10. Address to Diane Cross. Estimated decision date: September 2001. Contact: Diane Cross, Fuels Planner, ORD.

Winchester Gun Club. Analysis of the Winchester Canyon Gun Club special use permit renewal. T5N, R28W, Sec 18 & 19; T5N, R29W, Sec 13 & 14, SBBM. Estimated decision date: unknown. Contact: Sharon Sprouse, District Ranger, SBRD.

Special Use Permits and Lease for Communication Sites and Access Roads.

American Towers Inc. has purchased the building and tower structure at an existing and approved electronic communications site in Olive Canyon, southeast of New Cuyama, in T9N, R26W, Sec 24, SBBM. The proponent proposes to continue to operate the existing facility under a new Special Use Permit. No new construction of additional structures (e.g. buildings or towers) will be authorized. Estimated decision date: unknown. Contact: Loreigh Brannan, Special Use Administrator, MPRD.

Analyses Completed **None.**

Analyses Documented **None.**

Analyses in Progress

Brookshire Prescribed Burn. Proposal to use management ignited prescribed fire to treat approximately 18,000 acres of standing chaparral vegetation to reduce the threat of catastrophic wildfire by reducing the fuel loading, and to restore watershed health. The project boundary lies to the east of Tepusquet Canyon along the national forest boundary, south of Madre peak, north of Barrel Springs Campground, and will run on the west side of the Sierra Madre Ridge Road from Madre Peak to Miranda Pines Campground in the Sisquoc and Cuyama watersheds. T23N, R18E, Sec 31, 32; T11N, R17E, Sec 4-10, 16-21, 29, 30; T11N, R18E, Sec 6; T12N, R17E, Sec 36; T11N, R17E, Sec 1, 11-15, 22-36; T10N, R17E, Sec 1-12, 14-18, 20-22, 27, 28, SBBM. Estimated decision date: September 2001. Contact: Carol Henson, Forest Fuels Officer, SBRD.

NACO West Outfitter/Guide Permit. Proposal to renew the special use permit for NACO West to conduct guided horseback trail rides on Aliso, Lower Oso, Upper Oso Trail loop, Arroyo Burro Trail, and Arroyo Burro Road, Mateus and River Trail loop. Estimated decision date: Fall 2001. Contact: Jeff Bensen, Recreation Forester, SBRD.

Santa Ynez River Ford. Proposal to reconstruct the ford located just past the county-maintained Paradise Road on the Forest Service-maintained river road, adjacent to the Lower Oso Day Use Area. The ford was partially demolished by El Nino storms and has since been shored up with gravel to allow recreationists access to the Lower Santa Ynez Recreation Area. The proposed action is to reconstruct the ford and relocate it slightly

(approximately 150 feet) upstream in order to reduce the length (and cost) of the river crossing and improve public safety by increasing sight distance. T5N, R28W, Sec 2, SBBM. Estimated decision date: July 2001. Contact: Marian Kadota, Lands and Resources Officer, SBRD.

Riverside/White Rock Recreation Facilities.

Proposal to construct 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. T5N, R28W, Sec 3, SBBM. Estimated decision date: Summer 2002. Contact: Jeff Bensen, Recreation Forester, 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. T7N, R29W, SBBM. Estimated decision date: September 2001. Contact: Gary Montgomery, Range Specialist, SLRD.

De Vault, Durbiano, Venadito Livestock Area.

Proposal to analyze grazing on three small special use pastures in order to re-issue grazing permits. Includes DeVaul 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. Estimated decision date: September 2001. Contact: Gary Montgomery, Range Specialist, SLRD.

KERN COUNTY

Analyses Being Scoped

Off-Highway Vehicle System Maintenance.

Proposal to maintain and reconstruct drainage features on the following off-highway vehicle routes: East Frazier, Tejon, Whata, Gold Hill, Snowy, West Tecuya, Tecuya Ridge and Cold Springs trails; Ballinger trails #10,13,14, 34,50,51,52,53,54; Salt Creek, Cherry Creek, Pleito Creek, West Frazier Mine, West Frazier Tie, Lockwood; Miller Jeep and O'Neil Peak 4-wheel drive routes. Rehabilitation is proposed on an old mining road near O'Neil Peak that is receiving illegal OHV use, and in several areas adjacent to the community of Frazier Park/Lake of the Woods where informal motocross tracks have been developed illegally. Maintenance will occur during the rainy season (normally November to June) when soil moisture conditions allow for adequate compaction of the route tread. Additionally, signs and/or physical barriers may be installed along designated routes on the OHV system to discourage the use of areas adjacent to the system or other illegal use areas which impact soil, wildlife habitat and other resources. Estimated decision date: summer 2001. Contact: Don Trammell, Recreation Officer, MPRD.

Frazier Park Defensible Fuel Profile Zone.

Proposal to improve an existing DFPZ to provide defensible space for homes in the town of Frazier Park. The DFPZ was constructed originally as a

fuelbreak in the early 1970's and is located north of Frazier Park, T9N, R19W, Sec 31 and T9N, R20W, Sec 25 and 26, SBBM. The proposed DFPZ maintenance project is designed to incorporate a mosaic vegetation pattern averaging 150 feet wide and three miles long to help maintain a natural appearance. Work would be accomplished in the fall of 2001. The brush would be cut by hand and piled. Excess brush piles and standing sage, buckwheat and rabbitbrush within the DFPZ boundary would be burned using hand-carried drip torches. The piles would be burned during the late fall of 2001 or winter of 2002, and the standing brush would be burned in the spring of 2002. Scoping is underway; comments should be submitted to Diane Cross by July 26, 2001. Estimated decision date: September 2001. Contact: Diane Cross, Fuels Planner, ORD.

Pine Mtn Club Defensible Fuel Profile Zone.

Proposal to continue construction of a shaded DFPZ on National Forest land at the eastern boundary of the community of Pine Mountain Club in cooperation with Kern County Fire Department. T9N, R22W, Sec 21 and 22, SBBM. The vegetation type is pinyon and Jeffrey pine with inter-mixed canyon live oak and scrub oak. The DFPZ would be approximately 0.75 mile long by 100 feet wide and would provide defensible space for homes in Pine Mountain Club. The existing condition is approximately 60 to 70 percent canopy cover and the desired condition is to reduce the canopy cover to 30 to 40 percent. The DFPZ will be designed to resemble a park-like setting. The work will be accomplished by cutting, stacking and burning the excess brush piles using hand-carried drip torches. The proposed timeframe for cutting the brush would be in the fall of 2001. The pile burning would occur in the fall of 2001 or winter of 2002. Public scoping is underway; comments should be submitted to Diane Cross by July 26, 2001. Estimated decision date: September 2001. Contact: Diane Cross, Fuels Planner, ORD.

Dwarf Mistletoe Suppression Treatment.

Proposal to treat Jeffrey pine stands infected with dwarf mistletoe adjacent to Pine Mountain Club, and assist Pine Mountain Club Property Owners Association in suppressing and stopping the spread of the disease. Estimated decision date: Spring 2002. Contact: John Kelly, Forester, MPRD.

Pacific Bell Cable Replacement. Proposal by Pacific Bell to replace existing phone lines with digital cable lines across approximately 7 miles of National Forest System lands along Cuddy Valley Road and Mil Potrero Road. Project would involve trenching, in the existing road prism where possible. Estimated decision date: January 2002. Contact: Loreigh Brannan, Special Use Administrator, MPRD.

Special Use Permits and Lease for Communication Sites and Access Roads.

American Towers Inc. has purchased the building

and tower structure at the top of Mount Abel (Cerro Noroeste) in T9N, R22W, Sec 26, SBBM. The proponent proposes to operate the existing facility under a new Communication Site Lease Agreement. No new construction of additional structures will be authorized. Estimated decision date: unknown. Contact: Loreigh Brannan, Special Use Administrator, MPRD.

Analyses Completed

None.

Analyses Documented

None.

Analyses in Progress

Special Use Permit for Organization Camp.

Proposal to renew a permit to continue operating a year-round organizational camp on national forest land west of Pinyon Pines at the base of Mt. Pinos. The site is currently occupied by the El Camino Pines/Frontier Pines Camp and is located along Frontier Road, 0.5 mile southwest of the intersection of Mt. Pinos Hwy and Mil Potrero Hwy. T9N, R21W, Sec 26, SBBM. The applicant proposes to upgrade the facility to make it fully accessible to persons with disabilities 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. Estimated decision date: unknown. Contact: Loreigh Brannan, Special Uses Administrator, MPRD.

VENTURA COUNTY

Analyses Being Scoped

Off-Highway Vehicle System Maintenance.

Proposal to maintain and reconstruct drainage features on the following off-highway vehicle routes: East Frazier, Tejon, Whata, Gold Hill, Snowy, West Tecuya, Tecuya Ridge and Cold Springs trails; Ballinger trails 10/13/14/34/50/51/52/53/54; Salt Creek, Cherry Creek, Pleito Creek, West Frazier Mine, West Frazier Tie, Lockwood; Miller Jeep and O'Neil Peak 4-wheel drive routes. Rehabilitation is proposed on an old mining road near O'Neil Peak that is receiving illegal OHV use, and in several areas adjacent to the community of Frazier Park/Lake of the Woods where informal motocross tracks have been developed illegally by users. Maintenance is proposed to be conducted during the rainy portion of the year (normally November to June) when soil moisture conditions allow for adequate compaction of the route tread. Additionally, signs and/or physical barriers may be installed along designated routes on the OHV system to discourage the use of areas adjacent to the system or other illegal use areas which impact soil, wildlife habitat and other resources. Estimated decision date: summer 2001. Contact: Don Trammell, Recreation Officer, MPRD.

RESPONSIBLE OFFICIALS

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Are you interested in the effort to update the Land and Resource Management Plans (Forest Plans) for the four southern California National Forests? For information, maps, references and public participation opportunities, visit our website at www.r5.fs.fed.us/lospadres and click on the "Forest Plan Update" heading, or contact the Public Affairs Office at (805) 968-6640. Note: The "Notice of Intent" initiating the formal Forest Plan Update process is expected to be published sometime in the fall of 2001. Public workshops will follow in communities near the forest.