Los Padres National Forest

Schedule of Proposed Environmental Actions

Visit our website at: www.r5.fs.fed.us/lospadres April - June, 2002

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 this study would require further analysis and separate site-specific decisions. The DEIS has been distributed for public review and comment. Public comments must be submitted in writing no later than April 19, 2002, to: Project Manager Al Hess at the Ojai Ranger District Office. The DEIS and accompanying information is available at all five ranger district offices, the Forest Supervisor's Office, and at several public libraries. The complete DEIS and accompanying information, including a list of libraries, is available on the forest website at www.r5.fs.fed.us/lospadres. Contact: Al Hess, Team Leader, ORD.

MONTEREY COUNTY

Analyses Being Scoped

Big Sur River Comprehensive Management Plan

Preparation of a comprehensive river management plan (CRMP) for the headwater portion of the Big Sur River which is a component of Wild and Scenic Rivers system. The plan will display strategies to protect and enhance the values for which the river was designated: free flowing condition, water quality and "outstandingly remarkable" values. The CRMP will provide a basis for comparing alternative management plans for the Big Sur River. Scoping will begin this spring. Estimated decision date: May 2003. Contact: Rich Phelps, Special Areas Coordinator, SLRD.

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 2002. Contact: Tim Oosterhous, Assistant Recreation Officer, MRD.

Special Use Permit for Personal Water System

Proposal to reauthorize a special use permit for personal a domestic water system on National Forest System land. The improvements are located in T24S, R5E, Sec 23. Estimated decision date: May 2002. Contact: Tim Oosterhous, Assistant Recreation Officer, MRD.

Analyses Completed

Special Use Permit for Personal Water System

In a Decision Memo signed on March 15, 2002, District Ranger John Bradford approved the reauthorization of a special use permit for a personal domestic water system on National Forest System land. The permit allows continued use and maintenance of a concrete basin collection area

with a redwood springbox, a 1.5 inch water line approximately 90 feet long, and a foot trail with a right-of-way of approximately 90 feet in length and 6 feet in width. The improvements are located in T23S, R5E, Sec 20. Contact: Tim Oosterhous, Assistant Recreation Officer, MRD.

Analyses Documented None.

Analyses in Progress

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 in 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. Estimated decision date: Summer 2002. Contact: Steve Davis, Battalion Chief, MRD.

Coast Highway Management Plan (CHMP)

Proposal to authorize disposal of landslide material that falls onto Highway 1 along the south Big Sur Coast at two sites on National Forest System lands near Gorda. Estimated decision date: Fall 2002. Contact: Jeff Kwasny, Big Sur Ecosystem Manager, MRD.

M.I.R.A.

Proposal to renew the MIRA Special Use Permit to continue operating a year-round observatory within the existing site plan on Chews Ridge. T19S, R4E, Sec 6, MDB&M. Estimated decision date: August 2002. Contact: District Ranger, MRD.

Decision Withdrawn

Big Sur Grazing Permits

On January 30, 2002, Monterey District Ranger John Bradford and Forest Supervisor Jeanine Derby withdrew the October 30, 2001 and November 2, 2001 Decision Notices for the grazing permits listed below. Bradford had signed Decision Notices to not re-issue grazing permits on the Torre Canyon, Twitchell and Buckeye Allotments; and re-issue Term Grazing Permits on the Gorda, Alder Creek and Salmon Creek Allotments. Derby had made the decision to issue a Term Grazing Permit on the Cozy Cove Ranch. Contact: Jeff Kwasny, Big Sur Ecosystem Manager, MRD.

SAN LUIS OBISPO COUNTY

Analyses Being Scoped None.

Analyses Completed None

Analyses Documented None.

Analyses in Progress

Shaw Ridge Motorized Access Management

Proposal to convert a temporary year-round closure to a permanent seasonal closure to protect threatened and endangered species during the spring breeding season. Would involve installation of a gate and pipe fencing to enforce the seasonal closure and measures to "screen" off-highway vehicle users to ensure that they have adequate vehicle capacity and skill to navigate the "experts only" route to and from Branch Creek. May include creation of a switchback trail for ATV's and motorcycles and a barrier near the Logan Ridge turnoff to discourage inexperienced OHV operators from continuing. T32S, R17E, Sec 19, 20 and 28. Estimated decision date: Summer 2002. Contact: Manny Madrigal, Recreation Officer, SLRD.

Cerro Alto Trail Reroute

Proposal to reroute a steep 1,000-foot section of the trail to reduce soil erosion. The project includes brush removal and establishing new trail tread. The trail will be rerouted to a grade of approximately 6% to 7%. The Cerro Alto Trail is located in T29S, R11E, Sec 12, MDB&M. Estimated decision date: unknown. Contact: Ken Kunert, Landscape Architect, SLRD.

Communications Facility at Tassajera Peak

Proposal by American Tower to add a new tower at an existing site (formerly owned by AT&T) at the Tassajera Peak Communications Site, T29S, R12E, Sec 20, MDM. Estimated decision date: unknown. Contact: Dennis Cooper, Lands and Minerals Officer, SLRD.

Coast Highway Management Plan (CHMP)

Proposal to authorize disposal of landslide material that falls onto Highway 1 along the south Big Sur Coast at two sites on National Forest System lands near Gorda. Estimated decision date: Fall 2002. Contact: Jeff Kwasny, Big Sur Ecosystem Manager, MRD.

SANTA BARBARA COUNTY

Analyses Being Scoped

Sisquoc River Comprehensive Management Plan

Preparation of a comprehensive river management plan (CRMP) for the headwater portion of the Sisquoc River which is a component of Wild and Scenic Rivers system. The plan will display strategies to protect and enhance the values for which the river was designated: free flowing condition, water quality and "outstandingly remarkable" values. The CRMP will provide a basis for comparing alternative management plans for the Sisquoc River. Scoping will begin this spring. Estimated decision date: May 2003. Contact: Rich Phelps, Special Areas Coordinator, SLRD.

Highway 166 Shooting Area

Proposal to analyze current use and facilities and develop a plan to address litter, vandalism and public safety concerns at this site. The site is located on the south side of Highway 166, just inside the national forest boundary two miles east of the Pine Canyon Station. Estimated decision

date: unknown. Contact: Manny Madrigal, Recreation Officer, SLRD.

Painted Cave Prescribed Burn

Proposal to hand cut, pile and burn fuels on approximately 70 acres southwest of the community of Painted Cave to reduce hazardous fuels and the threat of catastrophic wildfire in this urban interface area. In addition, this project will provide defensible space for firefighters and the community. Firing techniques will include handfiring using drip torches to control fire intensity. The burn is a cooperative project with Santa Barbara County Fire Department. T5N, R27W, Sec 22, SBBM. Estimated decision date: September 2002. Contact: Carol Henson, Forest Fuels Specialist, SBRD.

Santa Cruz Prescribed Burn

Proposal to do a broadcast burn over several years on approximately 15,252 acres to reduce hazardous fuels and the threat of catastrophic wildfire, and to protect the Cachuma Watershed and threatened and endangered species. The general perimeter for the burn will be the existing McKinley jeepway on the east and north, Peachtree Canyon on the west and Santa Cruz Creek on the south. This is a cooperative project with Santa Barbara County Fire Department and Rancho San Fernando Rey. The burn would include 9,494 acres of national forest land and 5252 acres of private land. T7N, R28W, Sec 9, 10, 15, 16, 21, 22, 27, 28; T7N, R27W, Sec 23, 25, 26, 31, 35, 36; T6N, R27W, Sec 1, 5, 6, 7, 8, 12, SBBM. Estimated decision date: September 2002. Contact: Carol Henson, Forest Fuels Officer, SBRD.

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: Jeff Bensen, Recreation Forester, SBRD.

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 Postponed

Sisquoc Grazing Allotment Permits

Authorization of livestock grazing on the following eleven grazing areas/allotments: Aliso, Branch Canyon, Santa Barbara Potreros, Sisquoc, Sisquoc SUP, Figueroa, Buckhorn, South Fork La Brea, Porter, Pine Canyon, and Noel SUP on National Forest System Lands. Includes use and maintenance of system and non-system roads and trails in relation to existing permits. Contact: Gary Montgomery or Kathleen Phelps, SLRD.

Analyses in Progress

White Elephant & Denver Abandoned Mines

Proposal by the Forest Service to reclaim one abandoned mine. The White Elephant abandoned mine is located on the Santa Lucia Ranger District in T10N, R30W, Sec 8, SBBM, approximately one mile inside the San Rafael Wilderness. Estimated decision date: 2002. Contact: Dennis Cooper, Lands and Minerals Officer, SLRD.

Camino Cielo Defensible Fuel Profile Zone

Proposal to treat standing chaparral in a 300 foot wide band for a distance of approximately 40 miles along the West and East Camino Cielo Roads from Refugio Road east to Divide Peak. T4N, R25W; T5N, R24-32W, SBBM. Some of the DFPZ has been in existence since the 1970's. The purpose of the project is to reconstruct/restore the existing DFPZ to reduce the threat of catastrophic wildfire in the urban interface with Goleta, Santa Barbara and Montecito. The DFPZ will be designed to maintain a diversity of vegetation age, size and density with mosaic patterns of unburned islands within the DFPZ perimeter. This will result in irregular shapes and spotty patterns in the brush to maintain a natural appearance over time. The proposed work would be accomplished using a combination of the following methods: cutting the brush and stacking it by hand; mechanical brush crushing; chipping; pile burning and burning of standing brush using drip torches and a terratorch. Estimated decision date: Fall 2002. Contact: Carol Henson, Forest Fuels Specialist, SBRD.

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: Fall 2002. 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: Summer 2002. 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: Spring 2002. Contact: Vicki Collins, Acting Resource 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: unknown. 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. Contact: Gary Montgomery, Range Specialist, SLRD.

De Vaul, 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. Contact: Gary Montgomery, Range Specialist, SLRD.

KERN COUNTY

Analyses Being Scoped

Dalmatian Toadflax Control Project

Proposal to use the herbicide glyphosate (RoundUp) to eradicate the California Department of Food and Agriculture's A-rated noxious weed, Dalmatian toadflax (Linaria genistifolia ssp. Dalmatica). The proposal is to use hand held spray bottles to spot treat individual plants with a 1.9 to 2.5 percent solution of glyphosate. About 1,000 plants over a 250 acre area would be treated by certified pesticide applicators. Treatment would occur during the summer while plants are actively growing. Followup treatment would occur the following two to three years as needed until the objective of 100 percent eradication is achieved. Hand grubbing has been used and will continue to be used as a treatment method for controlling seedlings and shallow rooted plants. The proposed project is located just north of the town of Frazier Park and about 5 miles west of Interstate 5. T9N, R20W, Sec 25, 26 and 35, SBBM. Estimated decision date: June 2002. Contact: Mike Foster, Forest Botanist, MPRD.

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.

McGill Campground Water System

Proposal to reconstruct the existing spring box to meet State water quality standards; repair the waterline between the spring box and the McGill storage tank; install a "bag type" filtration system inline above the McGill tank; and repair the water distribution system within McGill Campground. T8N, R21W, Sec 4, SBBM (Ventura County) and T9N, R21W, Sec 34 and 35, SBBM (Kern County). Objective is to upgrade the water system to meet current State standards for potable water systems and provide drinking water at McGill Campground on a seasonal basis. Estimated decision date: June 2002. Contact: Cheryl Foster, Assistant Recreation Officer, 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

Sespe Creek Comprehensive Management Plan

Preparation of a comprehensive river management plan (CRMP) for Sespe Creek, between its confluence with Trout Creek and the downstream boundary of the Sespe Condor Sanctuary. This segment of the river is a component of Wild and Scenic Rivers system. The plan will display strategies to protect and enhance the values for which the river was designated: free flowing condition, water quality and "outstandingly remarkable" values. The CRMP will provide a basis for comparing alternative management plans for the Sespe Creek. Scoping will begin this spring. Estimated decision date: May 2003. Contact: Rich Phelps, Special Areas Coordinator, SLRD.

Lion Campground Decommission

Proposal to decommission Lion Campground. Project will include removal of all improvements and returning the site to a near-natural condition. The campground is currently closed to public use due to the presence of wildlife species

(arroyo southwestern toad). The campground is located south of Sespe Creek in T6N, R22W, Sec 36. Estimated decision date: August 2002. Contact: Charlie Robinson, Recreation Officer, ORD.

Rose Valley Campground Reconstruction.

Proposal to reconstruct the existing Lion Loop of Rose Valley Campground. Project will include: replacement or refurbishing of existing low-water ford with a suitable above-water road crossing; replacement of toilets, fire rings and tables; and repaving of road. The campground is located at T5N, R22W, Sec 9. Estimated decision date: August 2002. Contact: Charlie Robinson, Recreation Officer, ORD.

McGill Campground Water System

Proposal to reconstruct the existing spring box to meet State water quality standards; repair the waterline between the spring box and the McGill storage tank; install a "bag type" filtration system inline above the McGill tank; and repair the water distribution system within McGill Campground. T8N, R21W, Sec 4, SBBM (Ventura County) and T9N, R21W, Sec 34 and 35, SBBM (Kern County). Objective is to upgrade the water system to meet current State standards for potable water systems and provide drinking water at McGill Campground on a seasonal basis. Estimated decision date: June 2002. Contact: Cheryl Foster, Assistant Recreation Officer, MPRD.

Ojai Community Defense Zone

Proposal to reduce hazardous fuels and improve watershed health in the Ojai area, and provide protection and defensible space for firefighters and public safety in the event of a wildfire. The Ojai Community Defense Zone Project will consist of various methods of fuel reduction including creation of defensible fuel profile zones (DFPZ), broadcast burning, mechanical treatment, hand cutting and piling, and pile burning. The project covers approximately 40,000 acres and will be implemented over several years. The project will be a cooperative effort with Ventura County Fire Protection District and the California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection. T4N, R21W, Sec 6; T5N, R21W, Sec 19, 20, 29, 30, 31, 32;T4N, R22W, Sec 1 and 2; T5N, R22W, Sec 15-36; T4N, R23W, Sec 5, 6 and 7; T5N, R24W, Sec 31-36; T4N, R24W, Sec 1-12, 14-22, 27-30, SBBM. Estimated decision date: September 2002. Contact: Carol Henson, Forest Fuels Officer, SBRD.

Bighorn Sheep Prescribed Burn

Proposal to use management ignited prescribed fire to treat approximately 22,640 acres of standing chaparral vegetation to reduce hazardous fuel loading. In addition, the proposal would rejuvenate forbs and brush for wildlife, provide browseway corridors for bighorn sheep, provide a buffer for the Sespe Wilderness and Condor Sanctuary, and reduce the threat of negative impacts from a high intensity fire in the Sespe and Santa Clara watersheds. The treatment would produce mosaic vegetation patterns with varied age, size and density that maintain a natural appearance over time. The project boundary lies south of the MPRD line, west of Cobblestone Mountain and Ant Campground, north of Ant and Alder Creek Campgrounds and Ten Sycamore Flat, and east of Sycamore Canyon. T6N, R21W, Sec 23-26, 36; T6N, R20W, Sec 7-33, T6N, R19W, Sec 7-11, 14-22 and 27-30, SBBM. Estimated decision date: September 2002. Contact: Carol Henson, Forest Fuels Specialist, SBRD.

Alamo Prescribed Burn

Proposal to use management ignited prescribed fire to treat approximately 12,700 acres of standing chaparral vegetation and mixed conifer forest in the Piru and Alamo watersheds to reduce the threat of a catastrophic stand-replacing fire by reducing hazardous fuel loading. In addition, the project will improve forest health, rejuvenate forbs and brush for wildlife and provide a buffer for the nearby Sespe Wilderness and Condor Sanctuary. The project boundary lies to the east of forest road 8N12 from Lockwood Flat to Dutchman Campground, and east of forest road 8N01 from Dutchman CG to the intersection of road 6N10, north of 6N10 from the intersection with 8N01 to trail 19W05, west of 19W05 from the intersection of 8N01 to trail 19W04, west of 19W04 from the intersection of 19W05 to the intersection of Piru and Smith Fork, south of Piru from Smith Fork to 8N01, and south of trail 20W07 from the intersection of 8N01 to the intersection of 8N12. T7N, R20W, Sec 13-16, 20-29, 33-36; T6N, R20W, Sec 1-4, T7N, R19W, Sec 14-23 and 27-33; T6N, R19W, Sec 4-6, SBBM. Estimated decision date: September 2002. Contact: Carol Henson, Forest Fuels Specialist, SBRD.

Piru Allotments

Proposal to analyze grazing on the Piru,Temescal and Potholes allotments on the Ojai Ranger District. Includes 30 cow/calf pairs on the Piru/Potholes allotment and 30 cow/calf pairs on the Temescal allotment. T5N, R18W, SBBM. Estimated decision date: Spring 2002. Contact: Al Hess, Resource Officer, or Terry Austin, Resource Forester, ORD.

Analyses Completed

Land Rover Outfitter/Guide SUP.

Proposal to conduct eleven guided four-wheel-drive instructional tours on designated forest roads during April and May 2002. Categorically excluded; estimated decision memo date is April 20, 2002. Contact: Cheryl Foster, Assistant Recreation Officer, MPRD.

Earthskills Outfitter /Guide SUP.

Proposal to reissue a special use permit for Earthskills to conduct environmental skills classes during the summer and fall of 2002. Categorically excluded; estimated decision memo date is April 20, 2002. Contact: Cheryl Foster, Assistant Recreation Officer, MPRD.

Analyses Documented None.

Analyses in Progress

Rice-Wills Prescribed Burn

Proposal to conduct a 2660 acre prescribed burn project in cooperation with Ventura County Fire Department, the California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection and the Ventura County Air Pollution Control District. The project is located north of Rancho Matilija and south of Wills Canyon in T4N, R23W, Sec 5-7, SBBM. Approximately 1,040 acres are on National Forest land and approximately 1,620 acres are on private land. The purpose of the project is to use prescribed fire to lower the

risk of a large destructive wildfire by reducing fuel loading. It is an extension of ongoing cooperative projects in the Ojai frontcountry. A combination of pile and broadcast burning will be utilized using hand-carried drip torches, terratorches and a heli-torch. The objective is to remove 60-70% of the standing fuels in a manner resembling a low to medium intensity, naturally occurring backing fire. Estimated decision date: Fall 2002. Contact: Carol Henson, Fuels Planner, ORD.

Casitas Watershed Hazardous Fuels Project

Proposal to improve the protection of the Casitas Watershed from wildfires by enhancing and improving existing fuelbreaks that were constructed in the 1970's and by reducing the existing hazardous fuels. The proposed actions include reconstruction and restoration of the existing fuelbreaks (also known as Defensible Fuel Profile Zones, DFPZ) and the use of prescribed fire to reduce hazardous fuels. The proposed fuelbreak maintenance project is designed to incorporate a mosaic vegetation pattern averaging 300 feet wide and approximately 12 miles long (Laguna, Chismahoo-Coyote, Santa Ana). The end result will incorporate a diversity of vegetation age class, size and density with mosaic patterns of unburned islands within the perimeter. The result will be a natural appearing feature of irregular shapes and patterns in the brush designed to naturally complement the existing landscape. The proposed work would be accomplished using a combination of the following methods: cutting the brush and stacking it by hand; mechanical brush crushing; chipping; pile burning and burning of standing brush using hand-carried drip torches and/or terratorches. T4N, R24W, Sections 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 8, 10, 11, 12, 17, 19, 20, 27, 28, 29, SBBM. Estimated decision date: Fall 2002. Contact: Carol Henson, Forest Fuels Specialist, SBRD.

Gold Hill 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 eastside OHV trail system. T7N, R19W, Sec 4-8 and 18, SBBM. Objective is to remove OHV use on Gold Hill Road to improve public safety while maintaining existing recreation opportunities. Approximately 5 miles of trail would be constructed. Estimated decision date: Spring 2002. Contact: Cheryl Foster, Assistant Recreation Officer, MPRD.

Sespe Fire Management Plan

Proposal to develop a fire management plan for national 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: Carol Henson, Fuels Planner, ORD.

Forest Plan Revision

We are currently revising the Land and Resource Management Plans (Forest Plans) for the four southern California National Forests: the Angeles, Cleveland, Los Padres and San Bernardino. A draft EIS is expected in late Fall 2002. For information, including opportunities for your participation in this effort, please visit the planning website at **www.r5.fs.fed.us/sccs**, or call the toll-free information line at (866) 252-8846. For questions specific to Los Padres National Forest, contact your local District Ranger or the Los Padres NF Public Affairs Office at (805) 968-6640.

The Monterey Ranger District is hosting a community workshop on Thursday, April 25, from 6-9:00 p.m. at the Pfeiffer Big Sur State Park Conference Center. The purpose of the meeting is to continue dialogue with local residents and others who are interested in the future management of national forest lands, including recently acquired property, in the Big Sur area. For further information, contact District Ranger John Bradford (see below), or Big Sur Ecosystem Manager Jeff Kwasny at (831) 667-2315.

RESPONSIBLE OFFICIALS

Los Padres National Forest (SO)
Jeanine Derby -- Forest Supervisor
Gene Blankenbaker -- Deputy Forest Supervisor
6755 Hollister Ave., Suite 150
Goleta, CA 93117
(805) 968-6640

Monterey District (MRD)
John Bradford -- District Ranger
406 S. Mildred
King City, CA 93930
(831) 385-5434

Santa Lucia District (SLRD)
Kathleen Phelps -- District Ranger
1616 N. Carlotti Drive
Santa Maria, CA 93454
(805) 925-9538

Santa Barbara District (SBRD)
Sharon Sprouse -- District Ranger
3505 Paradise Road
Santa Barbara, CA 93105
(805) 967-3481

Ojai District (ORD)
John Bridgwater -- District Ranger
1190 E. Ojai Avenue
Ojai, CA 93023
(805) 646-4348

Mount Pinos District (MPRD)

Thomas Kuekes -- District Ranger
34580 Lockwood Valley Road
Frazier Park, CA 93225
(661) 245-3731