



# Los Padres National Forest

## Schedule of Proposed Environmental Actions

July-September, 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. Categories include the following:

**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 project leader at the Forest office listed under each project. For general information on the environmental analysis process, contact Forest Planner, Jim Turner, in the Forest Supervisor's Office at (805) 961-5752. For all other matters regarding the SOPA, contact Public Affairs Officer, Kathy Good, at (805) 961-5759.

### 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 was released in December 2001 for public comment. The comment period closed on April 19. A decision is expected in January 2003. 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 summer. 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.

##### Vaqueros Peak Communication Site

American Towers Inc. has purchased the building and tower structure at an existing and approved electronic communications site on top of Vaqueros Peak. 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. T20S, R6E, Sec 3 and 10, MDM. Estimated decision date: unknown. Contact: Tim Oosterhous, Assistant Recreation Officer, MRD.

##### Kirk Creek Campground Rehabilitation Project

Proposal to rehabilitate the existing campground to bring facilities up to existing health and safety standards and adequately meet user expectations. Estimated decision date: unknown. Contact: Tim Oosterhous, Assistant Recreation Officer, MRD.

##### Special Use Permit for Frankel Water System

Proposal to reauthorize a special use permit for personal and domestic water system on National Forest System land. The improvements are located in T24S, R5E, Sec

23, MDM. Estimated decision date: unknown. Contact: Tim Oosterhous, Assistant Recreation Officer, MRD.

### **Special Use Permit for Withrow Water System**

Proposal to reauthorize a special use permit for personal and domestic water system on National Forest System land. The improvements are located in T22S, R5E, Sec 32, MDM. Estimated decision date: unknown. Contact: Tim Oosterhous, Assistant Recreation Officer, MRD.

**Analyses Completed** **None.**

**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: Fall 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: Spring 2003. 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: unknown. Contact: John Bradford, District Ranger, MRD.

#### **Big Sur Grazing Permits**

Analysis to determine whether grazing permits should be reissued for Torre Canyon, Twitchell and Buckeye Allotments; and term grazing permits reissued for the Gorda, Alder Creek and Salmon Creek Allotments. Earlier Decision Notices were withdrawn in January 2002. New environmental analyses will be prepared for public review and comment sometime this fall. Estimated decision date: December 2002. 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: Winter 2003. 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.

### **Tassajara Peak Communication Site**

Proposal by American Tower to add a new tower at an existing site (formerly owned by AT&T) at the Tassajara 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**

#### **Visitor Area Expansion at SLRD District Office**

Proposal to remodel and enlarge the visitor information area of the Santa Lucia Ranger District office at 1616 Carlotti Drive, Santa Maria. The reception area would be reconstructed and increased to 24 feet by 27 feet. The remodel will provide greater interpretive exhibit and outdoor information space. T10N, R34W, Sec 2, SBBM. Estimated decision date: August 2002. Contact: Kathleen Phelps, District Ranger, SLRD.

#### **Cachuma Saddle Station Decommissioning**

Proposal to remove the abandoned and heavily vandalized Cachuma Saddle Guard Station and construct a day-use picnic area at the site. This facility, which has not been used as a fire station since the late 1980's, has been determined to be excess to the needs of the Forest Service. T8N, R29W, Sec 34, SBBM. Comments regarding this proposal should be submitted to District Ranger, Kathleen Phelps, by July 25, 2002. Estimated decision date: August 2002. Contact: Dennis Cooper, Lands and Minerals Officer, SLRD.

### **Access to Private Land in San Rafael Wilderness**

Proposal to issue Special Use Permit for one mile of motorized road access into a private land parcel within the San Rafael Wilderness, 1992 extension. Under the Alaska National Interest Lands Conservation Act of 1980 (ANICLA), we are required to provide reasonable access for this otherwise land-locked parcel of land. This road and motorized access existed prior to the establishment of the wilderness. There would be no additional road construction, but there would be on-going road maintenance to keep the road accessible to a level adequate for 4WD vehicles. T10N, R31W, Sec 25, 35 and 36, SBBM. Estimated decision date: Fall 2002. Contact: Dennis Cooper, Lands and Minerals Officer, SLRD.

### **Pendola Facilities**

Proposal to provide accessible toilets and redesign parking areas in the Upper Santa Ynez Recreation Area. The project is located at T5N, R25 and 26W. Estimated decision date: September 2002. Contact: Sharon Sprouse, District Ranger, SBRD.

### **Santa Cruz Trail**

Proposal to repair sections of cribbing along the Santa Cruz Trail. Project is located at T6N, R27 and 29W. Estimated decision date: September 2002. Contact: Kerry Kellogg, Trail Manager, SBRD.

### **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. Issues scoping is underway. Public comments should be addressed to Rich Phelps, and must be postmarked by August 3. 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: December 2002. Contact: Jeff Bensen, Recreation Forester, SBRD.

### **Olive Canyon Communication Site**

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**

#### **Santa Ynez River Ford**

In a Decision Notice signed on June 28, 2002, the District Ranger approved a proposal to reconstruct the ford at the first river crossing on Paradise Road within the Lower Santa Ynez Recreation Area. The ford will be reconstructed approximately 100 feet upstream from its current location in order to reduce the length of the river crossing and improve public safety by increasing sight distance. T5N, R28W, Sec 2, SBBM. Contact: Vicki Collins, Lands and Resources Officer, SBRD.

### **Analyses in Progress**

#### **White Elephant Abandoned Mine**

Proposal by the Forest Service to reclaim the abandoned White Elephant Mine located in T10N, R30W, Sec 8, SBBM, approximately one mile inside the San Rafael Wilderness. Estimated decision date: Summer 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 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: Unknown. Contact: Jeff Bensen, Recreation Forester, 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 Vault, Durbiano, Venadito 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 Jan. 1 to Dec. 31; and Venadito for 5 cow/calf pairs from Feb. 15 to June 30. Contact: Gary Montgomery, Range Specialist, SLRD.

## **KERN COUNTY**

### **Analyses Being Scoped**

#### **El Tejon Unified School District**

The school district has applied for conveyance of a +/- 10 acres of National Forest System land under the Education Land Grant Act for the Frazier Park Elementary School. This proposal would transfer title (through a quitclaim deed) to the school district. If this proposal is approved, the quitclaim deed would include a reversionary clause specifying that, in the event the use for school purposes

changed, the land shall revert to the United States. T9N, R19W, Sec 31, SW1/4, Lot 3, SBBM. Estimated decision date: Fall 2002. Contact: Loreigh Brannan, Special Use Administrator, MPRD.

### **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: September 2002. Contact: Mike Foster, Forest Botanist, MPRD.

### **Mount Abel Communication Site**

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 Rock Creek and Howard 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 summer with an anticipated ending date of August 15. Estimated decision date: May 2003. Contact: Rich Phelps, Special Areas Coordinator, SLRD.

#### **Piedra Blanca Group Campground Conversion**

Proposal to convert use at Piedra Blanca Group Campground to trailhead use only. The project may include removal of overnight camping facilities and large corrals. Existing parking area will be hardened and the restroom will be replaced. A small paddock and several hitching rails for stock use may be added. The campground is located south of Lion Campground in T5N, R22W, Sec 3, SBBM. Estimated decision date: November 2002. Contact: Charlie Robinson, Recreation Officer, ORD.

#### **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 endangered wildlife species (arroyo southwestern toad). The campground is located south of Sespe Creek in T6N, R22W, Sec 36, SBBM. Estimated decision date: November 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; repaving of road; and reestablishment of the water system. The campground is located at T5N, R22W, Sec 9, SBBM. Estimated decision date: November 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: Fall 2002. Contact: Al Hess, Resource Officer, or Terry Austin, Resource Forester, ORD.

**Analyses Completed** **None.**

**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, SBRD.

### **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. The project is on hold pending a land exchange with the State of California. Estimated decision date: Fall 2003. 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, SBRD.

### **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 early 2003. For information, including opportunities for your participation in this effort, please visit the planning website at [www.r5.fs.fed.us/sccs](http://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.

## **RESPONSIBLE OFFICIALS**

### **Los Padres National Forest (SO)**

Jeanine Derby -- Forest Supervisor  
Gene Blankenbaker -- Deputy Forest Supervisor  
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### **Mount Pinos District (MPRD)**

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