



Los Padres National Forest

Schedule of Proposed Environmental Actions

October-December 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, 2002. A decision is expected in Spring 2003. Contact: Al Hess, Team Leader, ORD.

MONTEREY COUNTY

Analyses Being Scoped

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: Spring 2003. Contact: Tim Oosterhous, Asst. Recreation Officer, MRD.

Outfitter Guide SUP

Proposal to conduct guided hiking/interpretive trips using camping equipment on forest lands within the Ventana Wilderness. Estimated decision date: Summer 2003. Contact: Tim Oosterhous, Asst. Recreation Officer, MRD.

Arroyo Seco-Indians Road Maintenance and Slide Removal

Proposal to remove existing landslides and perform road maintenance on the Arroyo Seco-Indians Road from Escondido Campground to Arroyo Seco Campground. Estimated decision date: Fall 2003. Contact: John Bradford, District Ranger, MRD.

Junipero Serra Peak Radio Repeater

Proposal to install a radio repeater on the existing lookout structure on Serra Peak. The repeater would be part of the Los Padres National Forest radio system. Estimated decision date: Summer 2003. Contact: John Bradford, District Ranger, 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: Spring 2003. Contact: Tim Oosterhous, Asst. 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: Summer 2003. Contact: Tim Oosterhous, Asst. 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: Spring 2003. Contact: Tim Oosterhous, Asst. 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: Spring 2003. Contact: Tim Oosterhous, Asst. Recreation Officer, MRD.

Analyses Completed **None.**

Analyses Documented **None.**

Analyses in Progress

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. Estimated decision date: May 2003. Contact: Jeff Kwasny, Big Sur Ecosystem Manager, MRD.

Monterey Defensible Fuel Profile Zones

Proposal to manage fuels using prescribed fire and mechanical treatments adjacent to roads and campgrounds. Includes maintenance of existing fire lines and safety zones by planting of native grasses and trees. Purpose is to create safety zones to protect Forest users and enhance fire suppression capability. 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: Winter 2003. Contact: Steve Davis, Battalion Chief, MRD.

Coast Highway Management Plan (CHMP)

Proposal to authorize disposal of landslide material from 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: Fall 2003. Contact: John Bradford, District Ranger, MRD.

Big Sur Grazing Permits

Analysis to determine whether grazing permits should be reissued for Torre Canyon, Twitchell, Buckeye, Gorda, Alder Creek, Salmon Creek, Cozy Cove and San

Carpoforo Allotments. Earlier Decision Notices were withdrawn in January 2002. New environmental analyses will be prepared for public review and comment. Estimated decision date: Spring 2003. Contact: Jeff Kwasny, Big Sur Ecosystem Manager, MRD.

SAN LUIS OBISPO COUNTY

Analyses Being Scoped

West Cuesta Ridge Trail System

Proposal to analyze a trail system in the West Cuesta Ridge area, west of Highway 101, north of San Luis Obispo. The analysis will determine if a viable trail system can be established for hiking, mountain biking and equestrian use. Estimated decision date: unknown. Contact: Manny Madrigal, Recreation Officer, SLRD.

Deer Trail Abandoned Mine

Proposal to reclaim the abandoned Deer Trail Mine. T32S, R16E, Sec 32, MDM. Estimated decision date: unknown. Contact: Dennis Cooper, Lands and Minerals Officer, SLRD.

Sisquoc Trail Rehabilitation

Proposal to reestablish the existing trail and analyze possible reroutes. This important trail is within the San Rafael Wilderness between the headwaters of the Sisquoc River and the Manzana Schoolhouse. The trail received extensive damage during the El Nino rains. T7&8N, R26,27,28,29&30W. Estimated decision date: Summer 2003. Contact: Manny Madrigal, Recreation Officer, SLRD.

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 2003. Contact: Manny Madrigal, Recreation Officer, SLRD.

Analyses Completed **None.**

Analyses Documented **None.**

Analyses in Progress

Nunez and Coyote Hole Reservoir Maintenance

Proposal to use mechanized equipment to access and maintain Nunez and Coyote Hole Reservoirs. These reservoirs are located in the Machesna Wilderness in T30S, R16E, Sec 16&23, MDBM. Estimated decision date. Contact: Melody Fountain, Resource Officer, SLRD.

CalTrans Highway 41 Special Use Permit

Proposal to amend the existing special use permit to CalTrans to authorize installation of a small section of cable net drapery system on National Forest System land above Highway 41 to prevent rocks and boulders from rolling onto the highway. T29S, R11E, Sec 2, MDM.

Estimated decision date: October 2002. Contact: Dennis Cooper, Lands and Minerals Officer, SLRD.

PG&E Special Use Permit

Proposal to issue a new special use permit to PG&E for sections of electrical distribution lines in San Luis Obispo that cross various portions of the Santa Lucia Ranger District and installation of underground powerlines to the Forest Service administrative site in Arroyo Grande.

Estimated decision date: October 2002. Contact: Dennis Cooper, Lands and Mineral Officer, SLRD.

Tassajera Peak Communication Site

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 from 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.

SANTA BARBARA COUNTY

Analyses Being Scoped

Figueroa Mtn. Rec. Residence Water Supply

Proposal to analyze current domestic water use, facilities and water needs by ten recreation residences on Figueroa Mountain. Will develop a plan to address how and who is to supply domestic water to the ten cabins, the existing campground and the existing administrative site.

Estimated decision date: unknown. 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: Spring 2003.

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 2003. Contact: Sharon Sprouse, District Ranger, 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. This project will also analyze a prescribed burn program for the area. 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: November 2002. Contact: Carol Henson, Forest Fuels Specialist, 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

Visitor Area Expansion at SLRD District Office

In a Decision Memo signed on August 30, 2002, District Ranger Kathleen Phelps has approved a proposal to remodel and enlarge the visitor information area of the Santa Lucia Ranger District Office. The remodel will provide greater exhibit and outdoor information space. T10N, R34W, Sec 2, SBBM. Contact: Kathleen Phelps, District Ranger, SLRD.

Cachuma Saddle Station Decommissioning

In a Decision Memo signed on August 28, 2002, District Ranger Kathleen Phelps has approved a proposal to remove the abandoned and heavily vandalized Cachuma Saddle Guard Station. This facility has not been used as a fire station since the late 1980's and has been determined to be excess to the needs of the Forest Service. T8N, R29W, Sec 34, SBBM. Contact: Dennis Cooper, Lands and Minerals Officer, SLRD.

Santa Cruz Trail

In a Decision Memo signed on September 19, 2002, the District Ranger approved a proposal to repair sections of cribbing along the Santa Cruz Trail. Project is located at T6N, R27 and 29W. Contact: Kerry Kellogg, Trail Manager, SBRD.

Analyses Documented

None.

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: Spring 2003. 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: November 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: November 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.

Analyses Postponed

Santa Cruz Prescribed Burn

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: Spring 2003. 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: January 2003. 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.

Analyses Completed

McGill Campground Water System

In a Decision Memo signed in July 2002, the District Ranger approved reconstruction of the existing spring box to meet State water quality standards; repair of the waterline between the spring box and the McGill storage tank; installation of a "bag type" filtration system inline above the McGill tank; and repair of the water distribution system. Contact: Cheryl Foster, Asst. Recreation Officer, MPRD.

Analyses Documented

None.

Analyses in Progress

Cherry Creek Road (Route 113)

Proposal to reroute the first ¼ mile to provide better drainage and avoid gulying. A trespass problem has evolved from motorcycles trying to avoid this section of the road. The abandoned portion would be rehabilitated. Estimated decision date: Spring 2003. Contact: Cheryl Foster, Asst. Recreation Officer, MPRD.

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

Wheeler Gorge Water System

Proposal to drill a well at the Wheeler Gorge Administrative Site along Highway 33. The well water will replace the water currently collected from Belly Ache Spring for administrative use in Wheeler Gorge. In addition to the well, the project includes minor plumbing connections to the existing plumbing, electricity to the site, and a small enclosure for the wellhead. The well will replace the surface water diversion and aging water transmission line from Belly Ache Spring and eliminate the diversion of surface flows. This will return the spring flows into the natural stream drainage. The existing water line would be decommissioned. The water system serves the campground, residence and administrative buildings and will bring the facility into compliance with current State health standards for water supply. T5N, R23W, Sec 10 and 15, SBBM. Estimated decision date: March 2003. Contact: Charlie Robinson, Recreation Officer, ORD.

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. 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: September 2003. 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: September 2003. 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. T5N, R22W, Sec 9, SBBM. Estimated decision date: September 2003. Contact: Charlie Robinson, Recreation Officer, ORD.

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: December 2003. Contact: Carol Henson, Forest Fuels Officer, 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: Summer 2003. Contact: Al Hess, Resource Officer, or Terry Austin, Resource Forester, ORD.

Analyses Completed

Mt. Pinos Campground Rehabilitation

In a Decision Memo signed in October 2002, the District Ranger approved installation of two 1-unit "sweet-smelling toilet design" toilets to replace two existing units; renovation of 19 campsites to meet accessibility standards; reopening of the existing water system. The project does not expand the size or capacity of the campground, but it increases the accessibility of facilities. T10N, R21W, Sec 4, SBBM. Contact: Cheryl Foster, Asst. Recreation Officer, MPRD.

Analyses Documented

None.

Analyses in Progress

West Frazier Mine Road (Route 118) Reroute

Proposal to relocate approximately ½ mile of the road on the south end to avoid a clay area prone to rutting and meadow, and 1 mile at the north end where the route passes through private property as it leaves Lockwood Valley Road. The road would then terminate on Frazier Mountain Road above Chuchupate Ranger Station, thereby eliminating private property trespass and rendering better compliance with the seasonal closure gate near the ranger station. T9N, R20W, Sec 8&9, SBBM. Estimated decision date: Fall 2003. Contact: Cheryl Foster, Asst. Recreation Officer, MPRD.

Ballinger Canyon Trail (Trail 12)

Proposal to reroute a ½ mile segment of Trail 12 to move the trail off of heavy clay soils which have a high slide potential and onto adjacent stable soils. T9N, R24W, Sec 10, SBBM. Estimated decision date: Spring 2003. Contact: Cheryl Foster, Asst. Recreation Officer, MPRD.

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: November 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: November 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, Asst. 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: John Bridgwater, District Ranger, ORD.

Analyses Postponed

Big Horn Sheep Prescribed Burn

Alamo Prescribed Burn

Forest Plan Revision

We are currently revising the Forest Plans for the Angeles, Cleveland, Los Padres and San Bernardino National Forests. A draft EIS is expected in summer 2003. For information, including opportunities for your participation in this effort, please visit the planning website at www.r5.fs.fed.us/sccs. 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

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