



Los Padres National Forest Schedule of Proposed Environmental Actions

April-June 2003



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.**

Routine Maintenance of OHV Trails

Proposal to perform routine maintenance on approximately 50 miles of off-highway vehicle (OHV) routes across the forest, and install signs to discourage illegal vehicle trespass. Scoping is currently underway. Comments are due to project manager Rick Larson by May 9, 2003. See address under "Responsible Officials." Estimated decision date: Spring 2003. Contact: Rick Larson, Acting Recreation Program Manager, Forest Supervisor's Office.

Analyses in Progress

Forest Plan Revision

We are currently revising the Forest Land and Resource Management Plans (Forest Plans) for the Angeles, Cleveland, Los Padres and San Bernardino National Forests. Draft plans and the accompanying DEIS are expected by Winter 2004. For further information, visit the Forest Plans Revision website at www.fs.fed.us/r5/scfpr, or contact your local District Ranger or the Los Padres NF Public Affairs Office.

Oil and Gas Leasing Analysis

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 by Summer 2003. Contact: Al Hess, Team Leader, ORD.

MONTEREY COUNTY

Analyses Being Scoped

Outfitter Guide SUP

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

Arroyo Seco-Indians Road

Proposal to remove existing landslides and perform road maintenance 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 Forest Service radio repeater on the existing lookout structure. Estimated decision date: Summer 2003. Contact: John Bradford, District Ranger, MRD.

Analyses Completed **None.**

Analyses Documented **None.**

Analyses in Progress

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

Kirk Creek Campground Rehabilitation Project

Proposal to rehabilitate the campground to bring facilities up to existing health and safety standards and adequately meet user expectations. Estimated decision date: Fall 2003. Contact: Tim Oosterhous, Asst. Recreation Officer, MRD.

Vaqueros Peak Communication Site

American Towers Inc. has purchased the building and tower structure at an approved electronic communications site at the 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: Fall 2003. Contact: Tim Oosterhous, Asst. Recreation Officer, MRD.

Hunting Guide and Outfitter Guide SUP

Proposal to conduct guided hunting trips using stock and camping equipment on within the Ventana and Silver Peak wildernesses. Estimated decision date: Summer 2003. Contact: Tim Oosterhous, Asst. Recreation Officer, MRD.

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

SAN LUIS OBISPO COUNTY

Analyses Being Scoped

Redhill Staging Area and Burnout Trail

Proposal to remove the informal Redhill staging area and reroute the Burnout Trail to protect critical habitat for the Camatta Canyon amole plant. Would involve constructing pipe fencing along the east side of the Redhill Road all the way past the Burnout Trailhead. The Burnout Trail would be rerouted to use the old firebreak that goes down the ridge, outside of critical habitat. This will provide a loop to Mare Springs. Fencing would be installed along the Benchmark Trail to the Burnout Trail to deter off-highway vehicle trespass. All closed trails would be rehabilitated. Area is located approximately 24 miles east of Santa Margarita. Estimated decision date: Summer 2003. Contact: Manny Madrigal, Assistant Recreation Officer, SLRD, or Mike Foster, Forest Botanist, MPRD.

West Cuesta Ridge Trail System

Proposal to analyze a portion of the trail system in the West Cuesta Ridge area, west of Highway 101, north of San Luis Obispo. The Morning Glory, Shooter and Botanical Trails will be evaluated. Estimated decision date: unknown. Contact: Manny Madrigal, Assistant Recreation Officer, SLRD.

Rinconada Adits Closure

Proposal to close the adits on the Rinconada Mine located in T30S, R14E, Sec 21, MDM. Action may include blasting, fencing and signage. Estimated decision date: summer 2003. Contact: Dennis Cooper, Lands and Minerals 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, Assistant Recreation Officer, SLRD.

Upper Sisquoc Trail Rehabilitation

Proposal to reestablish two sections of trail within the San Rafael Wilderness. Approximately 100 feet is located on Foresters Leap (T8N, R27W, Sec 17) and 100 feet at Rattlesnake Canyon (T8N, R26W, Sec 31). The work will consist of blasting sections of the trail, removing slough and reestablishing the trail tread. Estimated decision date: Spring 2003. Contact: Manny Madrigal, Assistant 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, Assistant Recreation Officer, SLRD.

Analyses Completed

None.

Analyses Documented

None.

Analyses in Progress

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

Administrative Site Land Exchange

Proposal to exchange 0.80 acres of an administrative site (federal land) within the City of Ojai for 1.25 acres (non-federal land) within the City of Santa Maria. The intent would be to provide an option to relocate and build a new Forest Supervisor's Office adjacent to the Santa Lucia Ranger District Office site in Santa Maria. The federal land in Ojai is excess to the Forest's needs. Estimated decision date: Summer 2003. Contact: Marian Kadota, Lands Staff Assistant, Forest Supervisor's Office.

Highway 166 Shooting Area

Proposal to permanently close the informal shooting area along Highway 166 due to recurring public safety concerns. Proposal also includes converting the area to a trailhead for the Willow Springs Trail. The project includes constructing a parking area and traffic fencing,

trailhead; establishing a connector trail to the Willow Springs Trail; and reconstructing the existing trail to locate it on national forest system lands and bring it up to standard. 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. Scoping will begin in May 2003. Estimated decision date: unknown. Contact: Manny Madrigal, Assistant Recreation Officer, SLRD.

Colson Canyon Wet Weather Gate

Proposal to install a wet weather gate at the national forest boundary in Colson Canyon on road 11N04. This gate is to prevent off-road driving during storm events in the Colson Campground and administrative site in order to protect the soil and archeological resources. The gate will be closed prior to storm events and opened after the soil dries out (estimated to be two days following a storm). Estimated decision date: Summer 2003. Contact: Manny Madrigal, Assistant Recreation Officer, SLRD.

Santa Cruz Prescribed Burn

Proposal to do a broadcast burn over several years on approximately 15,252 acres (9,494 acres of National Forest land, rest is private land). This is a cooperative project with the Santa Barbara County Fire Department and San Fernando Rey Ranch. The objective is to reduce hazardous fuels and the threat of catastrophic wildfire. The project also will protect the Cachuma Watershed and any associated threatened and endangered species in the area. The general perimeters for the burn will be the McKinley jeepway on the east and north, Peachtree Canyon on the west and Santa Cruz Creek on the south. T7N, R28W, Sec 9,16,10,15,21,22,27,28; T7N, R27W, Sec 23,25,26,35,36,31; T6N, R27W, Sec 1,5,6,7,8,12, SBBM. Estimated decision date: Spring 2004. Contact: Carol Henson, Forest Fuels Officer, SBRD.

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 a Special Use Permit for one mile of motorized road access into a private land parcel within the San Rafael Wilderness, 1992 extension. The Alaska National Interest Lands Conservation Act of 1980 requires us to provide reasonable access for this otherwise land-locked parcel. 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 maintenance to keep the road accessible to a level adequate for 4WD vehicles. T10N, R31W, Sec 25, 35, 36, SBBM. Estimated decision date: Spring 2003. Contact: Dennis Cooper, Lands and Minerals Officer, SLRD.

Pendola Facilities

Proposal to replace toilets, redesign or improve travel routes and parking areas at recreation sites, and provide interpretive signing in the Upper Santa Ynez Recreation Area. The project is located at T5N, R25 and 26W, SBBM. Estimated decision date: September 2003. Contact: Sharon Sprouse, Recreation Officer, 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.

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 and provide defensible space for firefighters and the community. The burn is a cooperative project with Santa Barbara County Fire Department. T5N, R27W, Sec 22, SBBM. Estimated decision date: Spring 2003. 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: Summer 2003. 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 **None.**

Analyses in Progress

White Elephant Abandoned Mine

Proposal 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.

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 SBRD. 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

Mil Potrero Campground Special Use Permit

Proposal to issue a new SUP for continued operation of the Mil Potrero campground, a facility operated under SUP since 1964 by the West Side Parks and Recreation District. (WSD serves the community of Taft.) WSD is negotiating with a purchaser for the improvements, who would continue to operate the facility as a public campground. Facilities consist of campsites, restrooms, a day lodge building, two rental cabins, entrance kiosk, two pads for caretaker's trailers, a small horse corral, a water system, electric utilities, and interior access roads on a 50-acre site. The campground is just west of Pine Mountain Club in T9N, R22W, Sec 24, SBBM. Estimated decision date: Summer 2003. Contact: Loreigh Brannan, Special Use Administrator, MPRD.

Dalmatian Toadflax Control Project

Proposal to use the herbicide glyphosate (RoundUp) to eradicate the CA Dept. of Food and Agriculture's A-rated noxious weed, Dalmatian toadflax (*Linaria genistifolia* ssp. *Dalmatica*). The weed has been resistant to efforts to remove it by hand. 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. Follow-up treatment would occur the following two to three years as needed until the objective of 100 percent eradication is achieved. Hand grubbing will continue to be used as a treatment method for controlling seedlings and shallow rooted plants. Project is located just north of Frazier Park and about 5 miles west of Interstate 5. T9N, R20W, Sec 25, 26 and 35, SBBM. Estimated decision date: August 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

Cherry Creek Road (Route 113)

In a Decision Memo signed on April 3, 2003, the District Ranger approved a proposal to reroute the first ¼ mile to rehabilitate the abandoned portion. Contact: Cheryl Foster, Asst. Recreation Officer, MPRD.

Outfitter-Guide Special Use Permit

In a Decision Memo signed on March 28, 2003, the District Ranger approved a proposal to issue an outfitter-guide special use permit to the Pine Mountain Club Property Owners Association to authorize guided day-use horse rides on approximately 6 miles of trails adjacent to Pine Mountain Club. No new trail or facility construction was proposed or approved. Rides will be available to the general public. T9N, R22W, Sec 13 and 24, SBBM. Contact: Tom Kuekes, District Ranger, MPRD.

Analyses Documented

None.

Analyses in Progress

El Tejon Unified School District

ETUSD has applied for conveyance of approximately 10 acres of National Forest System land under the Education Land Grant Act for the Frazier Park Elementary School. Title would be transferred through a quitclaim deed. The 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.

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

Administrative Site Land Exchange

Proposal to exchange 0.80 acres of an administrative site (federal land) within the City of Ojai for 1.25 acres (non-federal land) within the City of Santa Maria. The intent would be to provide an option to relocate and build a new Forest Supervisor's Office adjacent to the Santa Lucia Ranger District Office site in Santa Maria. The federal land in Ojai is excess to the Forest's needs. Estimated decision date: Summer 2003. Contact: Marian Kadota, Lands Staff Assistant, Forest Supervisor's Office.

Beaver Campground Decommissioning

Proposal to remove all improvements and return the site to a near-natural condition. The campground, located south of Sespe Creek, is currently closed to public use due to the presence of endangered arroyo toads. T5N, R23W, Sec 1, SBBM. Estimated decision date: September 2003. Contact: Diane Cross, Recreation Assistant, ORD.

Wheeler Gorge Water System

Proposal to drill a well at the Wheeler Gorge Administrative Site along Hwy 33. The well water will replace the water currently collected from Belly Ache Spring for administrative use in Wheeler Gorge. 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, returning the spring flows into the natural stream drainage. The existing water line would be decommissioned. The 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: September 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 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: Diane Cross, Recreation Assistant, ORD.

Lion Campground Decommission

Proposal to remove all improvements and return the site to a near-natural condition. The campground is currently closed to public use due to the presence of endangered wildlife species (arroyo toad). The campground is located south of Sespe Creek in T6N, R22W, Sec 36, SBBM. Estimated decision date: September 2003. Contact: Diane Cross, Recreation Assistant, 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: Diane Cross, Recreation Assistant, ORD.

Ojai Community Defense Zone

Proposal to reduce hazardous fuels, improve watershed health, and provide protection and defensible space for firefighters and public safety in the event of a wildfire. The 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 in cooperation with Ventura Co Fire Protection District and the CA Dept. 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: Summer 2004. Contact: Carol Henson, Forest Fuels Officer, SBRD.

Piru Allotments

Proposal to analyze grazing on the Piru, Temescal and Potholes allotments on the ORD. Includes 30 cow/calf pairs on the Piru/Potholes and 30 cow/calf pairs on the Temescal. T5N, R18W, SBBM. Estimated decision date: Summer 2003. Contact: Al Hess, Resource Officer, or Terry Austin, Resource Forester, ORD.

Analyses Completed

None.

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 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: Summer 2003. Contact: Cheryl Foster, Asst. Recreation Officer, MPRD.

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: Spring 2003. 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 involves coordination with a proposed land exchange with the State of California. Estimated decision date: unknown. Contact: Cheryl Foster, Asst. Recreation Officer, MPRD.

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)

Maeton Freel -- Acting 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

Public Affairs Office: (805) 961-5759

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