



# Los Padres National Forest Schedule of Proposed Environmental Actions

October-December 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.

## Information Regarding Specific Projects

For additional information regarding the projects listed in this SOPA, including procedures for notification, opportunities for participation, and the availability of documents, please call or write to the project leader listed as the contact for that specific project. For general information on the environmental analysis process, contact Forest Planner, Jim Turner, or Rich Phelps, 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**

### 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. The Notice of Intent was posted in the Federal Register on September 24, 2001. The draft Environmental Impact Statement (DEIS) and four draft Forest Plans are expected to be available for public review in approximately February 2004, followed by a 90-day public comment period. Additional information and a schedule of the public involvement opportunities will be announced in advance via newsletter, phone recording at 1-866-252-8846, and on the Plan Revision website at <http://www.fs.fed.us/r5/scfpr>. The estimated decision date is Winter 2005. Contact your local District Ranger or Public Affairs Officer for further details.

### 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. The Final EIS and decision are expected in Winter 2004. 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: Spring 2004. Contact: Manny Madrigal, Acting 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: Spring 2004. 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: Winter 2004. 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: Winter 2004.

Contact: Manny Madrigal, Acting 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: Winter 2004.

Contact: Manny Madrigal, Acting Recreation Officer, MRD.

### **Kirk Creek Campground Rehabilitation Project**

Proposal to bring facilities up to health and safety standards and adequately meet user expectations.

Estimated decision date: Summer 2004. Contact: Manny Madrigal, Acting 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: Summer 2004. Contact: John Bradford, District Ranger, MRD.

### **Hunting Guide and Outfitter Guide SUP**

Proposal to conduct guided hunting trips using stock and camping equipment within the Ventana and Silver Peak wildernesses. Estimated decision date: Winter 2004.

Contact: Manny Madrigal, Acting Recreation Officer, MRD.

### **Big Sur River Comprehensive Management Plan**

Proposal to prepare a Comprehensive River Management Plan (CRMP) for the headwater portion of the Big Sur River that is designated as a Wild River. 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. This document will provide a basis for comparing alternative management plans for the river. The environmental assessment is available for public review and comment through the month of July. Estimated decision date: November 2003. Contact: Rich Phelps, Special Areas Coordinator, SLRD.

### **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: Fall 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 2004. 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: Winter 2004.

Contact: John Bradford, District Ranger, MRD.

### **Big Sur Grazing Permits**

Analysis to determine whether grazing permits should be reissued for the 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: Winter 2004. 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: unknown. Contact: Kathleen Phelps, District Ranger, 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: Kathleen Phelps, District Ranger, SLRD.

#### **Trail Rehabilitation in San Rafael Wilderness**

Proposal to reestablish damaged and/or impassable sections and maintain to standard existing trail routes through the San Rafael Wilderness. The routes include the Judell Trail between Sierra Madre Ridge and Heath Camp, and the Sisquoc Trail from Heath Camp to Able Camp (T8N, R27&28W, SBBM). The work will include

blasting in several areas and heavy trail reconstruction, including slough removal, brush removal and tread establishment. The objective of this work is to comply with management objectives for the San Rafael Wilderness and Siskiyou Wild and Scenic River. Estimated decision date: Spring 2004. Contact: Kathleen Phelps, District Ranger, 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: Fall 2003. Contact: Kathleen Phelps, District Ranger, SLRD.

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

**Analyses Documented** **None.**

**Analyses in Progress**

#### **Rinconada Mine 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: Winter 2004. 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: Winter 2004. Contact: Dennis Cooper, Lands and Minerals Officer, SLRD.

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

Analysis to determine whether grazing permits should be reissued for the San Carpoforo Allotment. Earlier Decision Notices were withdrawn in January 2002. New environmental analyses will be prepared for public review and comment. Estimated decision date: Winter 2004. Contact: Jeff Kwasny, Big Sur Ecosystem Manager, MRD.

### **SANTA BARBARA COUNTY**

**Analyses Being Scoped**

#### **Barrier Installation Along Sunset Valley Road**

Proposal to install approximately 800 feet of welded pipe fence along Sunset Valley Road approximately 0.25 mile north of Davy Brown Campground. The purpose of the fencing is to prevent ongoing illegal OHV activity on a trespass motocross track. The track is causing resource damage including soil compaction, erosion and loss of vegetation. T8N, R29W, Sec 11, SBBM. Estimated decision date: Spring 2004. Contact: Kathleen Phelps, District Ranger, SLRD.

#### **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. Estimated decision date: unknown. Contact: Kathleen Phelps, District Ranger, 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: Fall 2003. Contact: Kathleen Phelps, District Ranger, 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 will also 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.

#### **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 2004. 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: Fall 2004. Contact: Jeff Bensen, Recreation Forester, 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: Winter 2004. 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**

#### **Davy Brown Trail Reroute**

In a Decision Memo signed on August 8, 2003, the District Ranger approved a proposal to reroute approximately 100 feet of trail in T8N, R29W, Sec 19, SBBM. Contact: Kathleen Phelps, District Ranger, SLRD.

### **Analyses Documented**

**None.**

### **Analyses in Progress**

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

In a Decision Memo signed on May 20, 2003, District Ranger Kathleen Phelps approved a proposal to reclaim the abandoned White Elephant Mine located in T10N, R30W, Sec 8, SBBM, approximately one mile inside the San Rafael Wilderness. The decision to clean up the mine has not changed, but the District is analyzing the effects of using polyurethane foam, while still accommodating bat access, as an alternative to using a metal bat gate at the site. Contact: Dennis Cooper, Lands and Minerals Officer, SLRD.

#### **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: Spring 2004. Contact: Dennis Cooper, Lands and Minerals Officer, SLRD.

#### **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: Winter 2004. Contact: Marian Kadota, Lands Staff Assistant, Forest Supervisor's Office.

### **Sisquoc River Comprehensive Mgt. Plan**

Proposal to prepare a Comprehensive River Management Plan (CRMP) for the headwater portion of the Sisquoc River that is designated a Wild River. 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 document will provide a basis for comparing alternative management strategies for the river. The environmental assessment is available for public review and comment through the month of July. Estimated decision date: November 2003. Contact: Rich Phelps, Special Areas Coordinator, SLRD.

### **Analyses Postponed**

#### **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.

#### **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. 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. Contact: Jeff Bensen, Recreation Forester, SBRD.

## **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: Spring 2004. Contact: Loreigh Brannan, Special Use Administrator, 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 Withdrawn**

### **Dalmatian Toadflax Control Project**

Proposal to use the herbicide glyphosate (RoundUp) to eradicate Dalmatian toadflax (*Linaria genistifolia* ssp. *Dalmatica*) from an area just north of Frazier Park. The district is currently using hand control methods to remove the toadflax. Contact: Mike Foster, Forest Botanist, MPRD.

### **Analyses Completed**

**None.**

### **Analyses Documented**

**None.**

### **Analyses in Progress**

### **East Tecuya Trail Reroute**

Proposal to relocate 0.75 miles of the trail where it follows a steep grade down a ridgeline. The reroute will switchback down the slope reducing erosion and providing a more scenic trail riding experience. The former trail will be rehabilitated to reduce further erosion. T9N, R20W, Sec 23, SBBM. Estimated decision date: Winter 2004. Contact Ray Kidd, OHV manager, MPRD.

### **Special Use Permit for Organization Camp**

Proposal to renew a permit to continue operating a year-round organization 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**

### **Ojai District Special Use Permit Program**

Proposal to renew or reissue 22 Special Use Permits on the Ojai Ranger District, each for a term of 5-20 years, for the following uses and locations:

Fuelbreak and orchard in Gridley canyon, 10.2 acres, T5N, R22W, Sec 29, SBBM. Orchard off Hwy 33, 0.33 acres, T5N, R28W, Sec 28, SBBM. Two apiary sites in Wheeler Gorge and Matilija Canyon, each covering 0.10 acre, T5N, R23W, Sec 15 & 19, SBBM. Six apiary sites

in Sespe Oilfields area, each covering 0.10 acre, T5N, R19W, Sec 20, 29-31 and T5N, R20W, Sec 25, SBBM. One apiary site near Lake Piru, 0.10 acre, T5N, R18W, Sec 10, SBBM. Shed and corral off Chismahoo Road, 3 acres, T4N, R25W, Sec 25, SBBM. Private camp facilities off Foothill Road, 5 acres, T5N, R23W, Sec 35, SBBM. Private road north of Lake Casitas, 0.15 acres, T4N, R23W, Sec 7, SBBM. Private road in Sisar Canyon, 1.32 acres, T4N, R21W, Sec 6, SBBM. Private road in Gypsum Canyon, 3.64 acres, T6N, R23W, Sec 7, SBBM. Private road in Potrero Seco, 2.20 acres, T6N, R24W, Sec 2, SBBM. Two private roads in Rose Valley, 2.5 acres each, T5N, R22W, Sec 4, SBBM. Private road in Sespe Oilfields, 0.7 acre, T5N, R19W, Sec 32, SBBM. Water pipeline near San Cayetano Mtn., 0.6 acres, T4N, R20W, Sec 6, SBBM. Two oil pipelines in Sespe Oilfields, 1.8 acres & 0.84 acre, T5N, R19W, Sec 29 & 32, SBBM. Gas pipeline in Sespe Oilfields, 8 acres, T5N, R19W, Sec 28, SBBM. Compressor site in Sespe Oilfields, 2.55 acres, T5N, R19W, Sec 32, SBBM. Powerline in Sespe Oilfields, 4.36 acres, T5N, R19W, Sec 19, SBBM. Removal of abandoned utility pole, well, pumphouse, water pipeline in Horn Canyon, 1.43 acres, T5N, R22W, Sec 34, SBBM. Estimated decision date: Spring 2004. Contact: Terry Austin, Asst. Resource Officer, ORD.

### **Alamo Mountain Prescribed Fire Project**

Proposal to use prescribed fire to treat a total of 12,700 acres in 3 separate units (Units 2, 3 and 4). The project is located about 10 miles south of the Chuchupate Ranger Station. It is on and surrounding Alamo Mountain within the Piru Watershed. T7N, R20W, Sec 13-16, 20-29, 33-36; T6N, R20W, Sec 1-4; T7N, R19W, Sec 14-23, 27-33; T6N, R19W, Sec 4-6, SBBM. Estimated decision date: Spring 2004. Contact: Mark Nunez, Acting Forest Fuels Officer, SBRD.

### **Piru OHV Trail Reroute**

Proposal to relocate two sections (approximately 1/4 and 1/4 mile each) of Piru Creek Trail traverse in close proximity to Piru Creek. The purpose is to move the trail out of the creek onto the toe of the slope to reduce resource disturbance and create a better experience for trail users. The abandoned sections of the trail will be restored to a natural condition. T7N, R20W, Sec 11 and 13, SBBM. Estimated decision date: Winter 2004. Contact: Ray Kidd, OHV Manager, MPRD.

### **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.

## **Analyses Completed**

### **Rennacker Road Special Use Permit**

In a Decision Memo signed on October 1, 2003, the District Ranger approved issuance of a Special Use Permit authorizing construction and operation of a private access road and underground utility lines near Stewart Canyon, north of the town of Ojai. T5N, R23W, Sec 35, SBBM. Contact: Al Hess, Resource Officer, ORD.

## **Analyses Documented**

**None.**

## **Analyses in Progress**

### **Ballinger #12 Trail Reroute**

Proposal to relocate 0.75 mile of the trail. The hillside is predominantly clay and during the past several wet winters has become one large landslide. Large-scale land movement is not uncommon in the Ballinger Canyon area; however, this location is no longer suitable for a trail. An old undesignated route (0.5 mi) on a parallel ridge would provide access above the landslide and contour back to the stable portion of Trail 12. T9N, R24W, Sec 10 & 15, SBBM. Estimated decision date: Winter 2004. Contact: Ray Kidd, OHV Manager, MPRD.

### **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: Winter 2004. Contact: Al Hess, Resource Officer, or Terry Austin, Resource Forester, ORD.

### **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: Winter 2004. 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: November 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 system serves the campground, fire station and residence 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: February 2004. Contact: Charlie Robinson, Recreation Officer, ORD.

### **Sespe Creek Comprehensive Management Plan**

Proposal to prepare a Comprehensive River Management Plan (CRMP) for Sespe Creek, between its confluence with Rock Creek and Howard Creek to the downstream boundary of the Sespe Condor Sanctuary. This segment of the river is designated as a Wild and Scenic River. 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 document will provide a basis for comparing alternative management plans for the creek. The environmental assessment is available for public review and comment through the month of July. Estimated decision date: November 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: November 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: November 2003. Contact: Diane Cross, Recreation Assistant, ORD.

### **Rose Valley Campground Reconstruction**

Proposal to reconstruct the existing Lion Loop of the campground, including replacing or refurbishing the low-water ford with a suitable above-water road crossing; replacing toilets, fire rings and tables; repaving the road; and reestablishing the water system. T5N, R22W, Sec 9, SBBM. Estimated decision date: November 2003. Contact: Diane Cross, Recreation Assistant, ORD.

### **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.

34580 Lockwood Valley Road  
Frazier Park, CA 93225  
(661) 245-3731

### **Laguna Fuels Project**

Proposal to enhance protection of the Casitas Watershed by reconstructing and restoring fuelbreaks created in the 1970's and reducing hazardous fuels through the use of prescribed fire. The project is designed to establish a natural-appearing vegetation mosaic averaging 300 feet wide and approximately 12 miles long (Laguna, Chismahoo-Coyote, Santa Ana) to promote diversity of vegetation age class, size and density. 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, Sec 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 8, 10, 11, 12, 17, 19, 20, 27, 28, 29, SBBM. Estimated decision date: Winter 2004. Contact: Mark Nunez, Acting 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.

**Los Padres National Forest website:**

[www.fs.fed.us/r5/lospadres](http://www.fs.fed.us/r5/lospadres)

## **Responsible Officials**

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

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Gene Blankenbaker -- Deputy Forest Supervisor  
6755 Hollister Ave., Suite 150  
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(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)**

Linda Riddle -- 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