



Los Padres National Forest

Schedule of Proposed Environmental Actions

January - March 2004



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.

View SOPA On-Line

Change is coming to the Los Padres NF SOPA. Starting this spring, all national forests will be switching to a new web-based system, called "e-SOPA," for tracking and reporting the status of NEPA analyses. Sometime in April, if all goes well, you will be able to access a national database displaying the status of current NEPA projects, including those within Los Padres NF. A PDL version of the SOPA will be available for printing. We do not have the web address yet, but there will be a link from the Los Padres NF website to the new SOPA database.

Meanwhile, we will continue to post the Los Padres SOPA on the forest website. We will also continue to mail it on a quarterly basis (January, April, July, October) to our mailing list which currently includes about 600 names. We hope you will consider using the on-line system to help save paper and postage. If you wish to be removed from our SOPA hard-copy mailing list, please notify Kathy Good via any of the following methods: by phone at (805) 961-5759; via e-mail at kgood@fs.fed.us; or via regular mail (see the Forest Supervisor's Office address on last page).

SOPA Organization

Projects in this SOPA 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 a specific project, including procedures for notification, opportunities for participation, and the availability of documents, please call or write to the contact indicated. For general information on the environmental analysis process, contact Forest Planner Rich Phelps at (805) 878-7951.

FORESTWIDE

Analyses Being Scoped

None.

Analyses in Progress

Forest Plan Revision

We are currently revising the Land 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 April 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 the Plan Revision Newsletter, information line at 866-252-8846, and 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. Estimated decision date: Spring 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, 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 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: Fall 2004. Contact: John Bradford, District Ranger, MRD.

Analyses Completed **None.**

Analyses Documented

Big Sur River Comprehensive Management Plan

In a Decision Notice signed on December 11, 2003, the Forest Supervisor approved the Comprehensive River Management Plan for the Big Sur River. This plan will provide management direction to meet the intent of the Wild and Scenic River Act and protect and enhance the values for which the river was designated. Contact: Manny Madrigal, Recreation Officer, MRD.

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, 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, 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, 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, Recreation Officer, 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: Spring 2004. Contact: Steve Davis, Battalion Chief, MRD.

Coast Highway Management Plan (CHMP)

Proposal to authorize disposal of landslide material from Hwy. 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: Spring 2004. Contact: Jeff Kwasny, Big Sur Ecosystem Mgr., 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.

Analyses Completed

Trail Rehabilitation in San Rafael Wilderness

In a Decision Memo signed on October 24, 2003, the District Ranger approved a proposal to reestablish damaged and/or impassable trail sections and maintain 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. Contact: Kathleen Phelps, District Ranger, SLRD.

Rinconada Mine Closure

In a Decision Memo signed on December 17, 2003, the District Ranger approved a proposal to close the adits on the Rinconada Mine. This will include installation of a polyurethane foam plug, plus fencing and signage. A bat culvert will be installed. Contact: Melody Fountain, Resource Officer, SLRD.

Analyses Documented

None.

Analyses in Progress

Shaw Ridge Motorized Access Management

Proposal to convert a temporary year-round closure to a permanent seasonal closure to protect threatened and endangered species during the spring breeding season. Would involve installation of a gate and pipe fencing to enforce the closure and measures to "screen" OHV 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: Spring 2004. Contact: Kathleen Phelps, District Ranger, 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: Spring 2004. Contact: Jeff Kwasny, Big Sur Ecosystem Manager, MRD.

Navajo Bypass Trail Reroute

Proposal to reroute a 0.6 mile long segment of the Navajo Bypass Trail. The existing route is on very steep terrain and is badly eroded; it will be closed and rehabilitated. T29S, R10E, Sec 30, MDM. Estimated decision date: Spring 2004. Contact: Joe Lucero, OHV Mgr., SLRD.

SANTA BARBARA COUNTY

Analyses Being Scoped

Lion Canyon Loop Trail

The northern terminus and trailhead for the Rock Ridge and Bull Ridge Trails is located adjacent to private land. A private road through private property accesses this trailhead. Public access to the trailhead is no longer available as the private landowner has installed a security gate on the road preventing public entry. The purpose of this project is to bypass the current trailhead by constructing a new trail, Lion Loop Trail, to connect Rocky Ridge Trail to the existing Aliso Park Campground. The length of the Lion Loop Trail would be approximately 4.5 miles. This new trail would provide access to the southern terminus of the Rocky Ridge Trail and create a loop opportunity. T9N, R27W, Sec 2,3,4,10,11 &12, and T10N, R27W, Sec 33, SBBM. Estimated decision date: Summer 2004. Contact: Cheryl Foster, Assistant Recreation Officer, MPRD.

Off-Highway Vehicle Operation and Maintenance

Proposal to maintain drainage features on approximately 30 miles of off-highway vehicle (OHV) routes on the Mount Pinos Ranger District (Santa Barbara, Kern and Ventura Counties). Maintenance would occur during the rainy season (normally November to June) when soil moisture conditions allow for adequate compaction of the route tread. Rehabilitation is proposed in several areas where users have developed illegal informal trails. Additionally, signs and/or physical barriers may be installed along designated routes on the OHV system to discourage the use of areas adjacent to the system or other illegal use areas which impact soil, wildlife habitat and other resources. Estimated decision date: Spring 2004. Contact: Ray Kidd, OHV Manager, MPRD.

Figueroa Station Facilities Decommissioning

Proposal to remove existing unoccupied structures including a residence, an adjacent garage, and possibly a metal barn. The site will be cleaned up and vegetation reestablished. The site will continue to be managed for administrative use. Estimated decision date: Summer 2004. Contact: Kathleen Phelps, District Ranger, SLRD.

Pine Canyon Station Rear Exit

Proposal to extend the station driveway through the rear of the property to provide safer access to Highway 166 for emergency fire equipment. Estimated decision date: Spring 2004. Contact: Kathleen Phelps, District Ranger, SLRD.

CHP Communication Tower Replacement

Proposal to replace a lattice tower and relocate a propane tank at Santa Ynez Peak. The California Highway Patrol is operating under a current communications use lease. T5N, R30W, Sec 12, SBBM. Estimated decision date: Spring 2004. Contact: Linda Riddle, District Ranger, SBRD.

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: Fall 2004. 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 threatened and endangered species in the area. The general perimeter 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: Mark Nunez, Forest Fuels Officer, (805) 938-9142, x227.

Access to Pvt 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: unknown. Contact: Kathleen Phelps, District Ranger, 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 gun club's term special use permit renewal. A temporary 1-year authorization was issued in January 2004, under FSH 1905 Section 31.1b.8, for club operations pending a long term analysis and decision. T5N, R28W, Sec 18 & 19; T5N, R29W, Sec 13 & 14, SBBM. Estimated decision date: Fall 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

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. In a Decision Memo signed on January 20, 2004, the District Ranger approved use of polyurethane foam and a bat culvert to close the mine adit while still accommodating bat access. Contact: Melody Fountain, Resource Officer, SLRD.

Analyses Documented

Sisquoc River Comprehensive Mgt. Plan

In a Decision Notice signed on November 26, 2003, the Forest Supervisor approved the Comprehensive River Management Plan for the Sisquoc River. This plan will provide management direction to meet the intent of the Wild and Scenic River Act and protect and enhance the values for which the Sisquoc River was designated. Contact: Kathleen Phelps, District Ranger, SLRD.

Analyses in Progress

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: Winter 2004. Contact: Kathleen Phelps, District Ranger, SLRD.

Figueroa Mountain 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: Fall 2004. Contact: Kathleen Phelps, District Ranger, 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, SO.

KERN COUNTY

Analyses Being Scoped

Pine Mtn Club Defensible Fuels Profile Zone

Proposal to expand the existing defensible fuels profile zone (aka shaded fuelbreak) from 100 feet wide to 300 feet wide. The shaded fuelbreak is approximately one mile long and is located on the east side of Pine Mountain Club. Estimated decision date: Spring 2004. T9N, R21W, Sec 21 & 22. Contact: John Kelly, Resource Officer, MPRD.

Pine Mountain Club Vegetation Management

Proposal to treat vegetation on the west side of Pine Mountain Club. The project might include expanding the shaded fuelbreak; pruning and felling trees and planting of non-host tree species for control of dwarf mistletoe disease; thinning trees for bark beetle prevention; and treating hazardous fuels through prescribed fire, chipping and pile burning. Estimated decision date: Fall 2004. T9N, R22W, Sec 13, 24 & 25. Contact: John Kelly, Resource Officer, MPRD.

Frazier Mountain Vegetation Management

Proposal to manage the top of Frazier Mountain with an uneven-aged silvicultural system for the health of the old growth Jeffrey pine/white fir forest; and establish and maintain a healthy Jeffrey pine/pinyon pine forest along the Frazier Mountain Road corridor. Treatments would include thinning, burning, chipping, grubbing and tree planting. The area is located in T8N, R19W, Sec 7&8; T8N, R20W, Sec 9,10,11,12,13,14,15,16,21,22,23,27 and 28. This project is also in Ventura County. Estimated decision date: Fall 2004. Contact: John Kelly, Resource Officer, MPRD.

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.

Off-Highway Vehicle Operation and Maintenance

Proposal to maintain drainage features on approximately 30 miles of off-highway vehicle (OHV) routes on the Mount Pinos Ranger District (Santa Barbara, Kern and Ventura Counties). Maintenance would occur during the rainy season (normally November to June) when soil moisture conditions allow for adequate compaction of the route tread. Rehabilitation is proposed in several areas where users have developed illegal informal trails. Additionally, signs and/or physical barriers may be installed along designated routes on the OHV system to discourage the use of areas adjacent to the system or other illegal use areas which impact soil, wildlife habitat and other resources. Estimated decision date: Spring 2004. Contact: Ray Kidd, OHV Manager, 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 Permits for Organization Camps

Proposal to renew two permits to continue operating year-round organization camps on national forest land west of Cuddy Valley at the base of Mt. Pinos. The sites are currently occupied by Camp Tecuya and El Camino Pines/Frontier Pines Camps and are located along Frontier Road, northwest of the intersection of Mt. Pinos Hwy and Mil Potrero Hwy in T9N, R21W, Sec 23 and 26, SBBM. The two applicants propose to upgrade the facilities to make them fully accessible to persons with disabilities through minor modifications to existing buildings. A limited number of new buildings would be constructed, existing buildings expanded and some existing structures would be relocated to more clustered locations to accommodate an increase in user capacity. The applicants propose to increase the capacity of El Camino Pines/Frontier Pines camps from approximately 140 people to approximately 200 people, and Camp Tecuya from approximately 205 people to approximately 285 people. Estimated decision date: unknown. Contact: Loreigh Brannan, Special Uses Administrator, MPRD.

VENTURA COUNTY

Analyses Being Scoped

Frazier Mountain Vegetation Management

Proposal to manage the top of Frazier Mountain with an uneven-aged silvicultural system for the health of the old growth Jeffrey pine/white fir forest; and establish and maintain a healthy Jeffrey pine/pinyon pine forest along the Frazier Mountain Road corridor. Treatments would include thinning, burning, chipping, grubbing and tree planting. The area is located in T8N, R19W, Sec 7&8; T8N, R20W, Sec 9,10,11,12,13,14,15,16,21,22,23,27

and 28. This project is also in Kern County. Estimated decision date: Fall 2004. Contact: John Kelly, Resource Officer, MPRD.

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. Two apiary sites in Wheeler Gorge and Matilija Canyon, each covering 0.10 acre, T5N, R23W, Sec 15 & 19. Six apiary sites in Sespe Oilfields area, each covering 0.10 acre, T5N, R19W, Sec 20, 29-31 and T5N, R20W, Sec 25. One apiary site near Lake Piru, 0.10 acre, T5N, R18W, Sec 10. Shed and corral off Chismahoo Road, 3 acres, T4N, R25W, Sec 25. Private camp facilities off Foothill Road, 5 acres, T5N, R23W, Sec 35. Private road north of Lake Casitas, 0.15 acres, T4N, R23W, Sec 7. Private road in Sisar Canyon, 1.32 acres, T4N, R21W, Sec 6. Private road in Gypsum Canyon, 3.64 acres, T6N, R23W, Sec 7. Private road in Potrero Seco, 2.20 acres, T6N, R24W, Sec 2. Two private roads in Rose Valley, 2.5 acres each, T5N, R22W, Sec 4. Private road in Sespe Oilfields, 0.7 acre, T5N, R19W, Sec 32. Water pipeline near San Cayetano Mtn., 0.6 acres, T4N, R20W, Sec 6. Two oil pipelines in Sespe Oilfields, 1.8 acres & 0.84 acre, T5N, R19W, Sec 29 & 32. Gas pipeline in Sespe Oilfields, 8 miles, T5N, R19W, Sec 28. Compressor site in Sespe Oilfields, 2.55 acres, T5N, R19W, Sec 32. Powerline in Sespe Oilfields, 4.36 acres, T5N, R19W, Sec 19. Removal of abandoned utility pole, well, pumphouse, water pipeline in Horn Canyon, 1.43 acres, T5N, R22W, Sec 34. 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, Forest Fuels Officer, (805) 938-9142, x227.

Piru OHV Trail Reroute

Proposal to relocate two sections (approximately 1/ 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: Summer 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. Would employ 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&2; T5N, R22W, Sec 15-36; T4N, R23W, Sec 5, 6 & 7; T5N, R24W, Sec 31-36; T4N, R24W, Sec 1-12, 14-22, 27-30, SBBM. Estimated decision date: Summer 2004. Contact: Mark Nunez, Forest Fuels Officer, (805) 938-9142, x227.

Off-Highway Vehicle Operation and Maintenance

Proposal to maintain drainage features on approximately 30 miles of off-highway vehicle (OHV) routes on the Mount Pinos Ranger District (Santa Barbara, Kern and Ventura Counties). Maintenance would occur during the rainy season (normally November to June) when soil moisture conditions allow for adequate compaction of the route tread. Rehabilitation is proposed in several areas where users have developed illegal informal trails. Additionally, signs and/or physical barriers may be installed along designated routes on the OHV system to discourage the use of areas adjacent to the system or other illegal use areas which impact soil, wildlife habitat and other resources. Estimated decision date: Spring 2004. Contact: Ray Kidd, OHV Manager, MPRD.

Analyses Completed

Ballinger Canyon #12 Trail Reroute

In a Decision Memo signed on December 16, 2003, the District Ranger approved a half-mile reroute of the trail. Contact: Cheryl Foster, Asst. Rec. Officer, MPRD.

West Frazier Mine Road (Route 118) Reroute

In a Decision Notice signed on October 24, 2003, the District Ranger approved relocation of approximately 1/2 mile of the route, construction of a trailhead parking area and rehabilitation of the abandoned section of the old route. The route terminates on Frazier Mountain Road above Chuchupate Ranger Station. Contact: Cheryl Foster, Asst. Rec. Officer, MPRD.

Analyses Documented

Sespe Creek Comprehensive Management Plan

In a Decision Notice signed on November 26, 2003, the Forest Supervisor adopted a Comprehensive River Management Plan (CRMP) for the Sespe Creek Wild and Scenic River. The segment between its confluence with Rock Creek and Howard Creek to the downstream boundary of the Sespe Condor Sanctuary is designated as a Wild and Scenic River. The plan displays strategies to protect and enhance the values for which the river was designated: free flowing condition, water quality, and "outstandingly remarkable" values. Contact: Charlie Robinson, Recreation Officer, ORD.

Beaver Campground Decommissioning

In a Decision Notice signed on November 17, 2003, the District Ranger approved the removal of all improvements and return of the site to near-natural condition. The campground was closed to public use due to the presence of an endangered wildlife species. Contact: Diane Cross, Recreation Assistant, ORD.

Lion Campground Decommissioning

In a Decision Notice signed on November 17, 2003, the District Ranger approved the removal of all improvements and return of the site to near-natural condition. The campground was closed to public use due to the presence of an endangered wildlife species. Contact: Diane Cross, Recreation Assistant, ORD.

Piedra Blanca Group Campground Conversion

In a Decision Notice signed on November 17, 2003, the District Ranger approved the conversion of the campground to trailhead use only. Overnight camping facilities will be removed. The existing parking area will be hardened and the restroom replaced. Contact: Diane Cross, Recreation Assistant, ORD.

Rose Valley Campground Reconstruction

In a Decision Notice signed on November 17, 2003, the District Ranger approved the reconstruction of the existing loop 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. Contact: Diane Cross, Recreation Assistant, ORD.

Analyses in Progress

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, SO.

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.

Laguna Fuels Project

Proposal to enhance protection of the Casitas Watershed by reconstructing and restoring fuelbreaks and reducing hazardous fuels through the use of prescribed fire. Establish a natural-appearing vegetation mosaic averaging 300 feet wide by approximately 12 miles long (Laguna, Chismahoo-Coyote, Santa Ana) to promote diversity of age class, size and density. A combination of these methods would be used: handcutting and stacking of brush; mechanical brush crushing and chipping; burning of piles and standing brush. T4N, R24W, Sec 1-5,8,10,11,12,17,19, 20,27, 28,29, SBBM. Estimated decision date: Winter 2004. Contact: Mark Nunez, Forest Fuels Specialist, (805) 938-9142, x227.

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: Ray Kidd, OHV Manager, MPRD.

Responsible Officials

Los Padres National Forest (SO)

Gene Blankenbaker -- Acting 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)

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

Los Padres National Forest website:

www.fs.fed.us/r5/lospadres