

PRESS RELEASE

CALIFORNIA DEPARTMENT OF PARKS AND RECREATION

Division of Boating and Waterways | Off-Highway Motor Vehicle Recreation Division | Office of Historic Preservation

For Immediate Release

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Prescribed Fire Operations Begin April 24 at Big Basin State Park

SANTA CRUZ, Calif. – California State Parks and allied agencies, such as CAL FIRE, will begin a prescribed burn on Wednesday, April 24, 2024, in Big Basin Redwoods State Park. All burning depends on weather and air quality conditions; if weather or vegetation conditions are not conducive for burning and smoke dispersal, the department will reschedule the treatment.

Roads and trails will not be closed during burn operations. Smoke is not anticipated to cause any impacts.

The 30-acre burn will occur in the northern end of the park near Johansen and China Grade roads. Ignitions are scheduled to occur between 8 a.m. and 5 p.m. Burn operations are expected to occur over the next several weeks and will be continually monitored. Burn operations will conclude by May 9, 2024.

This burn operation is part of the prescribed fire program for vegetation management, hazardous fuel reduction, wildlife habitat improvement, and other ecological benefits. Treatments enhance the health of the forest by removing fuel buildup and restoring essential nutrients to the soil while reducing the chances of catastrophic wildfires. This prescribed burn is permitted, planned, and coordinated with the Monterey Bay Air Quality Management District to minimize smoke impacts to surrounding communities.

Prescribed burns produce significantly less smoke than wildfires. Should the public see or smell smoke in their surroundings, officials recommend avoiding strenuous outdoor activity and remaining indoors as much as possible. These precautions are especially important for children, the elderly, and people with respiratory and heart conditions.

To better inform the public on prescribed burns and operations in Santa Cruz District State Parks, which includes all state parks in Santa Cruz and San Mateo counties, a webpage and new social media accounts were created:

- **Webpage:** parks.ca.gov/santacruzprescribedburns

Facebook:

- [Santa Cruz State Beaches](#)
- [Santa Cruz Historic State Parks](#)
- [Santa Cruz Mountains State Parks](#)
- [Santa Mateo Coast State Parks](#)

Instagram:

- [Santa Cruz State Beaches](#)
- [Santa Cruz Historic State Parks](#)
- [Santa Cruz Mountains State Parks](#)
- [Santa Mateo Coast State Parks](#)

For more information call the Santa Cruz District prescribed burns hotline at (831) 216-6459 or send an email to SantaCruz.PrescribedBurns@parks.ca.gov.

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Recent burn at Big Basin Redwoods State Park. Photo from California State Parks.

Subscribe to California State Parks News online at parks.ca.gov/newsroom or click [here](#).

The California Department of Parks and Recreation, popularly known as State Parks, and the programs supported by its Office of Historic Preservation and divisions of Boating and Waterways and Off-Highway Motor Vehicle Recreation provides for the health, inspiration and education of the people of California by helping to preserve the state's extraordinary biological diversity, protecting its most valued natural and cultural resources, and creating opportunities for high-quality outdoor recreation. Learn more at parks.ca.gov.

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