

CAL FIRE NEWS RELEASE

California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection



San Mateo & Santa Cruz Unit

CONTACT: Cecile Juliette
Information Officer
(650) 477-0379

RELEASE
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CAL FIRE CZU to Conduct Prescribed Fire in Soquel Demonstration State Forest

FELTON – The Department of Forestry and Fire Protection (CAL FIRE) San Mateo – Santa Cruz Unit will conduct an approximately 15-acre prescribed burn near the Lower Helipad on the Soquel Demonstration State Forest on November 4, 2022. The prescribed burn will be conducted between the hours of 9:00 A.M. and 5:00 P.M., but smoke may be noticed in the area for several days following the burn. The entire Soquel Demonstration State Forest will be closed to the public on the day of the burn which includes all trails. The project is being conducted in accordance with a Smoke Management Permit issued by the Monterey Bay Air Resources District in order to minimize the smoke impacts on surrounding communities.

“Implementing this prescribed burn is an important component of the overall fire defense and forest health plan for the Soquel Demonstration State Forest. This is one of the treatments that will reduce fire hazards and increase forest resilience in this remote area of the Santa Cruz Mountains” said Forest Manager Angela Bernheisel.

This burn is being conducted as part of the California Vegetation Treatment Program and is intended to benefit the Coast Redwood ecosystem, prevent encroachment of non-native plant species, regenerate native species, restore and enhance wildlife habitat, and increase public safety. Prescribed vegetation treatment burns are carefully planned controlled burns that must meet a predefined set of conditions (prescription) in order to achieve ideal fire behavior. No burning takes place if weather and fuel conditions are not within prescription. When optimal conditions are met, trained wildland firefighters manage the burn while monitoring the weather, smoke dispersal, and fire behavior.

Additional support for this burn is provided by Cal Poly San Luis Obispo with University research as well as the Fuels Management Training Program to provide public outreach and education about how to build a more sustainable and fire resilient landscape for California. Information and links to past training webinars including a webinar about the burn at the Soquel Demonstration State Forest are available at <https://spranch.calpoly.edu/fuels>

NOTE: If you are a member of the media and would like to attend the prescribed burn, please contact us by Thursday November 3, 2022, at 8:00P.M. so we can make arrangements to escort you to the site.

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