

CAL FIRE NEWS RELEASE

California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection

San Mateo-Santa Cruz Unit



SOQUEL
DEMONSTRATION
STATE FOREST

Three stylized green pine trees of varying heights are positioned to the right of the text.

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RELEASE DATE: February 8, 2024

Soquel Demonstration State Forest Closures

Soquel – The California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection (CAL FIRE), Soquel Demonstration State Forest (SDSF) is beginning timber operations and forest health treatments across 320 acres in the Sulphur Timber Harvesting Plan (THP) area. Licensed timber operators have been contracted and a timber sale executed for these projects that are designed to improve forest health and sustainably manage timber to further the goals of SDSF. These projects have been developed and planned for several years and are part of a comprehensive management plan for SDSF. Timber harvests occur at SDSF on a regular basis. To facilitate these projects and provide for the safety of the public and the forest workers, certain closures will be implemented.

Beginning on February 8, 2024 the Sulphur Timber Harvesting Plan (THP) area will be closed to the public and only those authorized will be allowed entry. Additional details are included on the Public Notice as well as the attached map to that notice. Timber falling has begun and professional timber fallers are working across the area to fall the trees that will be removed after the winter period. These trees are being removed through a single tree selection method where each tree was evaluated for removal by a Registered Professional Forester.

Through this operating season, no recreational use will be allowed in the area of the Sulphur THP delineated on the map and posted with signage. There are allowances for weekend use of the roads through the area for hiking and biking, but no roaming off the road is allowed since there are dangerous conditions including limbs hung up in trees that could fall at any time. These limbs are often referred to as “widow makers” which emphasizes how dangerous they can be.

Beginning on May 1, 2024, active timber operations including the use of heavy equipment and log trucks will begin. This work will require the use of Sulphur Springs Road and Hihn’s Mill Road. With heavy equipment and log trucks on these roads, any recreation use will be prohibited.

until the end of the season on October 15, except for weekends and holidays. Any changes to closure areas or dates will be noticed in a new Public Notice.

By implementing these closures, contractors will be able to concentrate the work into one year of operations to minimize the extent of the closure and eliminate the need to have multiple years of impact along Sulphur Springs Road which is a popular access route to the ridge and several mountain biking trails. No single-track mountain biking trails will have operations that will disturb the trail surface, and Corral Road will be restored to pre-operations conditions as the project is completed.

Follow CAL FIRE CZU social media to see details about the progress of operations. An opportunity to participate in field trips of active operations will be provided in the summer and announcements about signing up will be posted on social media. You can follow SDSF on Facebook and find closure updates on our webpage.

Information updates will be posted at:

- The **SDSF Webpage** at <https://www.fire.ca.gov/What-We-Do/Natural-Resource-Management/Demonstration-State-Forests/Soquel-Demonstration-State-Forest>
- CAL FIRE CZU on X [@CALFIRECZU](#)
- CAL FIRE Soquel Demonstration State Forest **Facebook** page [@CALFIRESoquel](#)

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February 8, 2024

PUBLIC NOTICE

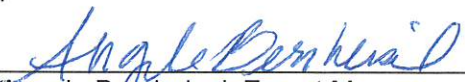
THE SOQUEL DEMONSTRATION STATE FOREST ORDER OF CLOSURES FOR THE SULPHUR TIMBER SALE:

1. Effective February 8, 2024, the Sulphur Timber Harvesting Plan (THP) area is closed to unauthorized entry except for entry along roadways on Saturdays, Sundays, and Holidays¹.
2. Effective February 26, 2024, to October 15, 2024, Corral Trail and Corral Road are closed to any unauthorized entry.
3. Effective May 1, 2024, there is a Forest-wide closure of all areas, all roads and all trails until October 15, 2024, with the exception of Saturdays, Sundays and Holidays when entry along roadways and trails is authorized, EXCEPT THAT Corral Trail and Corral Road will remain closed.

The California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection (CAL FIRE) Soquel Demonstration State Forest (SDSF) is conducting timber operations, as defined in section 4527 of the Public Resources Code on the Sulphur Timber Harvesting Plan (THP) (1-22-00090 SCR). A map of the closure area is included in this notice. These closures are for public and worker safety during timber operations. Additional information about the closure and operations are posted near the THP and on SDSF sign boards.

This notice is in accordance with Sections 1438 and 1439, Title 14 of the California Code of Regulations. To ensure the health and safety of the public and personnel engaged in timber operations, CAL FIRE hereby closes the areas including roads and trails depicted on the attached map.

The closed areas may be accessed only by: (1) CAL FIRE personnel engaged in the inspection of timber operations or other law enforcement; (2) personnel of the Licensed Timber Operators associated with the THP, only to the extent that such personnel are actively engaged in the conduct of timber operations; (3) public safety personnel engaged in fire protection, law enforcement, emergency medical services; or (4) such others as the SDSF State Forest Manager or her supervisors may deem appropriate and who have written authorization to enter the Closed Area. All other members of the public are hereby excluded from the Closed Area and will be subject to misdemeanor prosecution pursuant to Section 4656.3 of the Public Resources Code.


Angela Bernheisel, Forest Manager


Date

¹ Public Holidays include Presidents Day- February 19, Memorial Day- May 27, Independence Day- July 4, Labor Day- September 2

**Soquel Demonstration State Forest
Public Notice Map
Closures beginning February 8, 2024**

