

CAL FIRE NEWS RELEASE

California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection



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Prescribed Fire Planned at Swanton Pacific Ranch Near Highway 1 in Santa Cruz County

On Thursday, Oct. 8, weather permitting, in a partnership with Cal Poly San Luis Obispo, CAL FIRE CZU plans to conduct an approximately 48-acre prescribed burn at Swanton Pacific Ranch. A map of the burn area is on page 2.

CAL FIRE/Santa Cruz County Fire Vegetation Management Coordinator Scott Bullock says, “Our goal is to implement low-intensity prescribed burns within oak woodland, grass, and conifer understory to improve habitats, enhance ecological health, reduce ladder fuels, and mitigate the risk of catastrophic wildfire.”

This area burned in the 2020 CZU August Lightning Complex and the 2009 Lockheed Fire. Bullock says, “Proactive fuels management allows us to manage fire on our terms rather than attempting restoration in the wake of a catastrophic wildfire. Prescribed fire will build upon existing fuel reduction efforts across the ranch, directly complementing prior brush clearing and mastication projects.”

This is a 1-day prescribed fire. Smoke may be visible from Highway 1 in Santa Cruz County, Davenport, Bonny Doon, Boulder Creek and Ben Lomond. CAL FIRE CZU has worked with Monterey Bay Air Resources District on a Smoke Management Plan.

This prescribed fire is part of a broader strategy to protect communities and natural resources. These plans are developed collaboratively with stakeholders and incorporate community input. The project contributes to statewide efforts to meet or exceed fuel reduction goals outlined in the California Fire Plan and the California Wildfire and Forest Resilience Action Plan. To track prescribed fire activity, visit the CAL FIRE fuels reduction dashboard: <https://www.fire.ca.gov/what-we-do/natural-resource-management/prescribed-fire>. For wildfire prevention and preparedness information, visit <https://readyforwildfire.org/>.



Swanton Pacific Ranch Prescribed Burn Project

