

PRESS RELEASE

CALIFORNIA DEPARTMENT OF PARKS AND RECREATION

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

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California State Parks Plans Prescribed Burns at Wilder Ranch State Park

SANTA CRUZ – California State Parks plans to conduct prescribed burns at [Wilder Ranch State Park](#) beginning week of Nov. 11th and continuing for the next two weeks between 10 a.m. and 5 p.m. Monitoring and patrol will occur throughout this period and extend into the evening when required. All burning is dependent on weather and air quality conditions that are favorable for smoke dispersal and to meet ecological goals. If conditions are not conducive for burning, burns will be rescheduled.

Roughly 400 acres of grassland habitats will be included in the prescribed burns and some trails may be closed temporarily to ensure public safety. These may include portions of the Chinquapin Trail, Long Meadow Trail and Englesman Loop Trail.

People around the Monterey Bay area, as well as those driving on Highway 1, may see smoke on the day of the burns.

These prescribed burns are 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. These burns are 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.

Social Media

Follow our social media pages below to stay informed on [prescribed burns](#) and other operations taking place in State Parks' Santa Cruz District, which includes all state parks in Santa Cruz and San Mateo counties.

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



Recent prescribed burn at Wilder Ranch State Park. Photo from California State Parks.

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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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