

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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California State Parks Resumes Pile Burning at The Forest of Nisene Marks on February 3, 2025

SANTA CRUZ – California State Parks plans to resume prescribed pile-burning in the Northern portion of [The Forest of Nisene Marks State Park](#) on February 3, 2025. 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 60 acres of forest have been prepared for treatment and are included in the prescribed pile burning. Portions of Aptos Creek Fire Road may be closed temporarily with pedestrian and bicycle traffic redirected to ensure public safety. People around Soquel, Corralitos, and the Monterey Bay area may see smoke on the days of burning.

Pile burning is part of a larger fuel reduction project at the park to alleviate extreme fire behavior in the event of a wildfire in the Upper Aptos Creek and Buzzard Lagoon areas. This project will improve emergency access, foster forest health, and enhance biodiversity. 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. Officials recommend avoiding strenuous outdoor activity and remaining indoors as much as possible near active burn areas. These precautions are especially important for children, older adults, 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.



Pile burning in progress at The Forest of Nisene Marks State Park. Photo from Scott Christ, 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.

