CAL FIRE NEWS RELEASE

California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection San Mateo-Santa Cruz Unit



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Soquel Demonstration State Forest Weekday Closure

Soquel – The California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection (CAL FIRE), Soquel Demonstration State Forest (SDSF) began timber operations and forest health treatments across 320 acres in the Sulphur Timber Harvesting Plan (THP) area in February. Beginning May 1, SDSF is closed to public access on weekdays to facilitate these operations.

These operations 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. No recreational use is allowed in the area of the Sulphur THP delineated on the map and posted with signage. Weekend use of the roads through the area for hiking and biking is allowed, but do not roam off the road into the harvest area.

Log trucks and heavy equipment will be working along Sulphur Springs Road and Hihn's Mill Road. With heavy equipment and log trucks on these roads, recreation use is 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.

Follow CAL FIRE CZU social media to see details about the progress of operations. There are still a few spots open for the public workshops in June <u>https://spranch.calpoly.edu/soquel-demonstration-state-forest-timber-management-forest-health-and-fire-safety</u>

Information updates will be posted at:

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

