

CAL FIRE NEWS RELEASE

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



SOQUEL
DEMONSTRATION
STATE FOREST 

CONTACT: SDSF Staff (831) 475-8643
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Soquel Demonstration State Forest Reopening Weekdays

Soquel – The California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection (CAL FIRE), Soquel Demonstration State Forest (SDSF) is announcing the completion of timber operations across 320-acres in the Sulphur Timber Harvesting Plan (THP) area, and the completion of 347-acres of forest health and fuel reduction treatments. Additionally, major road repairs and improvements involving a large watercourse crossing replacement, emergency repairs to one permanent bridge and 4.3-miles of road rocking along the main road were completed to improve access and the resilience of forest infrastructure.

Over the 2024 operations season, the weekday closure of SDSF allowed logging crews and heavy equipment contractors to accomplish all this work within one season in a safe and efficient manner. This eliminated the need for multiple years of closures and impacts along Hihn's Mill Road and Sulphur Springs Road to complete these essential projects.

The weekday closure of SDSF which began on May 1, 2024, will be lifted on Wednesday October 16, 2024.

Please note that Corral Trail and Corral Road will remain closed through the winter season and will reopen in the Spring when soil conditions are appropriate. All other trails including, Ridge Trail, Braille Trail, Flow Trail and Sawpit Trail are open. No recreational use is allowed in the area of the Sulphur THP delineated on the map and posted with signage through the winter season, as hazards, such as loose hanging branches, rough terrain and loose logs exist within this area. This area will reopen in the Summer of 2025. Although the Sulphur THP area where timber operations have occurred is closed, Hihn's Mill Road and Sulphur Springs Road are open for access along the road and to the trails. Please stay on the roads while passing through the Sulphur THP area. Please read and follow all signage you may encounter along roads and trails.

As the winter season approaches, we remind forest users to watch the weather and recreate when conditions are appropriate. Although road access has improved, response times for fire and medical assistance remain long in this area of the Santa Cruz Mountains. Mountain bikers are reminded to ride within your limits and to not ride when soils are saturated. And as always remember that SDSF is a working forest and forest visitors should look out for vehicles related to research and forest management including heavy equipment and large trucks.

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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**Soquel Demonstration State Forest
Public Notice Map
Weekday Reopening
Effective October 16, 2024**

