

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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Prescribed Fire Operations Planned at Several State Parks in San Luis Obispo County

SAN LUIS OBISPO, Calif.— California State Parks and allied agencies, such as CAL FIRE, will begin a series of prescribed burns in several coastal park units between early November 2023 through March 2024. All burning depends on weather and air quality conditions; if weather or vegetation conditions are not conducive for burning and smoke dispersal, the department will reschedule the treatment.

During the prescribed burning, visitors should expect park closures including trails near the burn area. Burns may occur in [Hearst San Simeon](#), [Harmony Headlands](#), [Estero Bluffs](#), [Morro Bay](#), and [Montaña de Oro](#) state parks. For a current list of all park closures, the public can visit the individual park unit webpage for updates.

Although prescribed burns produce significantly less smoke than a wildfire, people traveling near the fire burn areas may see smoke from 8 a.m. to 6 p.m. on the day of the burns. In the unlikely event you smell smoke, San Luis Obispo County urges you to take precautions and use common sense to reduce any harmful health effects by limiting outdoor activities. These precautions are especially important for children, the elderly and people with respiratory and heart conditions. Additionally, the public is advised to use extreme caution while driving near prescribed fire operations due to fire personnel and equipment in the area.

These burns are part of State Park's prescribed fire program for vegetation management, hazardous fuel load reduction, wildlife habitat improvement, and other ecological benefits. This work will include grassland and coastal scrub burns, as well as broadcast and pile burns in forested and urban/wildland interfaces to address diseased, dead, and downed trees. These treatments will enhance the health of the ecosystems by removing diseased materials, restoring essential nutrients to the soil, and reducing the chance of a catastrophic wildfire.

State Parks plans and coordinates the prescribed burns with the San Luis Obispo County Air Pollution Control District to minimize the smoke impacts on surrounding communities.

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Subscribe to California State Parks News online at parks.ca.gov/newsroom or click [here](#).

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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The San Luis Obispo County Air Pollution Control District (APCD) is the local agency working to protect the health of over 283,000 county residents by preserving good air quality. By partnering with the local communities and businesses, we implement regulations and programs to reduce air pollution and assist the county in reaching all outdoor air quality standards. For more information about the APCD or to obtain local air quality information for your community, visit: <https://www.slocleanair.org/>

The California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection (CAL FIRE) is safeguarding California through fire prevention and protection, emergency response, and stewardship of natural resources. With 12,000 permanent and seasonal personnel and the largest civilian firefighting air fleet in the nation, Cal Fire protects over 31 million acres of wildland. Our Fire Protection services operate throughout the State with responsibility for over 31 million acres of California's privately-owned wildlands. Initial attack aircraft can reach even the most remote corners of California within 20 minutes, with the goal of keeping 95% of fires contained at 10 acres or less. We're mitigating the risk of devastating wildfire through proven fire-prevention strategies. Crews create fuel breaks and controlled burns to reduce fuel in forests, and partner with local agencies to manage vegetation. For more information about CAL FIRE, visit: <https://www.fire.ca.gov/>