



Big Basin Briefing #10: June 2022

Originally published on ReimaginingBigBasin.org
on July 5, 2022

MAKING BIG BASIN SAFE FOR PEOPLE AND WILDLIFE

- ❑ This month, the roads and trail crew have been working on culvert repairs at Gazos Creek Road. As seen in the photos below, burned-out culverts are being replaced with 4ft x 60ft steel ones with rock armoring. The new culverts are part of the State Parks effort to rebuild Big Basin with fire resistant materials. (Photos 1-5 | https://reimaginingbigbasin.org/virtual_experience/?playlist=443e6b68&video=2eb244e#photos)
- ❑ In the area of the Former Big Basin Headquarters, contractors have been backfilling, recontouring, and compacting the soil around building foundation holes. (Photos 6-7 | https://reimaginingbigbasin.org/virtual_experience/?playlist=443e6b68&video=2eb244e#)
- ❑ There are two CCC (California Conservation Corps) crews in Big Basin from the Monterey Bay Center and the District Trail Crew. These crews have been processing hazard trees as well as burn debris, building split rail fence, and naturalizing the backfilled building foundation holes. (Photos 8-10 | https://reimaginingbigbasin.org/virtual_experience/?playlist=443e6b68&video=2eb244e#)
- ❑ The welcome panels for Big Basin have arrived and will be installed soon in preparation for the reopening in late July.
- ❑ Contractor has been working to clear debris and culverts on upper and lower China Grade Road in anticipation of County DPW patching paving.
- ❑ Interim park operations facility work at Saddle Mountain has continued including interior work on the interim park housing and operation building, paving around ADA parking spaces, installing gates.
- ❑ The bulk of work on the Union Creek culvert replacement is complete and the project will be finished within the next two weeks.
- ❑ District staff is working with Caltrans on plans for reopening the highway including establishing a no parking zone along the highway within the park, preparing to remove gates, turnarounds and signage related to the closure.

LEARN ABOUT BIG BASIN'S RECOVERY

- ❑ Watch this video about the Hermit Thrush! After the CZU complex fire, Researcher Allison R.P. Nelson has been trying to identify the impacts the fire had on Hermit Thrush populations. Click here to learn more about these songbirds. (<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=J6vxE6ffq2s>)
- ❑ This month the Big Basin Volunteer Trail Crew worked around the Gazos Creek Picnic Area to clear debris and create burn piles. To read their blog post and learn more, click here. (<https://bbvtc.org/blog>)



LEARN ABOUT BIG BASIN'S RECOVERY (CONTINUED)

- ❑ Wilderness patrol and docent trainings have been ongoing in preparation for the July 22 opening day. If you would like to volunteer at Big Basin in either of these roles, please email vol.santacruz@parks.ca.gov

STAKEHOLDER ENGAGEMENT

- ❑ Big Basin will be open July 22 with reservation-only day-use access!!! This is huge news for those that are eager to return to the park. Day use reservations will be available starting July 1st on the Friends of Santa Cruz Website (<https://thatsmypark.org/parks-and-beaches/big-basin-redwoods-state-park/>). Please remember to reserve these passes in advance and keep in mind that only some of the trails will be open; the rest will be made available when they are safe. To learn more about the reservation system and the work that has been occurring, click here (<https://www.parks.ca.gov/NewsRelease/1104>).
- ❑ You can now watch the community meeting for the Big Basin Vision Summary Presentation, click here (<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=KHfMtrvLIik>) to watch the recorded meeting.

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