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## **BIG BASIN SHORT DOCUMENTARY AND 3-D VIRTUAL TOUR PROVIDE FIRST IMMERSIVE LOOK AT THE PARK ON ONE-YEAR ANNIVERSARY OF CZU LIGHTNING COMPLEX FIRE**

**August 17, 2021—SANTA CRUZ, CA** — Marking the one-year anniversary of when Big Basin Redwoods State Park burned in the CZU Lightning Complex Fire, Friends of Santa Cruz State Parks (Friends) and California State Parks today released a short documentary and a series of 3D virtual tours that provide the first, official immersive look at the fire impacts and the recovery process.

The documentary, a collaboration between Friends and California State Parks, incorporates pre-fire images of the park, footage captured during the wildfire and current imagery. It visits multiple park locations, including the main entrance, Blooms Creek Campground, the historic core of the park, Little Basin Campground and China Grade Road.

The 3D virtual tour uses state-of-the-art software and equipment from Matterport to create an immersive visual experience. Through the virtual tour, it's possible to walk through the Campfire Center, look across the destroyed Blooms Creek bridge or stare up at the burned redwood canopy. The tour visits six locations in the park.

View the documentary and experience the 3D tours at <https://reimaginingbigbasin.org/bigbasintoday/>.

"We hope the documentary and 3D virtual tours give those who love Big Basin a glimpse into the inspiring recovery process, as well as an understanding of the long path we face to reopening the park," Friends Executive Director Bonny Hawley said.

On August 16, 2020, the CZU Lightning Complex Fire ignited. Two days later, the flames engulfed Big Basin Redwoods State Park, burning over ninety-seven percent of the park and destroying nearly every structure, including the Park Headquarters, campgrounds and housing for park employees. Approximately 18,000 acres burned inside the park boundary.

Big Basin remains closed, with no water, power, sewer, phone or Internet services available. One of the reasons the park remains closed to visitors is because dead trees create hazards. Falling trees are a major concern throughout the park.

"The work ahead of us is significant and will be a labor of love," Hawley said. "Through our unique position as co-management partners with State Parks, we first established the [Friends Fire Fund](#) and other immediate response resources that enabled us to provide direct assistance to fire victims, support digital documentation of 75 buildings that were lost, save 15 old growth redwoods, and help repair a damaged roadway. We're proud to build on that effort by co-producing and funding production of the documentary and 3D tours. Now, we look forward to supporting the effort spearheaded by California State Parks to involve the public to reimagine Big Basin."

Earlier this month, California State Parks launched Reimagining Big Basin, a process for reestablishing the park that includes immediate recovery efforts, planning processes to renew the vision for the park's future, and long-term planning and implementation projects. Community engagement is essential to the Reimagining Big Basin effort. Learn more at [reimaginingbigbasin.org](https://reimaginingbigbasin.org).

### **About Friends of Santa Cruz State Parks**

Established in 1976, Friends of Santa Cruz State Parks (Friends) is a vital partner with California State Parks, creatively working to ensure our cherished local parks and beaches are thriving and available to all. Friends' innovative and collaborative community partnership provides support and investment for education, equity and inclusion, conservation, facilities improvements, historic preservation and cultural events. Friends currently operates a robust online ParkStore as well as ParkStores at Seacliff and Natural Bridges state beaches, and Santa Cruz Mission State Historic Park, offering nature- and history-themed merchandise for sale to benefit local parks and beaches. Learn more at [ThatsMyPark.org](https://ThatsMyPark.org) or via [Facebook](#), [Instagram](#), [Twitter](#), [YouTube](#) and [Pinterest](#).

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