
DIGITAL RECOVERY

Codifi rapid response for Santa Cruz wildfire damage



At 6:41am on August 26, fires were started from over 11,000 bolts of dry lightning throughout California. Three of these fires would become the CZU Complex, which burned over 86,000 acres, destroying 1,500 buildings, including Big Basin Redwoods State Park and Cascade Ranch on the California coast.

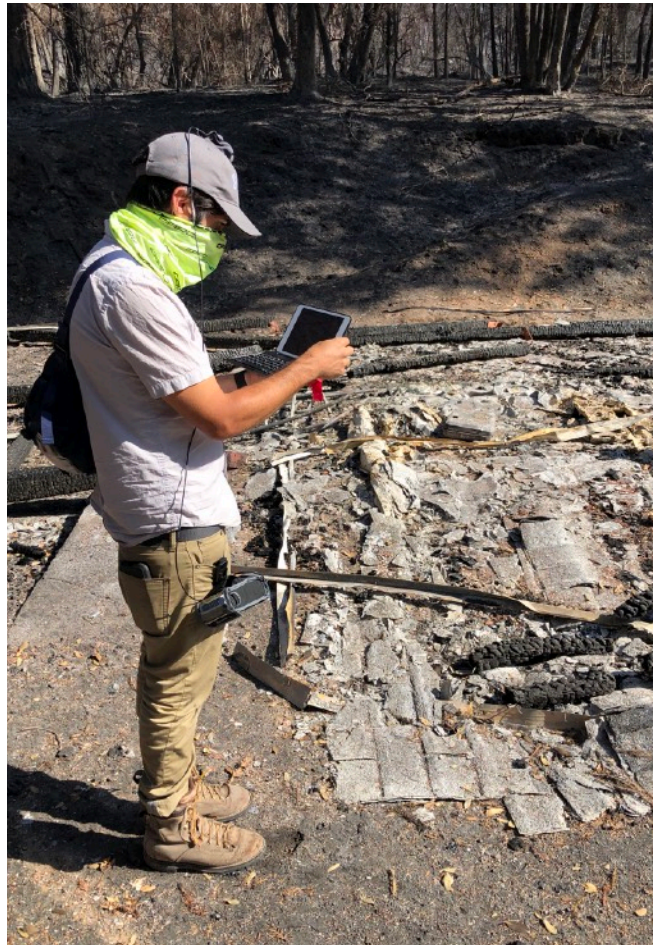
Big Basin is California's oldest State Park, established in 1902. Cascade Ranch is an original pioneer ranch. Both properties were severely damaged by the CZU Complex fires.

State Parks expert Kathleen Kennedy and Friends of Santa Cruz State Parks Historic Preservation Program Manager Jessica Kusz learning the ropes of the Codifi Rapid Assessment app.

The non-profit Friends of Santa Cruz State Parks reached out to Codifi to see if we could put together a program to support rapid damage assessment, in partnership with California State Parks. They found the funding and we built an app and training program, developed in less than a week. Our team put together all the previously recorded data into the app - photos and forms - and designed a system that could record new data to archival standards with sub-meter accuracy, completely offline.

CTO Michael Ashley joined the multidisciplinary team on Monday, September 28, and trained the archaeologists, historians, curators, park rangers and BLM/DOI representatives in how to use Codifi. By noon, the teams were split into small groups. By the end of the day, all resources planned for recording were completely documented. We wrapped documentation of Big

Basin a day early, and moved on to Cascade Ranch and Gazos Mountain Camp.



State Parks Historian Michael Jasinski takes submeter photo GPS points with Codifi.

We were able to record current conditions at Big Basin, Cascade Ranch, and Gazos Mountain Camp with greater efficiency and accuracy, made possible by Jessica Kusz (Friends of Santa Cruz) and Michael Ashley (Codifi) - THANK YOU!

- DENISE JAFFKE, SUPERVISOR, CULTURAL RESOURCES DIVISION

Within days of fieldwork we were able to produce draft records, photo documentation and mapped location data for over 180 structural resources. Denise Jaffke, Cultural Resources Division Supervisor for State Parks was able to deliver the drafts to FEMA. Subsequently, we audited the data and produced draft California DPR 523A forms in Word format, and the State Parks team has been working to complete their assessments.

State Parks Historian Michael Jasinski has since used Codifi to document damage at other state parks. Meanwhile the Codifi team has further developed Codifi to produce the complete set of California State forms. We'll be releasing Codifi California as a downloadable app in January 2021.

We look forward to supporting Friends of Santa Cruz State Parks on future preventative and documentation projects.