



Forest City Consulting

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Hi Didier,

On January 29, 2009 I made a visit to the moon rocks site in Bonny Doon California to check on the Santa Cruz Cypress survival rate. It was not good news. Many of the cypress appear to be dead. No seedlings were seen. It must be noted that all observations were from Martin road or the rear parking lot of the fire station. The ecological preserve has been closed and I did not want to go onto the site. I did notice a few surviving Santa Cruz Cypress but most trees had burnt foliage and I did **not** note re-sprouting on them.

I have included pictures of the site. I hope to re-visit the site this spring to see if any seedlings are growing. Note, there are other species (bracken fern etc.) that are re-growing here...some of the soil's seed bank did survive.

I have also included photos of two other trees I suspect are Santa Cruz Cypress. These trees are not growing at the Moon Rocks site.



Burnt Santa Cruz Cypress at Moon Rocks



A few Santa Cruz Cypress survivors, these trees had some damage but overall seem to be ok.



Forest floor at Moon Rocks; note the pioneer plants re-establishing themselves. No Santa Cruz Cypress seedlings were noted during the site visit.



Uphill from the burn there are a few more surviving cypress (red arrows).



Another cypress survivor



I believe this tree is a Santa Cruz cypress due to the size of its cones. This tree is located at the corner of East Zayante road and Quail Hollow road. N. 37° 04' 28" W 122° 03' 17.7"



This tree is listed on the City of Santa Cruz's heritage tree list as a Santa Cruz Cypress. Its location is 125 feet north of the intersection of Cliff and Third Street in Santa Cruz.
N 36° 58' 28" W 122° 03' 17.7"



I am hoping do re-visit the site this spring to search for more seedlings. One thing I could use help with is a method of identifying the differences between Monterey cypress and Santa Cruz Cypress in the field. I have a couple of other sites that may have Santa Cruz Cypress growing.

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