

Mountain Echo

SEMPERVIRENS FUND | FALL 2026



Timms Creek Loop: A Community Comes Together

Big Basin's recovery is unfolding with great care and commitment, as the forest recovers from wildfire, facilities are rebuilt for the park's future, and trails and experiences return mile-by-mile. Each milestone brings visitors one step closer to once again walk beneath towering redwoods, cross rushing creeks, and experience the resilience of this remarkable forest.

The return of Big Basin is the legacy of the Sempervirens Fund community. There is still much work to be done, but thanks to your support, meaningful progress is happening every day and every milestone is worth celebrating!

Earlier this summer, we invited our community to help rebuild a special trail, Timms Creek Loop.

When it opens in 2027, during Big Basin's 125th anniversary, visitors will once again be able to explore nearly 4.5 miles of restored trail winding through recovering old-growth forest. This is no ordinary trail project. Along the route, 22 new bridges must be built, making this one of the park's most ambitious trail restoration efforts to date.

We are grateful to everyone who made a gift to the campaign or signed up to help raise funds. Every bridge was sponsored by members and groups from our community, and many of you became Champions, launching giving campaigns to help restore sections of the loop while inspiring others to join you. Every gift was matched by a generous donor and by the time you read this, we hope to have met our \$450,000 fundraising goal.



Timms Creek Loop: A Community Comes Together *Continued from page 1*

"We've seen how deeply people care about Big Basin, and this campaign gave our community a tangible way to be part of its comeback," said Sara Barth, Sempervirens Fund's executive director. "Whether it was helping rebuild a bridge or supporting the trail system, every contribution brought us one step closer to reopening this extraordinary experience."

The 4.5-mile trail loop also includes the next phase of the iconic Skyline-to-the-Sea Trail to reopen following both the CZU fire and massive winter storms. While the Skyline-to-the-Sea Trail still has a long journey before it once again reaches Waddell Beach on the coast, Timms Creek Loop represents an exciting milestone: bringing visitors back into Big Basin's deeper wilderness for the first time since the fire.

Bridge and Trail Champions played an especially important role in the campaign's success. Dave Greenfield started a giving campaign early on and invited his friends from his running club, The Purple Onion Group, to help reach a shared goal. Dave said, "Growing a redwood takes time, and we can grow the forest faster if we water it together." The

Purple Onion Group bridge will be one of 22 new bridges welcoming hikers back to the trail.

Your support is doing far more than rebuilding bridges. It is helping California State Parks, the California Conservation Corps, and dedicated restoration crews move this work forward with confidence and momentum. Together, you're helping restore trails, reconnect habitats, and bring Big Basin back for future generations.

We can't wait to welcome you back to Timms Creek Loop in 2027 to take those first steps across the new bridges and experience the next chapter in Big Basin's remarkable recovery together.

See how Big Basin is coming back:
[**sempervirens.org/big-basin-recovery**](https://sempervirens.org/big-basin-recovery)

"We've seen how deeply people care about Big Basin, and this campaign gave our community a tangible way to be part of its comeback."

Protecting Redwoods Also Protects an Entire Ecosystem

At 6:30 on a peaceful morning, the forest is beginning to stir. Small birds move through the branches, and our biologists stand discreetly below, binoculars raised, listening and watching for clues that a nest may be nearby.

It may seem far removed from wildfire preparation. But these early-morning nesting-bird surveys are an essential part of a major shaded fuel break now underway in a fire-affected redwood forest.

Crews are reducing dense vegetation along strategic ridgelines to help slow the spread and intensity of a future wildfire. Before heavy equipment enters each area, however, biologists look for active nests. When they find one, they establish a protective buffer so work can continue safely once the nest is no longer active.



Bushtit nest found during early-morning surveys

The surveys are one example of the many careful decisions behind responsible forest stewardship. Reducing wildfire risk does not mean removing everything. Some dead wood remains valuable habitat, while native plants will continue returning beneath a recovering redwood canopy. The goal is a healthier balance: less hazardous fuel, continued habitat, and a forest better prepared for what may come.

By the first substantial rains, Sempervirens expects to complete the mechanical phase of the shaded fuel break, marking an important milestone in this multi-season project. During fall and winter, crews will continue treating the woody material generated by the work when conditions allow.

Because of your support, both the visible progress and the quiet preparation are possible from heavy equipment on the ridgelines to the biologists listening for birds at dawn. Every careful decision helps ensure redwood forests and the wildlife that depend on them can thrive for generations to come.

Discover how protecting redwoods means caring for every part of the forest:

sempervirens.org/stewardship



Nature's Everyday Scientists

What does a citizen scientist look like?

When someone says that taking a photo during an afternoon walk can help protect nature, it might sound surprising.

The truth is, the people helping protect nature aren't always who you'd expect.

They can be biologists studying wildlife, of course. But they can also be someone walking their dog, a family fishing at their favorite creek, neighbors tending a garden, or a photographer capturing an unfamiliar flower on the way home.

With tools like iNaturalist, an everyday photograph can become useful data. Each observation is recorded with a time and location, then added to a growing body of information that scientists and land managers can draw from. People can contribute in other ways, too, from monitoring water and air quality to documenting coastlines and weather.



This knowledge is especially important to California's 30×30 initiative, which promotes a goal to conserve 30% of the state's lands and coastal waters by 2030. Knowing whether that effort is working requires an ongoing picture of what lives in these places, how species move between them, and how ecosystems change over time. There are too few biologists to monitor biodiversity across an entire state, so observations from people can help reveal recovering forests, overlooked habitats, and the connections wildlife need to survive.

That is the promise of citizen science: ordinary observations, gathered together, can become knowledge that helps protect the natural world.

And because of supporters like you, more people have opportunities to explore these special places, learn from them, and contribute to their protection.

Together, those individual observations become the shared knowledge scientists and conservationists use to protect wildlife, restore habitats, and guide ambitious efforts like California's 30×30 initiative. Your generosity helps make that connection possible.

Discover how you can become a citizen scientist:
sempervirens.org/citizen-science

A Way Into the Forest



Towering trees, a small cabin, and a sky suddenly crowded with stars.

So began Jennifer Parks' relationship with the redwoods. She had recently moved to California for law school and joined Hewlett-Packard's legal team after graduating. As the newest attorney, she was assigned to organize her team's annual picnic at Little Basin, then a company retreat in the Santa Cruz Mountains.

Jennifer and her husband stayed overnight before the picnic. Coming from busy San Jose, the quiet of the forest felt like another world.

"We became enthralled," Jennifer remembers. Before they had even made it home, they stopped at a real estate office in Boulder Creek and began looking for a house near the redwoods.

Years later, Jennifer learned about redwood trees dedicated in honor of loved ones through Sempervirens Fund. Living nearby, she began volunteering to help families find their trees. Before each visit, Jennifer would scout the route ahead of time, locate the dedicated tree or grove, and consider what the family visit might require. Some families traveled from far away. Others returned each year, turning the hike into a family tradition.

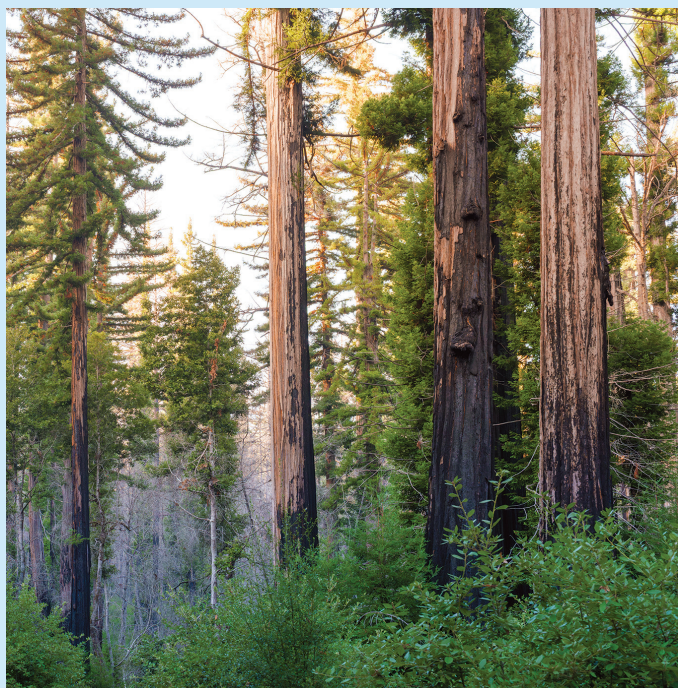
"You could see how much it meant to them and how it helped connect them to their loved ones," Jennifer said. In the beauty of a redwood, families found a living place for memory.

For Jennifer, these visits reveal how one act of care can inspire another. A volunteer helps someone reach a tree. That visit deepens their connection to the forest. And that connection gives someone another reason to protect it.

"Small actions can multiply and compound to have a big effect," she said. "If we all can contribute in some way, it will make a big difference collectively."

Your gift is one of those actions. Together, we can protect the redwoods that inspire wonder, hold cherished memories, and connect generations.

Protect redwoods today: sempervirens.org/donate



"Small actions can multiply and compound to have a big effect."



Speaking Up for Redwoods, the Ocean, and Wildlife

Not every act of conservation happens on a trail or beneath the trees. Some of the most important work begins when people step forward and raise their voices to protect the places they love.

This year, Sempervirens Fund supporters took action more than 9,000 times to defend California's natural landscapes. The strongest participation came when our community spoke out against expanded oil drilling off the coast of California and stood up for the Endangered Species Act, helping protect the forests, wildlife, clean water, and climate resilience that make healthy ecosystems possible.

That response reflects something this community understands deeply: protecting redwoods also means protecting the wider web of life around them. Coast redwoods rely on fog, watersheds, healthy soils, and intact habitat. Wildlife, including endangered species like coho salmon and marbled murrelets, move through connected forests, rivers, and the ocean.

Advocacy can feel far from the forest floor, but it is one of the ways lasting protections take root. Each action matters. A message to a legislator may help stop an immediate threat, while also reminding decision-makers that forests, watersheds, wildlife, and future generations have a community willing to speak for them.

Because supporters like you continue to speak up, these extraordinary places have stronger champions today and greater protection for tomorrow.

Visit the Sempervirens Fund Action Center to discover timely ways you can continue protecting the redwood forests, the wildlife that depends on them, and the landscapes you care about.

See what your voice helped make possible and discover your next opportunity to take action:
sempervirens.org/action-center



MAXIMIZE YOUR IMPACT FOR REDWOODS

Your generosity can help redwood forests stand tall for generations. Gifts of appreciated stock or cryptocurrency may offer valuable tax benefits, while grants from your donor-advised fund provide another easy way to protect the redwoods you love.

Explore Smart Giving Options:
sempervirens.org/smart-giving



Sempervirens
Fund

P.O. Box 1417, Los Altos, CA 94023-1417
(650) 949-1453

sempervirens.org



Paper: Printed on Forest Stewardship Council (FSC)-certified paper containing 10% post-consumer waste.

Photos: Orenda Randuch, Eamon Reynolds, Julie Seelen, and Wayland Shih.

Design: shirleycreative.com