



The Mountain Echo

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Big Basin Campaign Surpasses Target

Thanks to the generosity of Sempervirens Fund's many supporters, the 1982 campaign to raise \$300,000 for land preservation in Big Basin has gone almost \$15,000 over its goal.

Sempervirens Fund raised \$314,400 in its first-year effort to complete land acquisitions for Big Basin, California's first state park. The Fund expects to receive \$200,000 in state matching funds for the past year's effort.

The board and staff of Sempervirens Fund would like to express their deep appreciation to the thousands of contributors to this project. The tremendous response is heartening and shows the scope of the concern for the protection of our remaining redwood forests and the need for additional recreational areas. Thank you one and all!

Sempervirens Fund's 1983 target has been increased to \$350,000 and the Fund is confident of reaching this goal in the coming year. Two parcels, totaling almost 100 acres, have been designated as priority acquisitions for Big Basin during the spring 1983 campaign. Negotiations between Sempervirens' representatives and the properties' owners are expected to be completed in the very near future.

Groves of rare and endangered Santa Cruz cypress highlight the larger of the two parcels.

Stretching over an exposed sandstone ridge and encompassing the Eagle Rock Lookout, the 79 acres also offer knobcone pine, spectacular vistas of Big Basin and a large portion of the Santa Cruz Mountains, and extend downslope of the ridge into forests of Douglas fir and redwood.



"Hollow Tree at Hollow Tree Camp," July 1902. (See **Fund Followers**, page three, for details.)

Andrew P. Hill

Aside from its significance as a preserve for the unique cypress, this parcel would be a valuable addition to the park because one-half the property drains into fragile watershed lands.

Nineteen acres of lovely second-growth redwood land near the well-traveled southern entrance to Big Basin is the location of the second priority purchase this spring.

A dirt access road bisects the parcel, which is adjacent to land already a part of the park, providing a potential trail to Pine Mountain, a favorite hikers' spot.

Among other projected acquisitions in 1983 is a magnificent 140-acre redwood property which will add much-needed trail connections from park headquarters to the Pacific Ocean.

About six thousand acres in all still are needed to complete Big Basin to its natural, watershed boundaries. This work is crucial in order to preserve magnificent redwood land that easily could be developed if not added to Big

Basin, and to protect the ecology of land already belonging to the park.

Additional recreational land also is needed in order to provide for the increasing numbers of visitors from local urban areas. In 1981, for instance, over one million people were turned away from state parks in California due to overcrowded conditions.

All monies contributed to Sempervirens Fund for the Big Basin completion project go into the Big Basin Land Acquisition Trust Fund, which serves as a ready cash reserve for the purchase of available land.

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