

# Reforesting California's Forests: A Vital Investment for Our Future

## What difference does post-fire reforestation efforts make for communities in California?



Forested landscapes like Yosemite and Lake Tahoe drive California's \$6.2 billion outdoor recreation industry while providing vital habitat for elk, mountain lions, Pacific fishers, and other iconic wildlife.<sup>1</sup>



Healthy forests attract hikers, campers, and tourists, generating revenue for local businesses and communities. Tourism to Redwood National Park contributed \$37.9 million to the local economy in 2023, supporting numerous jobs.<sup>2</sup>



Strategically reforesting with fire-resistant species and appropriate forest management, including thinning and prescribed fires, can lower the intensity and spread of future fires. A recent study found that wildfire severity on sites that received prescribed fire or a combination of prescribed fire and mechanical thinning was 60% lower than nearby areas that were not treated.<sup>4</sup>



Restoring forests supports essential pollinators, which in turn help sustain California's agricultural economy (valued at \$50 billion+ annually).<sup>7</sup>

## What can be done with more funding for post-fire reforestation?



### Increase the pace and scale of reforestation and resilience treatments

If wildfires and natural disturbances intensify in California as projected, insect mortality will rise in the 2030s, followed by more extensive wildfires in the 2040s.<sup>11</sup> To mitigate future impacts and enhance carbon stability, it's essential to accelerate reforestation and resilience efforts **now**.



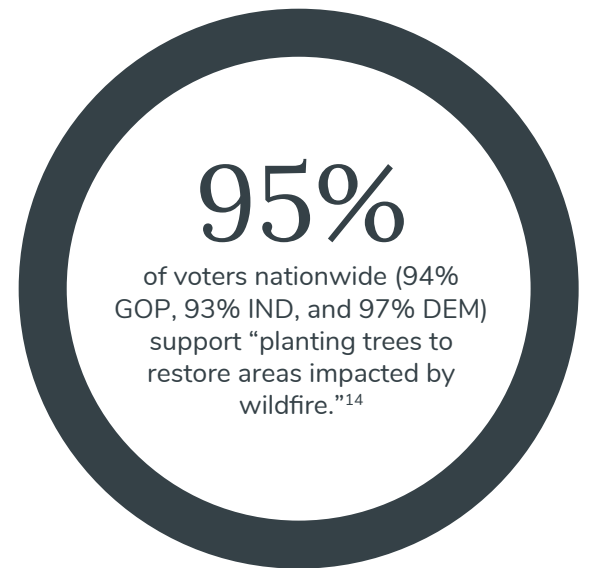
### Expand seed collection efforts

Increase funding for tree climbers and specialized teams to gather seeds from fire-resilient trees for large-scale replanting. In 2024, American Forests and other partners collected a record of 11,330 bushels of cones, a 275% increase from 2023, enough to replant up to a quarter of the more than 1.5 million acres of forests the state lost to high-severity wildfires between 2019 and 2021.<sup>15</sup>



### Increase funding for wildfire monitoring and research

Evaluate forest health and fire prevention projects to assess effectiveness in fuels management, community protection, habitat improvement, water quality, native plant species protection, and forest complexity.<sup>6</sup>



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