



# Times-Standard

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## Landowners are key

Your article on the 'Six Rivers to the Sea' conservation easement project near Blocksburg highlighted our Northcoast Regional Land Trust as the lead group. I would like to set the record straight. 'Six Rivers to the Sea' is a regional conservation initiative and collaborative landowner-public agency-resource industry-land trust partnership that seeks to protect working landscapes vital to preserving the ecology, culture, and economy of our distinctive region.

The goal is to conserve significant areas of private lands that function to support both fish and wildlife habitat protections and a diverse natural resource economy for rural ranch and forest landowners. The partners are the landowners themselves.

Central to the North Coast's ecology, culture and economy are the private resource lands and landowners which provide the foundation of our natural resource based industries. Private resource lands have a complimentary, but separate role to play from public lands in achieving landscape-scale conservation. The individuals, organizations, and public officials involved with 6R2C recognize and support thoughtful conservation activities on these private lands and are working to prevent fragmentation of the land base.

## LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

One way in which this goal can be realized is through the voluntary development of specific land use restrictions on certain private properties, known as conservation easements. These easements are designed to ensure continued, sustainable timber production and natural resources protection by preventing subdivision and development, promoting more productive forests, and preserving riparian areas and watercourses (including wild salmon and steelhead habitat). 6R2C focuses on the link between landscape health, native biota and natural resource-based economies. As such, it represents a pioneering effort toward the integration of biological, cultural, and economic systems. These efforts will become increasingly important as society strives to resolve the needs of its native biota with those of an expanding Californian population.

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