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**Cooperation makes
for healthy forest**

It was refreshing to see positive coverage of timber-related issues that have been known to divide our local communities ("Landowners helping U.S. with erosion control," April 26).

The article described only two cooperative erosion prevention efforts on private lands in the Redwood Creek basin. As superintendent of Redwood National Park, I should point out that landowner participation with erosion prevention efforts is much broader than that and progress basin-wide should be recognized.

In 1995, the National Park Service signed a cooperative agreement with all of the major landowners in Redwood Creek voluntarily to identify and correct erosional problems associated with roads. Erosion prevention projects have been implemented each year since 1995 on a variety of land ownerships. Also, broad cooperative planning efforts are currently underway to assess road conditions throughout the basin. Other landowners not involved in these particular projects have made road improvements in the past and continue to do so, entirely at their own cost.

One correction that should be noted is that the watershed conditions described in the article existed in the mid-1970s, during a period of large floods, minimal forest practice regulation and intensive timber harvesting. Watershed conditions have improved since that time.

Cooperative efforts between government agencies and private industry to prevent potentially damaging impacts to publicly and privately owned resources from land use activities are relatively new to the north coast and our cooperative achievements are just beginning. We appreciate your highlighting the most recent projects.

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