



BLM News Release

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Roseburg District Office
777 Garden Valley Blvd
Roseburg, Oregon 97470



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News Contact:
Joe Ross (541)440-4930

BLM Encourages Volunteers to Lend A Hand on National River Cleanup Week May 13-21

ROSEBURG, OR. – Volunteers are needed to help clean and beautify Douglas County waterways and other public spaces during National River Cleanup Week, May 13 – 21. The Bureau of Land Management is currently recruiting volunteers to sign up in support of clean rivers and streams. Litter bags and other needed supplies will be provided to all volunteers. Anyone interested in helping out should call Joe Ross, BLM's Roseburg District volunteer program coordinator, at (541)464-3248.

Over 400 cleanups and an expected 60,000 volunteers are registered nationwide for the 2006 event. "The public's increased awareness of the trash accumulating in our rivers and streams has resulted in more volunteer participants in 2006 than any previous year," says David Brown, chairman of National River Cleanup Week.

A photo contest and essay contest is also offered this year. Details are available at the NRCW website link or by calling BLM. Winston's Cub Scout Pack 136 won fourth place in the 2005 photo contest. Their winning photo is on-line at the NRCW webpage. The student essay question is "Why do we have to pick up trash in our rivers year after year?" Entries should be delivered or sent to the BLM office by May 30. Prizes are provided by sponsors and include kayaks, personal flotation devices, or other items.

Green Mountain Coffee Roasters is the presenting sponsor for 2006. They are joined by Perception, Thule, Wilderness Systems, and other corporate supporters. America Outdoors, a national association of outfitters and guides, originated the event and donates the operational support for NRCW. Additional support comes from the Bureau of Land Management, the Forest Service, and the Shimoda Group. National River Cleanup Week, Inc. is a 501(c) (3) non profit corporation.

National River Cleanup Week's mission is to raise public awareness of the magnitude of trash accumulating in our nation's waterways and to develop a constituency for clean waterways.

Since its inception in 1992, 509,000 volunteers have participated in nearly 5,000 cleanups covering nearly 96,000 miles of waterways across the US.

Local volunteer events include:

** A cleanup of the South Umpqua River between Stewart Parkway and Stewart Park Drive on Saturday afternoon **May 13, following the completion of the Umpqua Valley Migratory Bird Day Festival on the Art Center grounds.** Volunteers are asked to assemble at the green Stewart Park Drive bridge into the V.A. Hospital at 4 P.M. Following a short safety briefing, litter bags and gloves will be available for cleanup of the north and south shores of the river over to the bridge at Stewart Parkway.

** Individual groups are also needed to “adopt a stream” for cleanups of other river or creek segments in Douglas County during the May 13-21 period that overlaps with National River Cleanup Week (see www.americaoutdoors.org/nrcw/natao10.htm)

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