



2017 Rogue River Cleanup

The 12th Annual Rogue River Cleanup began on June 10th at a blustery, rainy registration table in front of Jerry's Jet Boats, but soon lightened as we loaded the kids onto boats to head up the river to collect trash. There were 45 students and 56 adults participating in this year's sponsored event. Students and adult chaperones were taken on the river in 11 jet boats piloted by volunteer drivers! Other adult volunteers helped clean the gravel bars and roads along the lower Rogue, the Illinois, and the north & south jetty beaches – which now have about 15 cubic yards less trash, not to mention about 20 less tires as well. The Curry Soil & Water Conservation District led a noxious weeds crew that cleared about an acre of Scotch broom from the Mill Bar. The Trash Dogs and worked to remove seven trashed and abandoned vehicles along the Rogue River. They also helped to remove big tires, little tires, mattresses, junked cars, and many yards of carpeting, refrigerators, lazy boy chairs, household garbage, yard waste, bags of rabbit cage poop, a kitchen sink and many bags of garbage from the roadways along the Rogue River. What great partners!

Our volunteer celebration BBQ at Quosatana Campground was a big hit once again with a visit from Smokey Bear, even though we did not have the Salmon Tent this year (due to needed repairs). The US Forest Service staff brought along the fire engine and gave tours to all the families, and also helped with the nature table and kitchen prep & food delivery.

The Lower Rogue Watershed Council's annual Rogue Cleanup could not happen without generous financial and personal support from local businesses and amazing volunteers!! **THANK YOU** to all our wonderful cooperators: Jerry's Rogue Jets, Trash Dogs, City of Gold Beach, Coos Curry Electric Co-op, Thrivent Fraternal Organization, Ray's Food Place, McKay's Market, Central Curry School District, Gold Beach Ranger District of the Rogue River-Siskiyou National Forest, CTR, Gold Beach Visitors Center, Ophir Fire Department, Port of Gold Beach, Agness RV Park, Curry SWCD, SOLVE, and so many dedicated local community members. **YOU** have all helped complete another successful year for the Rogue River Cleanup!

A very special thank you to the boat pilots – those that carried students, and those that provided safety: Scott McNair, Denny Graves, Joe Martin, Bo Schindler, Don Hale, Tim O'Dwyer, Wayne Adams, Josh Phillips, Ryan McGinnis, Tom Hawkins, and ODFW Curtis Edwards. Thanks to the Curry School District for safely delivering the students to Agness and back to Gold Beach. Thank you to the great folks that helped with the event organization and the BBQ: Sandy Olivant, Clare Bowen, Mark & Karen Koch, Tom Bettis, Linda Graves, Daniel & Margaret Haynes, Drew Harper, Dustin Williams, Statia Ryder, Erin Minster, Liesl Coleman, and all the parents and others that helped supervise the students. US Forest Service employees Kim Hunter, Matthew Timchak, Frank Cisneros, Logan Hoggard, Marco Gonzales-Tejeda, Theresa Record, Mariah Wallace, Elizabeth Hooper, and Rob Morgan were a super addition to the day and great help on the river and at the BBQ. And for anyone we missed - **THANK YOU!**

The annual Rogue River Cleanup shows results by changing the way that our youth and community think about our river, invasive plants, and responsible trash disposal. We are all making a difference together...see you on the river next year!

***KIDS – Don't forget to redeem your coupon for a FREE 64 mile boat ride (one parent included for FREE as well) at Jerry's Rogue Jets this summer!!**

Kelly Timchak
Coordinator, Lower Rogue Watershed Council

Statia Ryder
Watershed Education Program Manager



Photo: Tree identification table



Photo: Kids with Smoky Bear and the fire engine (driven by Frank Cisneros).



Photo: Trash Dogs, with their load from the roads surrounding the Rogue River!