



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Local Action, Regional Impact: Volunteers Clean Beaches, Rivers and Community Spaces

Portland, Ore., September 29, 2026 – From September 18 through September 27, communities across Oregon and Southwest Washington came together for SOLVE’s annual *Beach & Riverside Cleanup*. During a 10-day volunteer effort, **1,553 volunteers** participated in **96 cleanup and restoration projects across 15 counties**, contributing more than **3,100 hours of service**. Projects took place in Clackamas, Clark, Clatsop, Coos, Curry, Deschutes, Jackson, Lane, Lincoln, Marion, Multnomah, Polk, Tillamook, Washington, and Yamhill counties.

Together, volunteers removed nearly **9,000 pounds of litter and debris**, helping prevent pollution from traveling through local waterways to beaches and the Pacific Ocean. Volunteers also **cleared over 9,450 square feet of invasive species**, an area larger than three tennis courts, and **mulched 300 plants** to support healthier habitats and more resilient landscapes.

“Every year, Beach & Riverside Cleanup shows what is possible when people unite to care for the places they call home,” said Kris Carico, CEO of SOLVE. “This year, we saw that community action take many forms, from cleaning beaches and rivers to removing invasive plants and caring for neighborhood spaces. These local efforts add up to a meaningful regional impact.”

Oregon Coast: Cleaning Up for People and Wildlife

Along the Oregon Coast, **25 cleanup events from Astoria/Warrenton to Gold Beach** invited volunteers to remove litter and marine debris from beaches, shorelines and coastal recreation areas.

Several projects connected cleanup efforts directly to wildlife protection. At **Siltcoos Beach**, volunteers helped remove marine debris near protected western snowy plover nesting habitat, while other coastal projects focused on keeping beaches and coastal recreation areas clean and safe for wildlife and visitors. In Gold Beach, **Paws for Nature** combined a community beach cleanup with a dog walk, giving people and their four-legged companions a chance to care for the coastline.

Thank You to Our Volunteers and Partners

SOLVE extends its gratitude to the volunteers, event leaders, business partners and organizations who made the 2026 Beach & Riverside Cleanup possible. Their time and effort helped make a visible difference across Oregon and Southwest Washington.

SOLVE's **2026 Beach & Riverside Cleanup** is proudly supported by Clean Water Services, Kaiser Permanente, Knife River, Keep America Beautiful, Metro, Oregon Department of Parks and Recreation, Owens Corning, Portco Packaging, Tillamook, Harper Houf Peterson Righellis Inc., and KOIN.

To learn more about SOLVE and find upcoming volunteer opportunities, visit solve.org.

About SOLVE

SOLVE brings communities together to take care of our environment and enhance our waterways. Since 1969, the organization has grown from a small, grassroots initiative to a national model of volunteer action. Today, SOLVE mobilizes and trains thousands of volunteers of all ages across Oregon, and SW Washington, to clean and restore our neighborhoods and natural areas, while empowering a community of environmental stewards for our state. Visit solve.org for more information or follow SOLVEPNW on [Instagram](#), [Facebook](#), [LinkedIn](#).
