



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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From Coast to Creek: Volunteers Mobilize for SOLVE's 2025 Beach & Riverside Cleanup

Portland, Ore., September 30, 2025 – From September **20 through September 28**, families, community organizations, and individuals across Oregon and Southwest Washington came together for the annual *Beach & Riverside Cleanup*, in partnership with OnPoint Community Credit Union. The statewide effort, and centerpiece of *Fall with SOLVE*, aligned with three significant environmental dates: International Coastal Cleanup Day (September 20), National Public Lands Day (September 27), and World Rivers Day (September 28).

This year, approximately **822 volunteers across 14 counties** participated in **77 events**, from the Oregon Coast to inland rivers and urban neighborhoods. Together, they collected an estimated **9,784 pounds of litter and marine debris** (equivalent to the weight of three school buses) while restoring habitats and preparing green spaces for the months ahead. Volunteers cleared approximately **743,420 square feet of invasive plants** (covering an area the size of 13 basketball courts), mulched and maintained **plants and trees**, ensuring green spaces are prepared for the months ahead.

"This year's Beach & Riverside Cleanup showed the strength of community partnerships: From expanding established programs like Pick It Up, Bend! to celebrating Hispanic Heritage Month with community groups like Loco por la Aventura," said Kris Carico, CEO of SOLVE. "For nearly four decades, this cleanup has been at the heart of our work, uniting thousands of volunteers to protect the places we love. It remains one of the most important opportunities we have each year to care for our rivers, beaches, and neighborhoods, and to ensure they remain healthy for generations to come."

A Season of Highlights

The *Beach & Riverside Cleanup* showcased the variety of projects and partnerships that fuel SOLVE's mission across the region. Examples included:

Inaugural *Pick It Up, Bend!*, September 20, Downtown Bend

As part of this year's *Beach & Riverside Cleanup*, SOLVE expanded its *Pick It Up!* series with the inaugural *Pick It Up, Bend!* The community-powered cleanup brought together residents, local businesses, and volunteers for a hands-on morning of removing litter and beautifying public spaces against the backdrop of the scenic Old Mill District and Hayden Homes Amphitheater with the support of Old Mill District, Lithia Motors Green Cars, and Jackstraw (managed by Killian Pacific). SOLVE is already looking forward to bringing back this community-powered cleanup next September and expanding the *Pick It Up!* series further.

New partnership with Loco por la Aventura, Southeast Portland

On September 25, volunteers came together in Southeast Portland for *Cleaner SE Together*, a community cleanup hosted by SOLVE and Loco por la Aventura. Volunteers helped to tidy streets and shared spaces while strengthening community connections. The event honored Hispanic Heritage Month and highlighted the contributions of the Latino community in the Pacific Northwest. Loco por la Aventura is a nonprofit organization that promotes educational equity and outdoor engagement for the Latino community across the region. Through their new Basecamp Mountaineering Center, the organization provides gear sales and rentals, with all proceeds directly funding free outdoor programs, clinics, and adventures designed by and for the Latino community.

World Rivers Day Cleanup at Bonneville Lock and Dam, September 28, Cascade Locks

Volunteers joined U.S. Army Corps of Engineers Park Rangers to celebrate World Rivers Day and National Public Lands Day with a shoreline cleanup at Bonneville Lock and Dam. Together, they removed litter and fishing line from the Columbia River shoreline and invasive weeds from nearby areas, helping protect wildlife and water quality. Afterward, participants got rewarded with a ranger-led tour and underwater fish viewing, underscoring the connection between hands-on volunteer work and the health of our shared waterways.

From Source to Sea, Part of a Global Movement

The *Beach & Riverside Cleanup* connects local efforts to global initiatives. September 20 marked the 40th anniversary of Ocean Conservancy's International Coastal Cleanup, uniting millions of volunteers worldwide to protect our oceans from harmful debris. Along the Oregon Coast, organizations such as the Surfrider Foundation, Friends of Netarts Bay, and watershed councils joined forces with local volunteers to advance these shared goals. At Siltcoos Beach, participants honored International Coastal Cleanup Day by removing marine debris near protected western snowy plover nesting sites, a critical habitat for these vulnerable birds.

Thank You to Our Sponsors and Volunteers

SOLVE expresses gratitude to the thousands of volunteers, community leaders, and partner organizations who made this year's event possible. The 2025 *Beach & Riverside Cleanup*, in partnership with OnPoint Community Credit Union, was proudly supported by Chevron, Clean Water Services, Harper Houf Peterson Righellis Inc., Knife River, KOIN, Malibu Rum, Metro, National Environmental Education Foundation (NEEF), Oregon Parks and Recreation, Tillamook, and Wells Fargo.

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 solveoregon.org for more information.

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