

NEWS RELEASE

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12 tons of trash pulled from rivers during 8th annual Great Sierra River Cleanup

(Auburn) – Today, over one thousand volunteers worked together to remove more than 12 tons of trash from the rivers, lakes, and streams of the Sierra Nevada region as part of the 8th annual Great Sierra River Cleanup. This event, coordinated by the Sierra Nevada Conservancy and held in partnership with California Coastal Cleanup Day, serves to promote good stewardship throughout the state’s watersheds, from the Sierra to the sea.

The Sierra Nevada region is the primary source of drinking and irrigation water for California - more than 60 percent of the state’s developed water supply originates in the Sierra Nevada region. Thanks to the volunteers who worked side by side today to remove refrigerators, bottle caps, shopping carts, tires, and more, California’s primary water source is now a little bit cleaner. Some of the more unusual items found today include dentures, bowling pins, and a cappuccino machine.

“The energy our Great Sierra River Cleanup volunteers invest each year shows just how important the watersheds of the Sierra are to all Californians,” says Jim Branham, Executive Officer for the Sierra Nevada Conservancy. “This is where our water comes from, and we need to take special care of it.”

The Great Sierra River Cleanup also kicks off Sierra Nevada Watershed Protection Week. Last year, Assembly Member Brian Dahle (R - Bieber) authored Assembly Concurrent Resolution 22, which set aside the third week of September as “Sierra Nevada Watershed Protection Week” to bring attention to the challenges that the Sierra Nevada region is facing. The measure passed both houses of the legislature without a dissenting vote.

The Great Sierra River Cleanup would not be possible without the hard work of thousands of volunteers, dozens of local community groups, and our supporters at the California Coastal Commission, the California Conservation Corps, and Sierra Pacific Industries.

Final results from this year’s event, a list of participating organizations, and additional event information are available at www.sierranevada.ca.gov. Photos will be shared on [Facebook](#), [Twitter](#), and [Instagram](#).

Photo 1:



Garbage pulled from the Kern River during the 8th annual Great Sierra River Cleanup. Photo Credit: Kern River Conservancy.

Photo 2:



Volunteers from Grant High School's Latino Outdoors helping at Protect American River Canyons' cleanup along the American River in Auburn, CA. Photo Credit: Samantha Vigil, California State Parks.

About the Sierra Nevada Conservancy

Created in 2004, the Sierra Nevada Conservancy (SNC) is a state agency whose mission is to improve the environmental, economic, and social well-being of the Sierra Nevada Region. The SNC has awarded over \$57 million in grants for projects to protect and enhance the health of California's primary watersheds by improving forest health, remediating mercury contamination from abandoned mines, protecting critical natural resources, and reducing the risk of catastrophic wildfire. Funding for these projects came from Proposition 84 passed by voters in 2006 and Proposition 1 passed by voters in 2014.

The Sierra Nevada Region spans 25 million acres, encompasses all or part of 22 counties, and runs from the Oregon border on the north to Kern County on the south. The Region is the origin of more than 60 percent of California's developed water supply.

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