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Volunteers needed to clean up Elsey's Pool on Sullivan Creek



The Tuolumne County Land Trust is seeking volunteers to help clean up trash this Saturday deep in Sullivan Creek below Mono Way and the Sierra Railroad tracks.

There's a spot in the steep, rocky watershed with a 30-foot cascade splashing into a natural swimming hole. It's been known to locals for decades as Elseys Pool, or just plain Elseys.

To volunteer for the Sept. 16 cleanup on Sullivan Creek and to get more information, call Brian Kermeen at (209) 743-2033. For more information about the Great Sierra River Cleanup, go online to www.sierranevada.ca.gov/our-work/rivercleanup

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Brown-speckled mountain frogs about as big as a 25-cent piece were active in late August on gray boulders near the edge of the pool. A multi-colored graffiti mural marred a rock slope next to the burbling creek. Bags of clothing and trash, pieces styrofoam, camping fuel cylinders and other refuse laid in shaded places.

Regardless of who left the trash, whether it was homeless people or lawbreakers, organizers of the cleanup effort hope to clear garbage and refuse from a half-mile stretch of Sullivan Creek, including Elseys, according to Brian Kermeen with the nonprofit land trust group.

The local effort is part of the Great Sierra River Cleanup coordinated in multiple watersheds by the Sierra Nevada Conservancy on Saturday.

This is the ninth annual Great Sierra River Cleanup. Organizers with the Sierra Nevada Conservancy say volunteers have pulled more than 815 tons of trash and recyclables from 2,600 river miles in Sierra Nevada watersheds.

Hydrologists with the state Department of Water Resources estimate the Mokelumne, Stanislaus, Tuolumne and Merced watersheds that flow through the Stanislaus National Forest provide 6.76 percent of the state's water, based on annual water year output.

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