

Northern Washington Coast Cleanup Scheduled for Saturday, September 29

Volunteer Registration Now Open at CoastSavers.org

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For Immediate Release

Olympic National Park, Olympic Coast National Marine Sanctuary and CoastSavers will host a shoreline cleanup event to celebrate National Public Lands Day on Saturday, September 29. Volunteers are invited to enjoy time on the beach while collecting marine debris that has accumulated along the Ozette Coast. This shoreline cleanup effort will be focused on the Cape Alava to Sand Point area reached via the Olympic National Park Ozette Ranger Station.

“We are grateful for the many volunteers who each year contribute their time and energies to helping at Olympic National Park,” said Olympic National Park Acting Superintendent Todd Sues. “Removing marine debris from the park’s wilderness coast is an extremely worthwhile endeavor and a perfect way to celebrate National Public Lands Day.”

Volunteers are needed for two different jobs. The first involves hiking three miles to the coast and then walking along the shore to gather marine debris into bags. Additional volunteers are needed to serve as porters dedicated to carrying bagged debris from the beach to the Ozette Ranger Station. Porters should be ready to make at least one six-mile round trip from the trailhead to the beach. Debris bags and light refreshments will be provided for volunteers. Entrance fees at Ozette and throughout Olympic National Park will be waived on September 29 for National Public Lands Day.

Space is limited and advance registration is REQUIRED for this cleanup. Volunteers must register online at the CoastSavers website, www.coastsavers.org/. For more information about the cleanup, potential volunteers may call Heather Stephens, the Olympic National Park Volunteer Coordinator, at 360-565-3141 or Rosie Perera 360-565-3142.

Marine debris is a constant factor on the Olympic Coast, and this year public concern has been accentuated by debris generated by Japan's 2011 tsunami disaster. However, winds and currents during the summer months have kept most marine debris off shore, making debris loading on Washington’s outer coast beaches relatively light.

“This shoreline cleanup in September is an opportunity to provide a clean slate, to have a significant stretch of shore clear of debris so we can watch what washes up over the winter. It will be interesting to see what the ocean brings to our shores next,” said Carol Bernthal, Superintendent of Olympic Coast National Marine Sanctuary.

The National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) has predicted tsunami debris will arrive on the U.S. shoreline in growing quantities in the next year or two, adding to the deposition of marine debris that continually deposits on our shoreline habitats.

The Washington CoastSavers program is organized by the Washington Clean Coast Alliance, which includes a broad spectrum of participating nonprofits, community groups, corporations, and public agencies. The Washington Clean Coast Alliance is steered by a committee of representatives from the Clallam Bay-Sekiu Lions Club, Discover Your Northwest, Grass Roots Garbage Gang, Olympic Coast National Marine Sanctuary, Olympic National Park, and the Washington State Parks and Recreation Commission.

-- www.CoastSavers.org --