

Illegal dumping cleaned up by tribe

BY JOAN PRINGLE
Staff writer

By the end of the day, one group of volunteers had collected six tires, four TVs, one computer and a lot of toys.

"And we didn't even get down to the beach," said Christine Woodward, Samish Indian Nation, Department of Natural Resources director.

Woodward helped organize a cleanup as part of a nationwide effort with Restore America's Estuaries on Sept. 24, National Estuaries Day.

"This community is so aware of what we have here, but there are always some people unaware of the damage they do or just don't care," Woodward said of illegal dumping.

The cleanup involved three sites near the Samish's Fidalgo Bay Resort. One group of volunteers took care of the area along the Tommy Thompson Parkway from 34th Street to the trestle pilings. The second cleaned from the condos along the beach to Weaverling Spit.

The group that found the TVs cleaned along Fidalgo Bay Road from the RV park to Highway 20.

In all, volunteers collected 780 gallons of bagged trash and 50 smaller bags of cat feces and litter that someone had dumped in the area.

"All this work we're doing to clean up fecal matter and here we get someone dumping bags of litter, adding to the problem," Woodward said.

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Jamie Ebersole, Joni Cullier and Stephen Ebersole helped with a recent cleanup along Fidalgo Bay Road that brought in piles of garbage, including tires and children's toys.

SUBMITTED

STUFFED WITH HOLIDAY SAVINGS

Shows for the landlubber and nautically inclined alike are coming to Skagit County this weekend

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Cleanup

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The bagged garbage and other items were left in the right of way for the city crews to pick up on the following Monday for disposal.

The two dozen volunteers included tribal members and students from Cap Sante High School.

"They're always the first people to come," Woodward said of the students. "Every time we have a project we need volunteer help for, they are the first to be on board."

Not only do they learn about illegal dumping but they can share their experience with others.

After the cleanup, they won't think about littering themselves, Woodward said.



SUBMITTED

During a recent cleanup by the Samish Indian Nation for National Estuaries Day, the group found 50 bags of cat litter and feces thrown up into the trees along Fidalgo Bay Road.

The cleanup was not the first by the Samish along the bay, but it was the first in association with Restore America's Estuaries. There is already talk of how to make it bigger next year by making information available about cleaning up

Fidalgo Bay as a whole.

RAE was created in 1995 by nine nonprofit, community-based conservation partners working to save coastal heritage. Woodward represents the tribe at the organization's annual conference.

Where to take it

• TVs, monitors and computer equipment: E-mail anacortesAction@gmail.com.

• Fluorescent bulbs, rechargeable batteries, Styrofoam and packing material: Drop off at the city's operation facility, 37th Street and D Avenue, 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. Monday through Friday (residents only).

• Hazardous waste disposal: Dispose of at the Household Hazardous Waste Facility, Recycling & Transfer Station, 14104 Ovenell Road off Farm to Market Road, (360) 424-9532, 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Monday through Friday and first Saturdays.

• Bulky items, such as mattresses, furniture and appliances: Take to the city's Saturday U-Haul Disposal Service at the operation facility 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. second Saturday, May through November.

— City of Anacortes
Operations Solid Waste
Division, 292-1921,
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