

September 24, 2003

National Public Lands Day hauls out the Trash at Hanford Reach

Monument staff and the Tapteal Greenway Association participated in a cooperative celebration of National Public Lands Day, Saturday, September 20, by sponsoring a morning of clean-up and trash removal at Columbia Point South in Richland. Approximately 30 volunteers ranging in age from one year to 70 stuffed pockets with trash bags and donned work gloves to attack the refuse left behind by thoughtless recreationists. Columbia Point South covers an area of 115 acres of shorelines, sand dunes and wetland habitat that had been used and abused by off-road vehicles and motor bikes. With the announcement that the area would soon be the new home of the new Hanford Reach National Monument Visitor and Cultural Interpretive Center, access was blocked off and illegal use curtailed by the City of Richland. This prompted the cooperative effort to make headway in cleaning up the unsightly trash left behind.

Everything from plastic bottles, shopping carts, parts of junk cars and partially burned furniture to campsites of the homeless were scraped out of the brush, loaded, and transported to a commercial-sized dumpster. Our thanks go out to all who showed a desire to improve and maintain the integrity of this beautiful and historic location, a traditional Native American village site and the supposed spot to where William Clark ascended the Columbia River on October 17, 1805. Special credit must be given to our ingenious fire crew who took on the task of removing a dozen junk tires by stringing them together like donuts and, using the fire truck, pulled them out of the thick underbrush. Our hats are off to all.

