



**For Immediate Release
September 2, 2025
Contact: Joe Scriven, Water Resources Program Manager
707-462-3664 x 104**

**From Streets to Creeks:
2025 Ukiah Valley Russian River Cleanup to be Held Saturday, Sept. 20
Volunteers Needed for Annual Pollution Prevention and Stewardship Event**

Ukiah – Would you like to make an immediate improvement to the environment and have fun doing it? Does the sight of litter in our creeks make you want to take action? Then come join the annual Ukiah Valley Russian River Cleanup, held on Coastal Cleanup Day, Saturday, September 20, from 8:30 AM to Noon.

The 110-mile-long Russian River snakes around serpentine hills of blue oak woodlands from northern Ukiah down south of Healdsburg, before winding westward through steep, fir-studded valleys past Guerneville, and spilling past myriad Harbor seals into the Pacific at Jenner. The Russian River is home to snails, dragonflies, turtles, newts, snakes, toads, frogs, fish, otters, ducks, hawks, and so many other important friends in our ecosystem. Many sea-dwelling fishes including Coho salmon, Steelhead trout, and Pacific lamprey visit the Russian River to reproduce.

The Russian River watershed is also home to many dedicated human stewards. Last year, in the Ukiah Valley alone, over 130 volunteers collected 3.62 tons of trash! Cigarette butts are the most frequently collected item, followed by single-use plastic packaging, such as food wrappers. It's tempting to pull out large objects like tires and bicycles, but small litter is just as important, and cigarette butts release toxic chemicals into the water, which can pose enormous harm to aquatic species.

Be part of the solution! To join the cleanup, pre-register through MCRCD's website, Facebook page, or directly at <https://tinyurl.com/RRCleanup25> by September 15th. Volunteers will gather for a safety talk at Low Gap Park and to divide into teams. Come early at 8:30 to sign in and get a cup of coffee donated by Black Oak Coffee Roasters. Bring a water bottle, sturdy shoes, and work gloves. No flip flops!

The event is co-sponsored by the Mendocino County Resource Conservation District, Mendocino County Water Agency, and Redwood Waste Solutions, along with numerous local partners including the City of Ukiah and Black Oak Coffee Roasters. For questions or for more information, contact Joe Scriven at joe.scriven@mcrcd.org.

###