






Cleanup effort targets confluence

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Tom Weistar

Posted: Sunday, September 18, 2016 12:00 am

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Four 40-yard-long containers collected thousands of pounds of trash and debris along the confluence of the Yuba and Feather rivers on Saturday.

The 19th annual Yuba River Cleanup, sponsored by the South Yuba River Citizens League and Yuba County Environmental Health, gathered more than 100 volunteers just at the Marysville site, according to Executive Director Caleb Dardick.

"I think I worked the hardest I've ever worked this weekend," Dardick said. "It was a huge success."

0918 cleanup

Volunteers pick up trash at the confluence of the Yuba and Feather rivers at the 19th annual Yuba River Cleanup on Saturday.

High school, civic and faith groups, along with individuals, showed up to the "Horseshoe" area, near the E Street Bridge on Highway 70, to clean up along the river bottoms. The area used to be a homeless camp until Marysville and Yuba County moved people out this summer in anticipation of the construction of a sewer pipeline.

Dardick said the trash along the river bottoms included tires, tents, toilets, clothing, carpeting and even a small trailer, most of which came from the camps once belonging to a portion of the homeless community.

"It's a complicated story because there's a human element to it," Dardick said. "The county is doing their best to work with the homeless and protect the environment."

Dardick said the first cleanup in 1998 saw around 30 volunteers at two sites. On Saturday, close to 800 volunteers at more than 30 sites joined to clean up the Yuba and Bear rivers. He said the cleanups improve water quality and help restore habitats for wild salmon.

"Everyone is there in good spirit," Dardick said. "It's a perfect example of everybody coming together."