

September 20, 2009

Cleanup crew



Bob Brannon, community service officer for the Redding Police Department, left to right, Shasta Land Trust volunteers Dave Barnes and Ann Duchi separate recyclables from trash Saturday between the Sacramento River and Hartnell Avenue. About 40 volunteers helped in the Great Sierra Nevada River Cleanup, organized on at the local level by the Shasta Land Trust.

About 40 volunteers descended on the Henderson Open Space between Hartnell Avenue and the Sacramento River as part of the Great Sierra River Cleanup Event.

Alicia Fitzgerald, an AmeriCorps volunteer and coordinator of the event hosted by the Shasta Land Trust, said she was ecstatic at the turnout.

More than 40 locations in the north state were part of the cleanup effort conducted by

the Sierra Nevada Conservancy, Mt. Lassen Area Manager Bob Kingman said.

The crews on the banks of the Sacramento in Redding were the first of their kind, an effort between the conservancy, Shasta Land Trust (SLT) and the Western Shasta Resource Conservation District, he said.

Ben Miles, executive director of SLT, said the cleanup efforts started along the coasts as part of the California

Coastal Cleanup but have moved toward mountain areas.



Assemblyman Jim Nielsen bags up trash Saturday between the Sacramento River and Hartnell Avenue.

Nielsen worked together with local volunteers from

AmeriCorps, Rotary Club, Key Club, church groups, and others to clear trash from the City of Redding property.

Saturday's cleanup site was a piece of land owned by the city of Redding behind Raley's where, according to Miles, transients often camp. Earlier in the morning, Redding police community service officer Bob Brannon went to the site to make sure the area was cleared, he said.

Volunteers from the community combed the site

with trash bags, gloves and wheelbarrows, collecting garbage.

"The goal is to pull as much trash and recycling out of this area as we can," he said.

Among the more interesting finds was a tie-dyed futon found by Kingman and Assemblyman Jim Nielsen, R-Gerber.

Nielsen said the river's water can flood the banks and carry the trash into the river and through to the ocean in the winter.

"We're removing it (the trash) so it doesn't get there," he said.

After listing lawn chairs, a television set and batteries among items found, land trust member Ann Duchi said she wanted the site to be a spot where families could come for picnics.

"It's an interesting piece of property," she said. "When there's so much trash, it takes away from the beauty."