

**Protecting ecosystems...**

## ***Oregon and Washington take bold steps to eliminate toxics***

In July, the States of Oregon and Washington adopted a new "green" janitorial supplies contract, taking a major step to reduce toxic chemicals in government agencies and schools. Common cleaners such as disinfectants, floor and countertop cleaners, and bathroom soaps contain toxic chemicals that do everything from irritating skin to disrupting hormonal balance in fish. These cleaners are linked to asthma, cancer, reproductive disorders, hormone disruption and neurotoxicity.

The new "green" janitorial supplies contract will reduce exposure to toxic contaminants in public buildings and ultimately reduce toxics flowing into our rivers and streams.



[Read the full story](#)



**Building connections...**

## ***Volunteer: Plant trees to protect the Columbia***

On a recent Saturday morning, an eager group of 33 children and adults came to Steigerwald



**Volunteer Spotlight...**

## ***Thank you Steve Harvey!***

Steve Harvey advocated and helped guide the Estuary Partnership since 1996, serving first on our Management Committee and then on our Board of

National Wildlife Refuge to plant trees with the Estuary Partnership. The volunteers included groups of friends, and Cub Scouts with their families, all in boots and rain gear ready to dig in and plant trees. The rain stopped just in time for the volunteers to clear away invasive reed canary grass, dig small holes and plant 660 trees and shrubs! These trees and shrubs will take root over the winter and grow to protect the river.

You too can help to make a difference for the Columbia. Join us to plant trees! Groups and individuals of all ages and abilities are welcome. We are planting trees now through April 2014 at natural areas along the lower Columbia. Gather a group from school, church or civic group or grab your friends and family and pick a date to plant. Rain or shine, we head out with shovels and all the necessary tools to plant. We also serve warm drinks and snacks!

We have a special planting scheduled on Monday January 20, 2014, for Martin Luther King, Jr. Day of Service. All other plantings are Saturdays from 9 a.m. to Noon. **Students can receive community service hours for these plantings.**

Pre-registration is required. Contact Samantha Johnson at [sjohnson@estuarypartnership.org](mailto:sjohnson@estuarypartnership.org) or 503-226-1565 x245.

#### **PLANTING SCHEDULE:**

**January 20, 2014** - MLK National Day of Service, Sandy River Delta, Troutdale, OR,

**January 25, 2014** - Steigerwald Lake National Wildlife Refuge, Washougal, WA

**February 8, 2014** - Sandy River Delta, Troutdale, OR

**February 15, 2014** - Meldrum Bar Park, Gladstone, OR

**February 22, 2014** - Steigerwald Lake National Wildlife Refuge, Washougal, WA

**March 1, 2014** - Sandy River Delta, Troutdale, OR

**March 8, 2014** - Steigerwald Lake National Wildlife Refuge, Washougal, WA

**March 15, 2014** - Steigerwald Lake National Wildlife Refuge, Washougal, WA

**March 22, 2014** - Ridgefield National Wildlife Refuge, Ridgefield, WA

**April 12, 2014** - Meldrum Bar Park, Gladstone, OR

Directors. We appreciate his steadfast leadership as our Chairman over the last two years.

Steve recently retired as Director of the Cowlitz-Wahkiakum Council of Governments and in December will retire from the Estuary Partnership Board.

Thank you Steve for your dedication and service to the Estuary Partnership and the lower Columbia River.



#### **Engaging partners...**

### **Community Partner: REI**

REI and the Estuary Partnership appreciate the value of outdoor recreation to keep people and the environment healthy.

As the nation's largest consumer cooperative REI is passionate about nature and providing outdoor enthusiasts with top-brand gear and clothing. REI also cares for natural spaces by mobilizing communities to protect and enhance the great outdoors. In collaborating with local nonprofits, REI supports stewardship and volunteer activities that result in new hiking trails, cleaner beaches, trees planted and more.

For the past 12 years, REI and the Estuary Partnership have worked together to build connections between our local community and the Columbia River. We've teamed up to teach people about the Lower Columbia Water Trail, lead water quality monitoring activities, and get people on the water during REI's Paddle Demo Days.

With REI's support, the Estuary Partnership also takes volunteers out to plant native trees and shrubs at local natural areas. These plants improve both the

habitat and the recreation value along the lower river. This year, we'll be restoring and exploring three key natural areas: Steigerwald Lake National Wildlife Refuge, Ridgefield National Wildlife Refuge, and Rooster Rock State Park.

Thank you REI!

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[www.estuarypartnership.org](http://www.estuarypartnership.org)



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