

*Curry Coastal Pilot newspaper, April 2, 2008, page 1:*

More than 1,400 pounds of plastic bottles, tires, crab pots, rope, pieces of plastic foam and mattresses were collected by volunteers from the California border to Nesika Beach Saturday during the 2008 SOLV Great Oregon Spring Beach Cleanup.

The amount was about 200 pounds under what volunteer trash collectors bagged during the September beach cleanup last year.

"We had people come all the way from White City, Ashland, Grants Pass – as well as locals from the community," Angela Stewart, park interpretive ranger for the Harris Beach Management Unit, said. "We even had the Curry County Board of Realtors help, and one family with a dad and four sons cleaned all along Harris Beach."

The 54 volunteers who spent their Saturday picking up garbage represented only a portion of the approximately 3,700 earth-friendly volunteers who collected a total of 111,000 pounds of trash from Oregon's 362 miles of coastline.

Even so, numbers were surprisingly low, Stewart said.

Over the weekend, wind, rain, hail and snow in northern Oregon deterred some people from scouring the beaches for trash – and the possibility of nasty weather farther down the coast unfortunately kept some volunteers away.

"The bad weather broadcast for other parts of the state had an impact, though I must say, we were fortunate with our weather here," Stewart said.

Among the statewide haul was a television, plastic children's toys and water tanks. According to a press release by SOLV, the group Whale Research Excursions, based in Eugene, made the discovery of a live humpback whale tangled in fishing line. Fortunately, the whale was able to struggle free and swim away.

In its 24th year, the bi-annual beach cleanup is organized by SOLV, a nonprofit volunteer-based organization dedicated to preserving Oregon's natural environment. Other sponsors of the event include businesses and organizations throughout Oregon, and sponsors for each specific cleanup zone.