

*PRESS RELEASE – For Immediate Release*

*White Salmon River Confluence Clean-Up and Trash Rodeo –  
Coming up September 17<sup>th</sup>*

Save the date and join volunteers on September 17<sup>th</sup> for the White Salmon River Confluence Clean-Up and Trash Rodeo! The goal of this event is two-fold: to remove derelict boats and garbage accumulated at the mouth of the White Salmon River, and to clean up popular bank-fishing areas downstream of Condit Dam.

The intent of this project is to remove debris and boats that have been obviously abandoned to prevent them from being buried in sediment or washed into the mainstem Columbia when Condit Dam is breached. Large debris can impair fish habitat in the lower White Salmon River and pose challenges to navigation in the Columbia River. In 2009, reconnaissance visits revealed approximately 100 boats and various waste disposed at the mouth of the White Salmon River. Today, fifteen boats are completely sunken and numerous others are partially sunken or appear to be abandoned - evidenced by holes or rusted-out portions of the hulls. Farther upstream, a handful of sites have smaller concentrations of metal debris, fishing and camping gear, and other waste. Volunteers will be needed in boats and on the ground to help retrieve and remove trash and derelict vessels.

If you have a boat stored at the mouth of the White Salmon River, you will notice a tag attached to it over the next few weeks.

**We ask that you read the tag and mark one of the options:**

- 1. You will remove your boat before October 26<sup>th</sup>, the scheduled breach date for Condit Dam, to prevent it from being buried in sediment, damaged or swept away by high water.**
- 2. You recognize that your boat is non-functional and understand that it will be removed on September 17<sup>th</sup>.**

***Please note: only sunken, obviously abandoned or non-functional boats will be removed.***

Several organizations are partnering on this effort, including Underwood Conservation District, Mid-Columbia Fisheries Enhancement Group, Friends of the White Salmon River, Yakama Nation Fisheries, WDFW, SOLV, USFS-Wild and Scenic River, Klickitat County Solid Waste, Klickitat County Sheriff's Office, USGS Columbia River Research Laboratory, U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service, Allied Waste, WSDOT and Skamania County Sheriff's Office dive team.

If you are interested in volunteering to assist with this event, please contact Underwood Conservation District at 509-493-1936, or email [ucd@gorge.net](mailto:ucd@gorge.net).