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Snohomish County's Litter Wranglers Surpass 2017 Total for Bags of Litter Collected

Program's continued success means crew will return in 2019

EVERETT, Wash., Oct. 24, 2018 – The milestones and mile markers keep on piling up like bags of trash for the Snohomish County Litter Wranglers. The garbage collecting crew has galloped past 5,000 bags collected this season, exceeding last years' total by more than 500 bags. The Litter Wranglers will wrap up their second full season at the end of October knowing that they will ride back onto county roads in 2019.

"Prior to 2017, residents were expressing concerns about litter marring our beautiful landscape and we responded with this program," Snohomish County Executive Dave Somers said. "Since that time it has become yet another excellent example of how the county can be innovative and solve problems."

This year Litter Wranglers' performance improved by more than 100 road-miles cleaned from the pilot year of 2017.

"To have more than 550 road miles cleaned in six months is astonishing," Snohomish County Public Works Director Steve Thomsen said. "That is more than one third of our 1,600 road miles that we maintain."

The expectation for the crew during the first year was only 200 to 300 road-miles cleaned.

The six-person crew of seasonal county employees have been aided by Snohomish County residents calling and emailing about locations with excessive litter. The Litter Wranglers respond within less than a week to reported locations, grouping sites to be more efficient and effective.

"We are simply responding to residents' concerns," Snohomish County Solid Waste Director Matt Zybas said. "The public participation has been a great benefit to the program and the response we have seen on social media and in the field is tremendous."

The benefits of the program extends beyond helping to preserve the county's natural beauty. The Litter Wranglers enable road maintenance crews to stay focused on maintaining and repairing the county's vital infrastructure by arriving at clean work sites.

For more information about the Litter Wranglers, visit www.snohomishcountywa.gov/litter.

About Snohomish County Public Works

The Snohomish County Public Works Department constructs and maintains county roads; controls and manages surface water quantity, quality, and fish habitats; and oversees the recycling and disposal of solid waste. The department's main office is located at 3000 Rockefeller Ave., Everett, WA 98201. For more information about Snohomish County Public Works, visit www.snohomishcountywa.gov/PublicWorks.

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