

## At New Melones Reservoir, the water levels may be low, but the energy levels couldn't be higher!



On Saturday, Sept. 19, in celebration of the **2015 Great Sierra River Cleanup**, the Bureau of Reclamation's Central California Area Office partnered with the University of California Cooperative Extension and Tuolumne Resource Conservation District to organize a cleanup.



Thirteen volunteers gathered to help clean up New Melones' shoreline and river area. Trash removal yielded cigarette butts, tires, cans, bottles, grocery carts, propane tanks and other items totaling over 1,400 pounds. Volunteers learned about protecting cultural and natural resources, restoring the health of America's waterways, and water conservation.



On Saturday, Sept. 26, in celebration of the 22nd anniversary of **National Public Lands Day**, the public was invited to New Melones to help care for our public lands from 9 a.m. to noon. A special invitation was extended to fourth graders and their families to participate as President Obama's *Every Kid in a Park* initiative was launched. Ten participants helped with kid-friendly projects including building birdhouses, planting native trees, and taking a boat ride to pick up trash on the lake's shoreline. Park Ranger Pat Sanders and

volunteer Joe Patania are pictured staffing the welcome table where they also provided information on preventing invasive quagga and zebra mussels.

Then, on Saturday, Oct. 10, New Melones hosted a **C.A.S.T. (Catch a Special Thrill) for Kids** event at the Mark Twain Recreation Area. Each of the 26 participants, ages 4-15, received a free fishing rod and reel, bait, tackle equipment and instruction.

C.A.S.T. for Kids teams up sponsors and anglers with special-needs children for a day of fishing enjoyment. Disabled and disadvantaged children between the ages of 5 and 16 years may participate in this fun and educational annual activity at no charge.





Nine Reclamation staff members and 16 volunteers made it a very special day for the children. For information on the C.A.S.T. for Kids Foundation, please visit <http://www.castforkids.org>.

Fourth grade students who visit New Melones are presented with *Every Kid in A Park* (EKIP) passes upon redeeming their program vouchers. The EKIP initiative ([www.everykidinapark.gov/](http://www.everykidinapark.gov/)) provides free access for every fourth grader and their family to 2,000 federally managed lands and waters. Reclamation is focusing on the connection between outdoor recreation and good health. With the growing concern about childhood obesity and children's lack of time spent outdoors enjoying nature, Reclamation is supporting EKIP, the *America's Great Outdoors* initiative (<http://interior.gov/americasgreatoutdoors/index.cfm>), and the Department of the Interior's *Let's Move Outside!* program ([www.letsmove.gov/lets-move-outside](http://www.letsmove.gov/lets-move-outside)).

