

THIS WEEK IN "LITTERLAND"

litterpreventionprogram.com

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A search is on for the persons responsible for a spree of littering and tree injury included carving, spray painting and hacking them in Nez Perce-Clearwater National Forest campgrounds. USDA Forest Services [issued a call](#) for leads and its enforcement officers are investigating. The above photo shows some of the damage at Rackliff camping area along the Selway River, Idaho.

[CORONA MOVES TO EDIBLE SIX-PACK RINGS](#)

Corona is saying 'adios' to its six-pack plastic rings. The beer maker says it's the first major brewery to switch to an edible fastener made of wheat and barley. If the packaging lands in the water, fish can safely eat it, the company says.

DID YOU KNOW?

Charles Bafford, a former problem gambler living on social assistance in Vancouver, routinely picks up discarded syringes around the community. He uses some of them to spell out slogans on posters for his impromptu, performance art. He figures he's removed about 4,000 littered needles in the past year. [Here we rerun his story.](#)

[Study: cigarette butts bad for plants too](#)

Cigarette filters decrease germination rates and growth in plants like clover and ryegrass, a newly [published study](#) led by UK's Anglia Ruskin University has revealed. Researchers placed cigarette butts – both smoked and un-smoked on green spaces around Cambridge. They observed smaller plant shoots and germination rates lower by as much as 28% with both types of filters, leading them to conclude that the filter's chemical makeup of cellulose acetate fibre, a type of "bioplastic", is what is "toxic" and is "causing the damage to plants". They estimate 4.5 trillion butts per year are littered. Others peg it at 5.6 trillion.

[Interest in Micro-bins is growing](#)

The simple and convenient Micro-bin stubbing plate and receptacle affixes to a street pole. It's a smart, low-cost way to counter cigarette butt and chewing gum littering developed by prevention forerunner Zilch UK using repurposed aluminum cans. Tiverton Volunteer Litter Pickers won a grant to acquire 12 Micro-bins for the town centre at a cost of about £10 each. Town workers will empty them. Direct inquiries to www.zilch.org.uk.



HEADLINE LITTER GRABBERS (JUL 14 - 21)

Some of what made our News Reel this week

Bath's strict enforcement being scrutinized (7/15)

Using a "private litter army" may not be the way to go in Bath, UK, says an influential councillor who suggests the contract could end when it expires in March 2020.

Balloon release ban up for debate next month (7/15)

A bill in Queen Anne's County, MD, if passed, would take the air out of balloon releases by outlawing them.

A debris-gobbling barge called Roska Roope (7/17)

Keep the Archipelago Tidy Association has bestowed Finland with the gift of a solar-powered, aluminum barge for sucking up surface trash from inland waters.

This campaign doesn't mince words (7/17)

Straight-talking Will County, Chicago has a pointed slogan about not littering the forests: "Don't be a jerk".

'Keep DE Litter Free' takes it to next level (7/18)

Delaware's highways department and Goodwill piloted the governor's \$150,000 Work-a-Day, Earn-a-Pay jobs program that hires people to litter pick along the I-95 three times a week. Now another \$483,000 will be invested to expand the initiative beyond Wilmington.

Unwanted plastic returning from Cambodia (7/18)

First the Philippines, now Cambodia has promised to send 83 shipping containers of tainted plastic waste back to their origins in Canada and the United States.