



For Immediate Release
August 29, 2003

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Release No. OR-03-08

Volunteers sought for National Public Lands Day 2003

PORTLAND- The Oregon/Washington Bureau of Land Management (BLM) is looking for volunteers to participate in the 10th annual National Public Lands Day (NPLD). While NPLD is typically held on the last Saturday in September, this year it will be observed on Saturday, September 20, 2003.

Individuals, families, and community groups of all ages are encouraged to come together to give something back to their public lands. T-shirts, lunches, and environmental education activities will be provided for the volunteers at each of the project sites. All tools, safety equipment, and materials needed for the projects will be furnished by the BLM

In addition, in celebration of NPLD, Secretary Gale Norton has designated Saturday, September 20, 2003, a "fee-free" day for all Interior-agency recreation and visitor sites nationwide. Site entrance and day-use fees will be waived on that day; however, other fees, such as overnight camping fees and cabin rentals, will remain in effect.

Volunteers who pitched in last year on NPLD helped improve and preserve habitats for a rich diversity of animals, birds, and plants. The volunteers installed bird boxes at Jenny Creek near Medford... removed large appliances, household garbage and construction debris close to the Deschutes River... eradicated invasive weeds and planted native vegetation and seedlings in Roseburg.

"National Public Lands Day volunteers are keeping the promise of the Civilian Conservation Corps. These individuals exemplified land stewardship, and from 1933-1942 they helped preserve and protect America's natural heritage," said Elaine Brong, BLM State Director.

NPLD is a unique public-private partnership involving many federal, state, and local land agencies. These agencies work closely with business partners such as Toyota, and numerous non-profit organizations. This year, SOLV is partnering with the BLM to help sponsor NPLD events throughout Oregon. SOLV's mission is to help individuals and groups organize volunteer projects to "build community through volunteer action to preserve this treasure called Oregon."

"We are calling on volunteers to help restore, beautify, and improve the habitats and recreation areas that we all benefit from and enjoy," said Maya Fuller, BLM Statewide Coordinator for **National Public Lands Day**. "The BLM is committed to promoting awareness about citizen stewardship and increasing volunteer opportunities for the public."

Volunteers range from Girl Scouts and senior citizens to corporate executives and Members of Congress -- they all have one thing in common: enjoyment and appreciation for our public lands. For more information, volunteers are encouraged to contact their local BLM office or visit www.npld.com - Remember....."It's your land, lend a hand."

Upcoming BLM National Public Lands Day Events

Coos Bay

New River Restoration

Fence and plant removal.
Chris Church (541) 756-0100

Roseburg

Lone Pine Campground

New campground enhancements.
Bill O'Sullivan (541) 440-4930

Umpqua Basin Cleanup Day

Clean-up of 8-10 stream segments.
Joe Ross (541) 440-4930

Island Creek Recreation Site

Invasive species removal.
Jeanne Standley (541) 440-4930

Salem

Larch Mountain

Trail stabilization, erosion control, planting.
Mick Cronin (503) 375-5612
Scott Brayton (503) 375-5638

Eugene

Tyrrell Seed Orchard

* (Saturday, September 13)
Trail maintenance, bird-box repair, site clean-up.
Saundra Miles (541) 683-6600

McGowan Meadow

Trail maintenance, invasive plant removal.
Christie Hardenbrook (541) 683-6600

Lakeview

Klamath Falls

Wood River Wetland

Planting, clean-up, trail work.
Wedge Watkins (541) 883-6916

Medford

Hyatt Lake Recreation Complex

* (Saturday, September 27)
Fence repair, site improvements.
Phil Lanni or Mike Kuzma
(541) 618-2200

Upper Table Rock

Signing, invasive species removal, bench/fence construction, planting.
Leah Schrodt (541) 618-2200

Buck Prairie Trail

Installation of interpretive signs and information boards.
Phil Lanni (541) 618-2200

Jenny Creek Day

Maintenance of riparian projects, bird-boxes, and fencing; site clean-up; planting.
Cookie Spaulding (541) 618-2200

Prineville

Steelhead Falls

* (Saturday, November 1)
Erosion control to protect fishery.
Robin Snyder (541) 416-6700

Vale

Baker City - Virtue Flat

Off-Highway Vehicle Area

Signing, fencing, clean-up.
Polly Gribskov (541) 523-1256

Spokane (WA)

Umtanum Recreation Site

* (Saturday, September 27)
Watchable Wildlife site construction.
Diane Priebe (509) 665-2100

Coffeepot Lake Recreation Site

* (Saturday, September 27)
Picnic shelter construction.
Lori Baker (509) 536-1200