Volunteers sought for National Public Lands Day 2010

PORTLAND – As part of the Let's Move! campaign, First Lady Michelle Obama recently launched a new Let’s Move Outside! initiative involving the Departments of the Interior and Agriculture that encourages activities both on public lands and close to home. The 17th annual National Public Lands Day is a perfect opportunity for families to get outdoors and experience what our public lands have to offer.

The Oregon/Washington Bureau of Land Management (BLM) is looking for volunteers to participate in National Public Lands Day events Saturday, Sept. 25. Participants will come together in what has become the largest volunteer effort of its kind in the country, to lend a hand to the lands they use to hike, bike, climb, fish, swim, explore, picnic, or just plain relax.

“We have access in this country to some of the greatest parks and recreation facilities,” Michelle Obama said. “We just want to encourage kids to use the resources that are available to them. And it’s not just a great way to get exercise. It’s also a phenomenal way to come together as a family and spend some time together without spending a whole lot of money.”

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.

Volunteers at Federal sites will receive free admission on the day of the event, and a coupon for a “fee-free” day any time in the next year at any site managed by the BLM, National Park Service, U.S. Forest Service, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, or U.S. Army Corps of Engineers.

Please note that some events may occur before Sept. 25, due a conflict or another overlapping event. A complete listing of BLM events is attached. In addition, volunteers are encouraged to visit www.publiclandsday.com or www.blm.gov/or for complete information on events planned near you.

About the BLM: The BLM manages more land – 245 million surface acres – than any other Federal agency. This land, known as the National System of Public Lands, is primarily located in 12 Western States, including Alaska. The Bureau, with a budget of about $1 billion, also administers 700 million acres of sub-surface mineral estate throughout the nation. The BLM’s multiple-use mission is to sustain the health and productivity of the public lands for the use and enjoyment of present and future generations. The Bureau accomplishes this by managing such activities as outdoor recreation, livestock grazing, mineral development, and energy production, and by conserving natural, historical, cultural, and other resources on public lands.
Oregon/Washington BLM Events
September 25, 2010

OREGON

Burns
Radar Base (Hines, OR)
OHV route maintenance and cleanup.
Eric Haakenson (541) 573-4476

Medford
Cascade-Siskiyou National Monument (Sept. 18)
Trail work, campground improvement and fencing.
Dennis Byrd (541) 618-2369

Coos Bay
North Spit
Trail brushing, weed removal, cleanup.
Robert M. Golden (541) 751-280

Rogue River Corridor, Hellgate Recreation Area
Trail maintenance, trash pick-up, weed removal, and painting.
Barbara Zurhellen (541) 471-6648

Eugene
West Eugene Wetlands Trail System
Trail maintenance, trash pick-up, and weed removal.
Patricia K. Johnston (541) 520-2159

Prineville
Blak National Guard Base
Cleanup, trail work, weed removal, seeding and fuels management.
Ron Wortman (541) 416-6700

Eugene Wetlands Trail System
Trail maintenance, trash pick-up, and weed removal.
Patricia K. Johnston (541) 520-2159

Island Day Use Area
Cleanup, trail work, and weed removal.
Ariel Hiller (541) 464-3356

McGowan Creek Trail
Trail maintenance, trash pick-up, and weed removal.
Patricia K. Johnston (541) 520-2159

Recreational Gold Panning Area
Cleanup, trail work, and weed removal.
Ariel Hiller (541) 464-3356

Lakeview
Oregon Sunstone Public Collection Area (Sept. 18)
OHV barrier construction, planting, and fire ring removal.
Todd Forbes (541) 947-6134

Salem
Yaquina Head Outstanding Natural Area
Beach cleanup.
Timothy J Fisher (541) 574-3142

Gerber Recreation Area
Bat box/goose nest construction, trail work, wood cutting, planting.
Mike Bechdolt (541) 883-6916

Vale
National Historic Oregon Trail Interpretive Center – Baker City
Maintenance, restoration and repair of hiking trails.
Mark Wilkening (541) 473-6218

Bastendorff Beach
Weed removal, and cleanup.
Robert M. Golden (541) 751-280

Spokane
Yakima River Canyon (Border/Wenatchee)
Trail maintenance, trash pick-up, planting and weed removal.
Steve A. Smith (5409) 536-1219

WASHINGTON

Upper Nestucca OHV Area
Trail work and brush removal.
Debra Drake (503) 815-1134

Ariel Hiller (541) 464-3356

Bat box/goose nest construction, trail work, wood cutting, planting.
Mike Bechdolt (541) 883-6916
WHEREAS: America’s system of public lands includes parks, unique landscapes, forests, wildlife refuges, historic trails, natural streams and wetlands, nature centers, gardens and other landmark areas throughout the nation that individually and collectively represent irreplaceable national resources; and

WHEREAS: Public lands provide locally accessible natural and cultural resources for environmental learning, wildlife appreciation and recreation; and

WHEREAS: Public lands promote civic ideals that include shared stewardship and recognition of public ownership; and

WHEREAS: Shared stewardship requires the goodwill, cooperation and active support of citizens, community, city and state officials, business leaders, children and adults; and

WHEREAS: The Civilian Conservation Corps (1933-1944) gave our nation a magnificent legacy of stewardship of our treasured natural resources that is being passed to younger generations; and

WHEREAS: Land conservation builds awareness among urban dwellers with concerns about planned development, shared land use, preservation of wild areas and natural habitats, and the benefits realized by diligent restoration and enhancement efforts; and

WHEREAS: An alliance between private citizens, land managers and community leaders improves the condition of publicly held lands for the greater enjoyment and enrichment of all Americans; and

WHEREAS: National Public Lands Day, co-sponsored by the National Environmental Education Foundation, the Bureau of Land Management, the Bureau of Reclamation, the Department of Defense, the National Park Service, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers and USDA Forest Service, and has become an annually anticipated event for local participation on publicly held lands in Oregon.

NOW, THEREFORE: I, Theodore R. Kulongoski, Governor of the State of Oregon, hereby proclaim September 25, 2010 to be NATIONAL PUBLIC LANDS DAY

in Oregon and encourage all Oregonians to join in this observance.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I hereunto set my hand and cause the Great Seal of the State of Oregon to be affixed. Done at the Capitol in the City of Salem in the State of Oregon on this day, August 23, 2010.

Theodore R. Kulongoski, Governor

Kate Brown, Secretary of State