

News Release



USDA Forest Service
Pacific Northwest Region



USDI Bureau of Land Management
Oregon/Washington

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Volunteers sought for National Public Lands Day 2006

PORTLAND- Oregon/Washington Bureau of Land Management and Forest Service Pacific Northwest Region are looking for volunteers to participate in the 13th annual National Public Lands Day on Saturday, September 30, 2006. In what has become the largest volunteer hands-on effort of its kind in the country, participants will come together to lend a hand to the very lands they use to hike, bike, climb, fish, swim, explore, picnic, or just plain relax.

Individuals, families, and community groups of all ages are encouraged to come together to give something back to their public lands. All tools, safety equipment, and materials needed for the projects will be provided.

In addition, all day-use fees will be waived on Saturday, September 30 to encourage visitation to our nation's public lands, national forests, and grasslands as well as lands managed by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, the National Park Service, and the Army Corps of Engineers. Fees for overnight camping, cabin rentals, heritage expeditions, recreation permits, and reservations will not be waived.

Volunteers who pitched-in last year on National Public Lands Day helped to 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 in the Bend area, and eradicated invasive weeds and planted native vegetation and seedlings in the Umpqua Basin near Roseburg.

"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, Volunteer Coordinator for the BLM. "We are committed to promoting awareness about citizen stewardship and increasing volunteer opportunities for the public."

National Public Lands Day is a unique public-private partnership involving many federal, state, and local land management agencies. These agencies work closely with business partners such as Toyota, and numerous non-profit organizations such as SOLV, OHV Trail Riders Association, local Watershed Councils, Oregon Natural Desert Association, Rocky Mountain Elk Foundation, and Pacific Crest Trail Association – to name a few.

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, visit www.npld.com or call 800-VOL-TEER (800-865-8337) Remember....."It's your land, lend a hand."