

News Release



USDA Forest Service
Pacific Northwest Region



USDI Bureau of Land Management
Oregon/Washington

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The Forest Service and BLM Celebrate National Trails Day

PORTLAND, May 22, 2006 – Saturday, June 3, 2006 marks the 14th annual National Trails Day. People can join the celebration by enjoying a hike at a favorite trail or by participating in a planned volunteer activity like a trail work project or dedication.

The United States has about 200,000 miles of community, State, and Federal trails, according to the American Hiking Society's website. People use these trails to exercise, experience scenic views, escape the stresses of daily routine, access a favorite spot, and enjoy the company of fellow hikers, bikers or horse riders.

The website also lists over a thousand National Trails Day events planned across the country. For more information or to find an event near you, visit www.americanhiking.org/events/ntd/index.html.

The Pacific Northwest Region of the Forest Service and Oregon/Washington Bureau of Land Management will help celebrate National Trails Day by making all National Forest and BLM recreation day-use fee sites free on June 3rd. These sites normally require a recreation pass, such as the Northwest Forest Pass, Golden Eagle, Golden Age, or Golden Access Passport.

Revenue from recreation fees are used to maintain the facilities and services associated with trails and other outdoor recreation sites. In 2005 recreation fee sites, including campgrounds and cabin rentals, generated approximately \$10 million in the Pacific Northwest for both agencies. Many of these dollars funded trail maintenance and other recreation projects completed by youth crews or were combined with money from grants or partnerships to fund larger projects. To see how these funds were used, please visit the Forest Service website at: www.fs.fed.us/r6/passespermits/accomplishments. For more information on the BLM recreation fee program, visit www.blm.gov/recreation/fees/program.html.