

NEWS Release BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT

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Celebrate National Public Lands Day on Lopez Island

Lopez Island, Wash. -- This year's National Public Lands Day is Saturday, Sept. 26. The Bureau of Land Management's (BLM) event will be hosted by Odlin County Park and co-hosted by Spencer Spit State Park on Lopez Island's north end from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. The event will be the tenth year National Public Lands Day is celebrated on the island. Planned activities include kayaking, footbridge construction, a beach clean-up, marine invertebrate identification, nature walks, trail projects and kid-friendly activities including an environmentally focused story time and a scavenger hunt.

"Odlin County Park is glad to be a part of the National Public Lands Day tradition on the San Juan Islands this year." says David St. George, Park Manager.

National Public Lands Day is a fairly young event, founded only 21 years ago in 1994 but its scope belies its age. Last year 175,000 people participated at 2,132 sites across the country and in Puerto Rico. The events focus on environmental education and making connections between people and lands as well as improvements to public lands.

At Odlin County Park you will find fun and helpful work projects such as footbridge construction and trail work as well as environmental education activities including marine invertebrate identification, a nature walk and an all-day kids table.

Spencer Spit State Park has kayak rides, Leave No Trace sea kayak instruction and a beach clean-up. The day will conclude at Odlin County Park with snacks and a raffle.

A variety of partners have come together to make National Public Lands Day a celebration to remember this year, including The San Juan County Parks & Fair Department, Spencer Spit State Park, The San Juan Islands National Monument, The San Juan County Land Bank, The Lopez Community Trails Network, The San Juan Nature Institute, Leave No Trace and Wolf Hollow as well as many private community members.

For more information please contact BLM Event Coordinator Stacy Bower at (360) 468-3754. To learn more about NPLD, please visit the Media Center at www.publiclandsday.org/.

-BLM-

The BLM manages more than 245 million acres of public land, the most of any Federal agency. This land, known as the National System of Public Lands, is primarily located in 12 Western states, including Alaska. The BLM also administers 700 million acres of sub-surface mineral estate throughout the nation. The BLM's mission is to manage and conserve the public lands for the use and enjoyment of present and future generations under our mandate of multiple-use and sustained yield. In Fiscal Year 2014, the BLM generated \$5.2 billion in receipts from public lands.

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