



This year, National Public Lands Day was held on Saturday, September 28. BLM-New Mexico hosted eight National Public Lands Day (NPLD) events, with six occurring on Saturday, one on Sunday, September 29, and another on Friday, November 1.

At the event held at the El Malpais National Conservation Area, 17 volunteers built and repaired a section of the Continental Divide Scenic Trails. The volunteers hiked over 7 miles and repaired twelve cairns, rebuilt or moved eight cairns, and replaced fifteen lost, faded, or broken trail marker signs. They also cut just under one mile of new trail tread.



At the Fort Stanton-Snowy River Cave National Conservation Area, ten adults and nine Girl Scouts (from Troop 18044 and Troop 20) built watering wells around ten-15-foot tall cottonwood trees and staked and tied down trees.



The event hosted at the Hackberry Lake Special Recreation Management Area had 40 volunteers. The group picked up 8 bags of trash, installed ten carsonites/decals, installed 6 sign posts/signs, trimmed 3 miles of trail, and repaired one off-highway vehicle (OHV) cattle guard.



The Farmington Field Office event at Glade Run Recreation Area had 152 volunteers who picked up 19 tires and 9,220 pounds of trash, including furniture, tires, and mattresses.



Nearly 60 people showed up for the event at the Wild Rivers Visitor Center, hosted by the Taos Field Office. The event was the culmination of weeks of work in local schools, merging science and culinary arts curriculums for a tasty outcome. Río Grande del Norte Artist-in-Residence Anita McKeown started the day with a lecture about her past efforts to use food as a means to educate and build community. Afterward, everyone went to the Big Tent where the makings for ice cream, all locally sourced, were made available to the 20 teams that entered the Ice Cream Olympics. After a few minutes of instruction, the Games began - plastic balls filled with the ice cream mixture, with an outer ball filled with ice and salt were rolled, paddled, tossed, bowled, and otherwise moved around to churn the mixings. The judges were given 20 samples for tasting. After much deliberation, the winning team was announced - Team Cutthroat (after the trout), who are Kelon Crawford and Mark Gates. The winning frozen yogurt recipe includes roasted tomatillo salsa, raspberry jam, and lemon extract.



The Las Cruces District hosted an even with 18 volunteers at the Aden Hills OHV Area. The volunteers helped staff with trail and parking/staging area cleanup and maintenance. In total, the volunteers collected 750 pounds of trash.



At the Doña Ana Mountains Recreation Area, the BLM partnered with 20 volunteers from the Friends of the Organ Mountains—Desert Peaks and the Cruceño Cleanup Crew to clean up an illegal dump site at “The Pit” and the surrounding area. In total, the volunteers collected 1200 pounds of trash.



At the Socorro Nature Area, 230 volunteers (200 fifth graders and 30 adults) met to conduct riparian habitat restoration along the Río Grande. The purpose of the event is “Expanding the minds of youngsters in an around the Bosque.”

