



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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Nation's Largest One-Day Volunteer Effort for Public Lands Set for September 26

National Public Lands Day to be held for 16th year

WASHINGTON, D.C. – 130,000 Americans will grab shovels, pruning sheers and gloves to help improve the nation's public lands on Sept. 26, 2009 as part of National Public Lands Day, an annual event held at over 2,000 sites across the country.

"Wherever Americans go outdoors to explore, hike, fish, paddle, jog or just enjoy nature, that location is likely to be a candidate for a National Public Lands Day event," said Robb Hampton, director of National Public Lands Day, a program of the National Environmental Education Foundation. "For 2009, we will have a special focus on the connection water has on our public lands."

Toyota Motor Sales USA, Inc., the primary sponsor for National Public Lands Day (NPLD), is supporting the program for the eleventh consecutive year.

The one-day army of volunteers has an immediate positive impact on public lands. Last year, over 120,000 volunteers planted an estimated 1.6 million trees, fixed hundreds of miles of hiking trails and removed trash at nearly 1,900 sites. Volunteer efforts totaled an estimated \$13 million worth of time and in-kind contributions. This year, the number of sites is expected to grow to more than 2,000 with expected contributions over \$14 million.

With the focus on water this year, volunteers will be able to participate in activities such as shoreline beautification, wildlife habitat restoration, testing water quality in our streams and rivers, and maintaining visitor facilities in parks and wildlife refuges.

The nation's public lands benefit from a great variety of volunteer projects each year. This year organizers are expecting a record number of volunteers participating at events all over the nation. Nonprofit organizations, community groups and land management agencies at the local, county, state and federal levels are among the participants in these activities and events.

"The growth of the program and its impact in beautifying and preserving public lands has been tremendous," Hampton states. "We're predicting 2009 will be the biggest National Public Lands Day yet."

Get your readers and their families out to enjoy this nationwide volunteer event! Community members can find an NPLD site in their area or register a location of their own through the National Public Lands Day zip code locator located at www.publiclandsday.org. For photos from last year's event, to schedule interviews or for any other information, contact Patricia Charles at npldmedia@kelleycampaigns.com.

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The National Environmental Education Foundation (NEEF) provides knowledge to trusted professionals who, with their credibility, amplify messages to national audiences to solve everyday environmental problems. Together, we generate lasting positive change. NEEF partners with professionals in health, education, media, business and public land management to promote daily actions for helping people protect and enjoy the environment. Through our primary programs - Classroom Earth, National Public Lands Day, National Environmental Education Week, Business and Environment, Earth Gauge[®] and Health & Environment - we offer Americans knowledge to live by. To learn more, call (202) 833-2933 or visit www.neefusa.org.