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California Celebrates National Public Lands Day on September 26
Volunteers provide no-cost solution wildfire clean up at Angeles National Forest

WASHINGTON, D.C. —Among 90 projects across California, Golden Gate National Recreation Area in San Francisco and Big Tujunga Canyon in the Angeles National Forest in Los Angeles County will host high-profile activities on Saturday, September 26 as part of National Public Lands Day, the nation's largest annual one-day outdoor volunteer event..

In Los Angeles, nearly 250 square miles of the forest burned over the past few weeks as the Station Fire raged. National Public Lands Day volunteers will have an opportunity to tour the site and learn about restoration efforts as part of the day's events.

"Often, when we see the footage and read the news about disasters like the Station Fire, we wonder what we can do to help. National Public Lands Day offers volunteers a chance to revitalize the park and view for themselves the areas damaged by the blaze earlier this month," said Robb Hampton, director of National Public Lands Day, a program of the National Environmental Education Foundation. "Both our Los Angeles and San Francisco sites give Americans a chance to give back and help protect and beautify the public spaces they treasure."

On National Public Lands Day, volunteers will pitch in to repair trails, rehabilitate recreation sites and remove trash and other debris in the Big Tujunga Canyon.

Tom Tidwell, chief of the U.S. Forest Service will be joined by Hiroshi Mazawa, vice president of Toyota Motor Engineering & Manufacturing North America, Inc. at a closing ceremony.

Volunteers include employees from Toyota and members of the Los Angeles Conservation Corps and Outward Bound L.A.

In San Francisco, at Golden Gate National Recreation Area, a long-standing tradition of National Public Lands Day activities will be expanded volunteer projects to suit different interests and abilities at this well-known location for tourists. More than 400 people are expected to pitch in at locations throughout the park.

Now in its 16th year, National Public Lands Day draws tens of thousands of volunteers to sites across the country. A renewed emphasis on service and community involvement prompted by President Obama's *United We Serve* initiative is expected to drive record turnout with 130,000 volunteers expected at sites in 2009. National Public Lands Day is a project of the National Environmental Education Foundation and is sponsored by Toyota Motor Sales, USA, Inc.

Two other signature sites across the country will be the birth home of Rev. Martin Luther King, Jr. in Atlanta, Ga. and America's "front yard," the National Mall in Washington, D.C.

Each will draw dignitaries and volunteers, alike, as they work to improve and preserve America's treasured public spaces.

The Ken Burns' documentary, "*The National Parks: America's Best Idea*," will premiere the day after National Public Lands Day, on Sunday, September 27. As part of the nationwide celebration, a preview of the documentary will be aired during an opening ceremony at 9 a.m. on National Public Lands Day.

As part of the celebration, free entrance will be granted to all 391 National Parks on Saturday, September 26.

National Public Lands Day was established in 1994 to carry on the legacy of the Civilian Conservation Corps (CCC), a program to revive communities and create opportunities for employment following the Great Depression. The event is a program of the National Environmental Education Foundation.

For more information about National Public Lands Day and to locate volunteer projects in other parts of California and beyond, please visit www.publiclandsday.org.

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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.