

# NATIONAL PUBLIC LANDS DAY

On Saturday, September 29, 2001, a veritable army of volunteers answered BLM's call and set to work in a big way to enhance our public lands. For these dedicated folks, the eighth annual celebration of National Public Lands Day (NPLD)—the nation's premier workday on behalf of our nation's public lands—offered a life-affirming opportunity to support America by enhancing its irreplaceable natural and cultural resources. The nationwide event was coordinated by the non-profit, Washington, DC-based National Environmental Education & Training Foundation (NEETF), with participation by eight federal land management agencies, the Environmental Protection Agency, private partner groups, and local and national sponsors, including the Public Lands Foundation, Leave No Trace, and Toyota USA.

In 2001, BLM hosted an extraordinary variety of work and educational activities at a record-breaking 66 NPLD sites from Alaska to Florida, enlisting the aid of more than 6,000 volunteers of all ages, backgrounds, and experience. At Virginia's Pohick Bay Regional Park site, for example, volunteers—including then-BLM Acting Director Nina Rose Hatfield—constructed water bars to control erosion, cleared an overgrown trail, and planted 400 trees. At Painted Hand Ruin, within Colorado's breathtaking Canyons of the Ancients National Monument, local cultural site stewards and members of local archaeological society

chapters led volunteers in building rock steps and installing interpretive and directional signs at this prehistoric cultural site. And thanks to almost superhuman, volunteer efforts at the Cleveland-Lloyd Dinosaur Quarry National Natural Landmark in Utah, a 620-foot-long, 4-foot-wide concrete trail now beckons visitors with disabilities to travel easily to quarry buildings in all weather. At scores of other BLM events around the nation, volunteers helped to improve wildlife habitat, stabilize stream channels, paint, revegetate, weed, and otherwise pamper thousands of acres of BLM public lands.

NPLD added another dimension in 2001: The National Association of Civilian Conservation Corps (CCC) Alumni—Franklin D. Roosevelt's "tree army," which existed from 1933 to 1942—formally transferred its conservation legacy to the National Public Lands Day federal partnership. "Keeping the Promise" was added as a new slogan to NPLD promotional literature, and shovels changed hands at former CCC sites around the country as symbols of this new NPLD commitment. At BLM-South Dakota's "Footsteps of the Past" event at Camp Fechner, for example, 17 CCC alumni and more than 75 volunteers attended a special "passing of the shovel" ceremony; the most senior alumnus present was 93 years old. A CCC camp replica sign was installed, 25 trailer loads of brush and tree slash were piled, and volunteers participated in educational

presentations about the former CCC camp's history, public lands stewardship, and fire ecology.

Victims of the September 11 terrorist attacks were also remembered on National Public Lands Day. "National Public Lands Day...

provides us with an opportunity to try to help, in some small way, the people of New York City," said Kevin Coyle, President of NEETF. "In heeding the President's call to return to normalcy, we want to do what we can to restore nature and beauty to Manhattan, and so we are creating a CCC Trust Fund."



Grass seeding at the Gerber Recreation Area near Klamath Falls was one of many projects that kept National Public Lands Day volunteers busy throughout Oregon.