



Department of Defense National Public Lands Day 2013

Project # 13-086

Background:

National Public Lands Day began in 1994 with three sites and 700 volunteers. Coordinated by the National Environmental Education Foundation, National Public Lands Day (NPLD) is the nation's largest single-day effort for public lands.

In 2013, approximately 175,000 volunteers worked at 2,237 locations in all 50 states, the District of Columbia, Guam, Puerto Rico and the U.S. Virgin Islands. Along with the Department of Defense (DoD), seven federal agencies, nonprofits and many state and local governments participate in this annual day of caring for shared lands. NPLD takes place on the last Saturday of September. In 2013, National Public Lands Day took place on September 28. In 2014, NPLD will occur on September 27.

The DoD Legacy Resource Management Program joined the NPLD partnership in 1999 to support volunteer habitat restoration projects on military installations open to the public for recreation throughout the United States. Legacy has provided financial support for NPLD events over the past 15 years.

means and labor to complete small installation-specific projects that while beneficial to the installations, may not otherwise get done due to budget or manpower limitations. These projects improve habitat and biodiversity for common and rare species alike, which may help reduce the need for intense management and constraints to installation operations.

Additionally, NPLD provides an opportunity for the military to invite the community to learn about these lands and understand the unique challenges surrounding natural resource management on DoD installations.

Accomplishments:

In 2013, 30 applicants were selected to receive Legacy funds. Many sites focused on improving habitat for pollinator species such as bees, birds, bats and insects. The following are examples of work done at selected military installations:

- Beale Air Force Base in California—volunteers improved areas affected by flooding to enhance ecosystem function and to provide habitat for more pollinator species.
- Camp McCain Training Center in Mississippi—volunteers participated in a cemetery clean up and marker dedication to help restore two historical cemeteries.
- Fort Riley in Kansas—volunteers worked to improve the Kaw River Trail, which is used for hiking, walking and additional recreational activities.

Volunteers at Naval Weapons Station Seal Beach in California restored native vegetation to provide habitat and shelter for endangered birds and many pollinators.



Objective:

A primary objective of NPLD is to enlist those who use public lands for recreation to help care for the natural places they enjoy. NPLD educates Americans about critical environmental and natural resources issues and the need for shared stewardship of these valued, irreplaceable lands.

Summary of Approach:

NPLD projects that take place on military installations with some lands open to the public for recreation are eligible for DoD Legacy funding. This is a competitive funding application process. Projects emphasize habitat and cultural restoration. In 2013, the maximum amount awarded to each site was \$6,500. Funds may be used for equipment, materials and enhancements to land used by the public, but not for T-shirts, food or labor. The application is at: publiclandsday.org. Applications are due in the summer.

Benefit:

The military benefits from enhancing and restoring lands for recreation with much of this work directed to improving natural habitat for wildlife or cultural resources. Participating in NPLD provides the natural and cultural resources managers the

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National Public Lands Day



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