



Department of Defense National Public Lands Day 2005

05-86

Background:

National Public Lands Day began in 1994 with three sites and 700 volunteers. Coordinated by the National Environmental Education & Training Foundation, National Public Lands Day (NPLD) is the nation's largest hands-on volunteer effort to improve and enhance the public lands American's enjoy. In 2005, nearly 90,000 volunteers worked at 800 locations in all 50 states, Puerto Rico, Guam, and the District of Columbia. Now, 9 federal agencies and many state and local lands participate in this annual day of caring for shared lands. Generally, NPLD takes place on the last Saturday of September. In 2005, National Public Lands Day took place on September 30.

The Department of Defense (DoD) Legacy Resource Management Program joined the NPLD partnership in 1999 to support volunteer habitat restoration projects on military installations.

Objective:

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

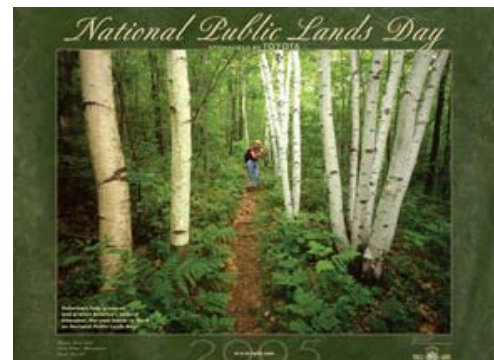
The military benefits from enhancing and restoring lands for recreation with much of this work directed to improving natural and cultural habitat for wildlife. Also, in 2006, National Public Lands Day celebrates the 100th Anniversary of the Antiquities Act and the 40th Anniversary of the National Historic Preservation Act. Additionally, the military benefits by inviting the community to learn about these lands and understand the unique challenges surrounding natural resource management on DoD installations.



Photo by Pedro Morales
Naval Academy, Greenbury Point, MD

Summary of Approach:

NPLD projects that take place on military installations are eligible for DoD Legacy Awards. This is a competitive funding application process. Projects generally emphasize habitat and cultural restoration - the forests, mountains, prairies, plains, rivers, wetlands, and urban streams that are home to a rich diversity of animals and plants as well as historic buildings, bridges, and other cultural structures. The maximum amount awarded to each site is \$6,000. Funds may be used for tools and equipment, materials, and enhancements to land used by the public, but not for T-shirts, food, or labor. The application is posted on the NPLD website (www.publiclandsday.org) and applications are due at the end of May.



Accomplishments:

In 2005, 23 out of 37 applications were selected to receive Legacy funds. Here are just a few examples of work done at the selected military installations. At Fort Leonard Wood, MO 50 Boy Scouts built and installed 40 bluebird houses and 50 foot safety handrail. At Fort Dix, NJ over 100 volunteers installed biologs for shoreline erosion. At Lima Army Tank Plant, OH almost 40 Scouts constructed windmills driven aerators. At Naval Weapons Station Seal Beach, CA over 350 volunteers removed 2000 pounds of trash, 2000 pounds of invasive vegetation and planted 500 shrubs.

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