



Department of Defense National Public Lands Day 2008

08-086

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 hands-on volunteer effort to improve and enhance the public lands Americans enjoy. In 2008, approximately 120,000 volunteers worked at over 1,800 locations in all 50 states, Puerto Rico, Guam, the Virgin Islands, and the District of Columbia. Along with Department of Defense (DoD), 7 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 2008, National Public Lands Day took place on September 27th.

The DoD Legacy Resource Management Program joined the NPLD partnership in 1999 to support volunteer habitat restoration projects on military installations throughout the U.S. and has provided financial support for NPLD events for the past 10 years.



Military volunteer helps remove invasive weeds and restore native vegetation at Makua Military Reservation on the island of Oahu, Hawaii on National Public Lands Day 2008.

Objective:

The primary objective of NPLD is to enlist those who use public lands for recreation in helping to 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 habitat for wildlife or cultural resources. 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.



Summary of Approach:

NPLD projects that take place on military installations are eligible for DoD Legacy funding. This is a competitive funding application process and 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 was \$6,500. 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 in May or June each year.



Volunteer installs bat boxes at Naval Submarine Base New London in Groton, Connecticut on National Public Lands Day 2008.

Accomplishments:

In 2008, 37 out of 52 applications were selected to receive Legacy funds. The following are just a few examples of work done at the selected military installations. At Makua Military Reservation in Hawaii, volunteers removed invasive weeds and re-introduced native ferns. At Naval Air Station Oceana Dam Neck Annex in Virginia, volunteers restored and stabilized a coastal dune ecosystem by planting over 10,000 native plants. At Fort Stewart in Georgia, volunteers rehabilitated an historic military cemetery.

Contact Information:

Program Coordinator
National Environmental Education Foundation
4301 Connecticut Ave. NW, Ste. 160
Washington, DC 20008

Ph: (202) 261-6478 Email: npld@neefusa.org

Website: www.publiclandsday.org OR

Jane Mallory, DoD Legacy Resource Management Program
1225 S Clark St. Ste 1500, Arlington VA 22202

Ph: (703) 604-1774; Email Jane.Mallory_ctr@osd.mil

Website: www.dodlegacy.org