



Department of Defense National Public Lands Day 2007

07-86



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 2007, approximately 110,000 volunteers worked at 1,300 locations in all 50 states, Puerto Rico, Guam, 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 2007, National Public Lands Day took place on September 29th.

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 9 years.

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.



Boy Scout volunteers plant wildflowers and other native vegetation at Randolph Air Force Base in Texas during NPLD 2007

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 at the end of each May.



Volunteer removes invasive plants from NIOC Sugar Grove in West Virginia during NPLD 2007

Accomplishments:

In 2007, 36 out of 49 applications were selected to receive Legacy funds. The following are just a few examples of work done at the selected military installations. At Fort Lewis, Washington, volunteers removed invasive Reed Canary Grass and other invasive plants while improving habitat for native bird species. At Fort Dix in New Jersey, volunteers restored the shoreline of an eroding lake. At Columbus Air Force Base in Mississippi, volunteers created several butterfly gardens. At Quantico Marine Corps Base in Virginia, volunteers enhanced the historic Prince William County Courthouse.

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