



**DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY**  
**U.S. ARMY ENGINEER DISTRICT, SAN FRANCISCO**  
**CORPS OF ENGINEERS**  
**LAKE SONOMA**  
**3333 SKAGGS SPRINGS ROAD**  
**GEYSERVILLE, CA 95441-9644**

Contact: Joel Miller U.S. Army Corps of Engineers  
(707) 433-9483 ext. 20

**LAKE SONOMA TO BE SPRUCED UP  
BY LOCAL VOLUNTEERS  
ON NATIONAL PUBLIC LANDS DAY**

**LAKE SONOMA 1 OF 500 NATIONALLY  
TARGETED FOR SPECIAL EFFORT ON SEPT. 28**

Geyserville, CA Sep 28th – Lake Sonoma will have its shorelines cleaned and trails repaired as Sonoma County residents lend a hand on the largest one-day volunteer hands-on restoration event for public lands held each year.

Volunteers from Santa Rosa Junior College, Sonoma State University, Boy Scouts of America, and Girl Scouts will pitch in at Lake Sonoma to restore trails as part of the 9<sup>th</sup> annual National Public Lands Day (NPLD) on Saturday, September 28.

Sponsored by Toyota Motor Sales USA, NPLD brings thousands of volunteers throughout America together to refurbish and restore the country's public places. These are the lands and facilities they use for recreation, education, and just plain enjoyment. They encompass national parks, monuments, wildlife refuges, forests, grasslands, marine sanctuaries, lakes, and reservoirs managed by federal government agencies, but belonging to, and are enjoyed by, all Americans. This year's NPLD theme is "Explore America's Backyard."

"On National Public Lands Day, we all have a chance to contribute to the betterment of our public lands for this and future generations of Americans," said Park Manager Perry Crowley. "At Lake Sonoma, local volunteers will have a unique opportunity to give something back to our country and our community by improving hiking trails and removing debris from the shoreline. This year, I encourage everyone to consider doing just that."

At least 70,000 volunteers are expected at 500 sites for NPLD 2002. The National Environmental Education & Training Foundation, which has managed and coordinated the annual all-day effort from its start in 1994, estimates that the volunteers' work, along with community contributions of food, tools, and equipment, will result in more than \$8 million of improvements and provide the day's "Helping Hands for America's Lands."

For the fourth consecutive year, Toyota is the national NPLD sponsor. Sponsorship of national and regional environmental preservation projects is just one of many areas in which Toyota has proven environmental stewardship. Toyota operates under a global Earth charter that makes caring for the earth a priority. The company created the world's first mass-produced,

clean-running gas/electric hybrid car, the Prius, which has received numerous environmental awards, most notably from the Sierra Club and National Wildlife Federation.

By educating volunteers at work sites across the country, NPLD maintains the legacy of the Civilian Conservation Corps, an army of 3 million Americans who in the 1930's countered the devastation of the Dust Bowl and the American chestnut blight by planting more than 3 billion trees, building bridges and 800 state parks, and fighting forest fires.

Since its inception, NPLD has dramatically demonstrated Americans' concern for their public lands. The first event was sponsored by three federal agencies and attracted 700 volunteers to three sites. Last year, nine federal agencies and 85 state and local partners supported the efforts of 65,000 volunteers at 375 sites.

The nine participating federal agencies are the National Park Service, USDA Forest Service, US Army Corps of Engineers, Bureau of Land Management, Bureau of Reclamation, Department of Defense, Environmental Protection Agency, Fish and Wildlife Service, and Tennessee Valley Authority. Other event partners are the Outdoor Life Network, *Backpacker* magazine, and approximately 125 state, county, and city partners, including state parks departments in Indiana, Maryland, Massachusetts, Pennsylvania, and Washington. Joining them will be the Boy Scouts and Girl Scouts, Sierra Club, National Association of Service Conservation Corps, Wonderful Outdoor World, American Hiking Society, Garden Club of America, National Parks Conservation Association, and scores of other nonprofit organizations.

The National Environmental Education & Training Foundation, chartered by Congress in 1990, is a private nonprofit organization that develops and supports environmental learning programs to meet social goals, and builds partnerships between government, the private sector and non-governmental organizations.

For more information, contact Park Ranger Joel Miller at (707) 433-9483 ext. 20 or see a list of NPLD sites, activities, contacts, and downloadable photos from past events on [www.npld.com](http://www.npld.com).

\* \* \*