



**Pacific Northwest Region
Malheur National Forest**
541-575-3000
www.fs.usda.gov/malheur

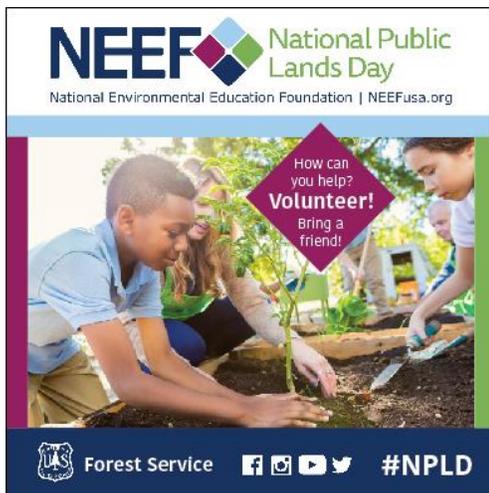
News Release

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Celebrate National Public Lands Day!

John Day, Prairie City, and Hines, Ore. – Join us on Saturday, September 24th for National Public Lands Day, the nation’s largest, single-day volunteer effort for public lands. To encourage people to join in and visit their public lands, National Public Lands Days is a fee-free day for Forest Service recreation sites.



“Our public lands are a national treasure belonging to all Americans,” said Jim Peña, Pacific Northwest Regional Forester. “On this National Public Lands Day, whether you’re volunteering in your community or enjoying the great outdoors, we thank you for helping us celebrate and care for these special places.”

Many National Public Lands Day volunteer projects are being held across Oregon and Washington. Projects include planting trees, building and repairing trails and bridges, removing trash and invasive plants, refurbishing historic structures, monitoring wildlife, and restoring natural habitats. To find a volunteer event near you, check with your [local forest](#).

The Malheur National Forest will host a volunteer project on the 24th, targeting the previously unmaintained Reynolds Creek Trail #264 on the Prairie City Ranger District located just off of Forest Road 2635, in section 22. Project work will include clearing roughly 1.8 miles of trail through brush work and tread work. The event is planned to begin at 10:00 a.m., meeting at the trailhead. For further information, contact Susan Garner at 541-575-3039. Following the trail work, a barbecue and interpretive talks are planned for the volunteers.

Fees will be waived at day-use recreation sites in Oregon and Washington. This fee waiver includes many picnic areas, boat launches, trailheads, and visitor centers. Concession operations will continue to charge fees unless the permit holder wishes to participate. Fees for camping, cabin rentals, heritage expeditions, or other permits still apply. To find a recreation site near you, visit our [interactive recreation map](#).



for the greatest good

NEWS RELEASE

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Celebrated annually on the last Saturday in September, National Public Lands Day brings together volunteers, agencies, and partner organizations to connect people to public lands in their community, inspire environmental stewardship, and encourage use of public lands for education, recreation, and general health. Last year, National Public Lands Day volunteers planted 125,000 trees, shrubs and other native plants, removed 550 tons of trash from trails and other places, collected 25,000 pounds of invasive plants, built and maintained 1,600 miles of trails, and saved taxpayers an estimated \$18.5 million through volunteer services to improve public lands across the country. To learn more about National Public Lands Day, visit www.neefusa.org/public-lands-day

Also, as part of the national Every Kid in a Park initiative, all fourth graders and their families can claim their free Every Kid in a Park pass which allows free entry into and use of all federal parks, forests, and recreation areas for a full year. Fourth graders can print out a paper voucher for free entry into and use of all federal lands by visiting the Every Kid in a Park website at www.everykidinapark.gov. Students and their families can also redeem their paper voucher for a plastic pass at any Forest Service office. The voucher and passes are valid for the entire school year, September 1, 2016 - August 31, 2017.

The Pacific Northwest Region consists of 16 National Forests, 59 District Offices, a National Scenic Area, and a National Grassland comprising 24.7 million acres in Oregon and Washington and employing approximately 3,550 people. To learn more about the U.S. Forest Service in the Pacific Northwest, please visit www.fs.usda.gov/r6

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