

State of New Mexico
Energy, Minerals and Natural Resources Department

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News Release

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State Parks To Celebrate National Public Lands Day

*New Mexicans Urged to Join the 175,000 People Nationwide
On September 28th to Support Public Lands and Get Active Outside*

Santa Fe, NM – New Mexico State Parks encourages residents to go to a state park this weekend to celebrate National Public Lands Day. The national celebration encourages citizens around the nation to participate in beautifying the land, improving their fitness and enjoying treasured outdoor space.

“Every State Park in New Mexico represents the best of our public lands,” said State Parks Director Tommy Mutz. “We encourage our residents to visit a state park on September 28th and welcome volunteers for any number of projects.”

A number of activities are scheduled for this weekend.

- Conchas Lake State Park is sponsoring a lakeshore cleanup at 9:00 a.m., fun and games at noon and a special dam tour at 1:00 p.m.
- Oliver Lee State Park will hold a special interpretive program entitled “Rattlesnake Tales.”
- The Rio Grande Nature Center is hosting a nature walk guided in Spanish at 9:00 a.m.
- Look for tarantulas in the hills from 3:00 p.m. to 5:00 p.m. at Cerrillos Hills State Park.
- Santa Rosa State Park has ordered 18 Afghan Pines (each approximately 6 feet tall) to replace some of the trees lost to bark beetle infestation throughout the year. Local Boy Scouts and 4-H groups will plant those trees at the overlook area in the park.
- Choose from a wide selection of native plants at Rockhound State Park’s Fall Plant Sale from 8:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m. Master gardeners will be on hand to help with selection.
- Volksmarch at Sugarite Canyon State Park throughout the day. Volksmarching is a form of non-competitive fitness walking on an outdoor path developed in Europe.

The New Mexico projects and activities are part of a coast-to-coast effort of more than 175,000 volunteers coming together at more than 2,200 sites in all 50 states, Guam, Puerto Rico and Washington, D.C. to donate their time and effort to improving the public lands they enjoy every day. NPLD encourages volunteers to explore and enjoy America's natural wonders through outdoor recreation.

“The year marks the 20th anniversary of NPLD. We’re celebrating the occasion by looking back at all the amazing work done by our volunteers over the years in support of their local, state and national parks and by looking ahead at how communities will continue to use their public lands to improve their quality of life,” said Robb Hampton, program director at the National Environmental Education Foundation (NEEF), which coordinates National Public Lands Day.

This year’s events focuses on New Mexico and the nation’s commitment to supporting public lands,

spending time outdoors and being more active. Research shows that one step to preventing childhood obesity, diabetes and depression is getting kids and families to spend more time outside.

From small urban pocket parks and school yards to majestic destination parks around the country, volunteers work to plant trees, build trails, remove invasive plants and litter, replace signs and otherwise beautify our cherished public lands.

National Public Lands Day began in 1994 with three federal agencies and 700 volunteers. Last year, 175,000 volunteers worked in more than 2,200 locations and in every state. This year, seven federal agencies and many state and local lands will participate in this annual day of caring for shared lands.

For more information, visit the website at publiclandsday.org.

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The Energy, Minerals and Natural Resources Department provides resource protection and renewable energy resource development services to the public and other state agencies.

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