



# **DoD Natural Resources Program**

## **Enabling the Mission, Defending the Resources**

Building Local Awareness through National Public Lands Day (NPLD)  
September 18, 2019

*Please mute your phones.*



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# National Public Lands Day: Department of Defense Awards

# Overview



**This presentation will provide an overview of the following:**

1. The National Environmental Education Foundation (NEEF)
2. National Public Lands Day (NPLD)
3. DoD Natural Resources Program
4. DoD + NPLD: Partnering for Success
5. Questions?

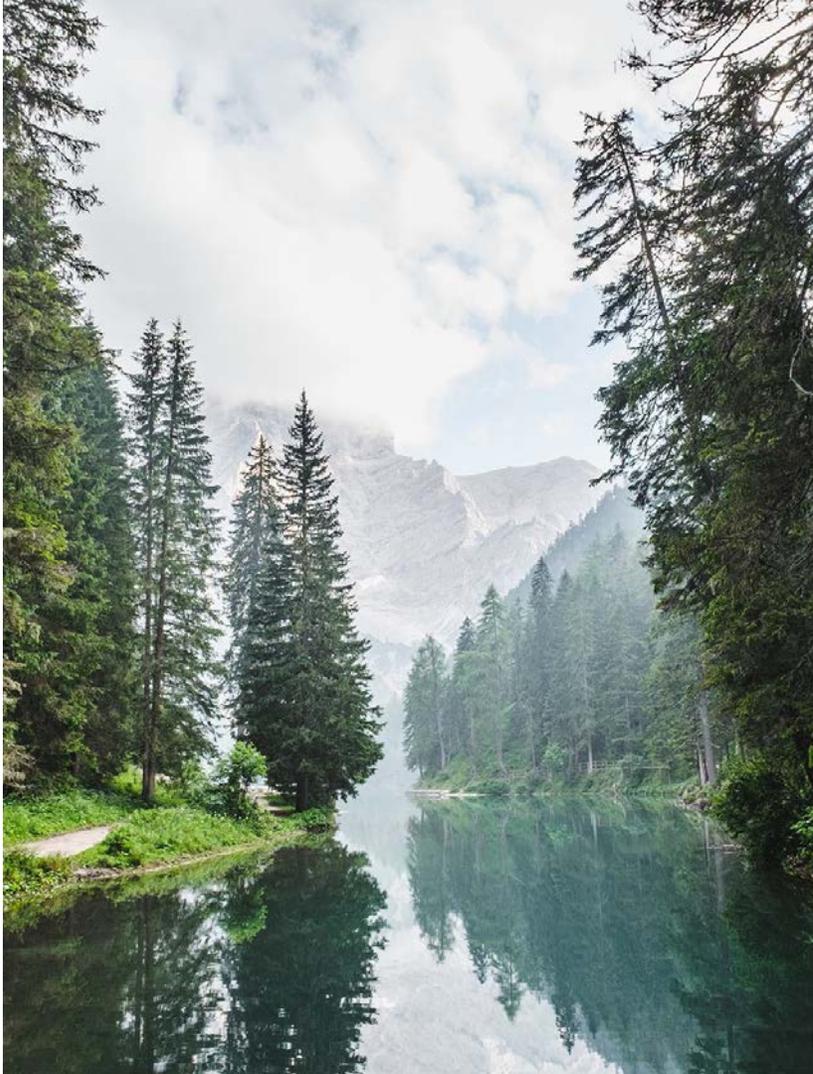
# National Environmental Education Foundation



- Congressionally chartered in 1990 as a 501c3 nonprofit complement to the EPA.
- Charged with advancing environmental literacy nationwide.
- Facilitates public-private partnerships in support of environmental education.
- Non-partisan and non-advocacy



# National Environmental Education Foundation



**Purpose:** To cultivate an environmentally conscious and responsible public.

**Vision:** That people's everyday actions are guided by an understanding and concern for the well-being of people and the planet.

**Mission:** To make the environment more accessible, relatable, relevant, and connected to the daily lives of all Americans.



# National Environmental Education Foundation



## K-12 Education

- Demonstration Projects
- Greening STEM Hub
- EE Week



## Health & Wellness

- Nature Champions
- SunWise
- Asthma Champions



## Conservation/Public Lands

- National Public Lands Day
- Grants
- Engagement Campaigns

# National Public Lands Day

National Public Lands Day is the **largest single-day volunteer effort for America's public lands.**

Each year, hundreds of thousands of volunteers come together on the fourth Saturday in September to assist with various projects designed to restore and enhance public parks, forests, waterways and more.

From trail maintenance to tree planting—volunteers of all ages and abilities roll up their sleeves and work side-by-side to care for public lands.

The annual NPLD celebration is a **Fee-Free Day** for NPS and other participating federal agencies.



# National Public Lands Day



## NATIONAL PUBLIC LANDS DAY 2018

**113,055**  
Volunteers



**452,220**  
Volunteer Hours



**1,176 sites**  
Across the Country



**\$11 Million**  
Value of Volunteer Work



# National Public Lands Day

**Engage Volunteers** - Hosting an NPLD Event provides a fantastic opportunity to engage the public in on-the-ground service. **In a single-day, NPLD volunteers can accomplish hundreds of hours of conservation work** for an agency while sparking a conservation ethic, spreading the your brand, and strengthening relationships with their local public lands.

**Attract New Audiences** - With its status as the nation's largest one-day volunteer event for public lands, **NPLD provides an opportunity for the military to strengthen its relationship on base and with the local community.** By inviting military personnel, their families, and the local community to participate in NPLD projects on installations, all of them can learn about the lands and their elements, and understand the unique challenges surrounding natural and cultural resources management on DoD installations.



# National Public Lands Day



**Let NEEF Do The Work For You** - Site Managers that host NPLD events and register them with NEEF will have their event posted to the official NPLD Event Locator and will also gain access to the NPLD Site Manager's Resources.

**Eligibility for Funding** - By registering an NPLD event with NEEF you'll become eligible to apply for NPLD-related funding opportunities, including the annual **National Public Lands Day Department of Defense Awards**.

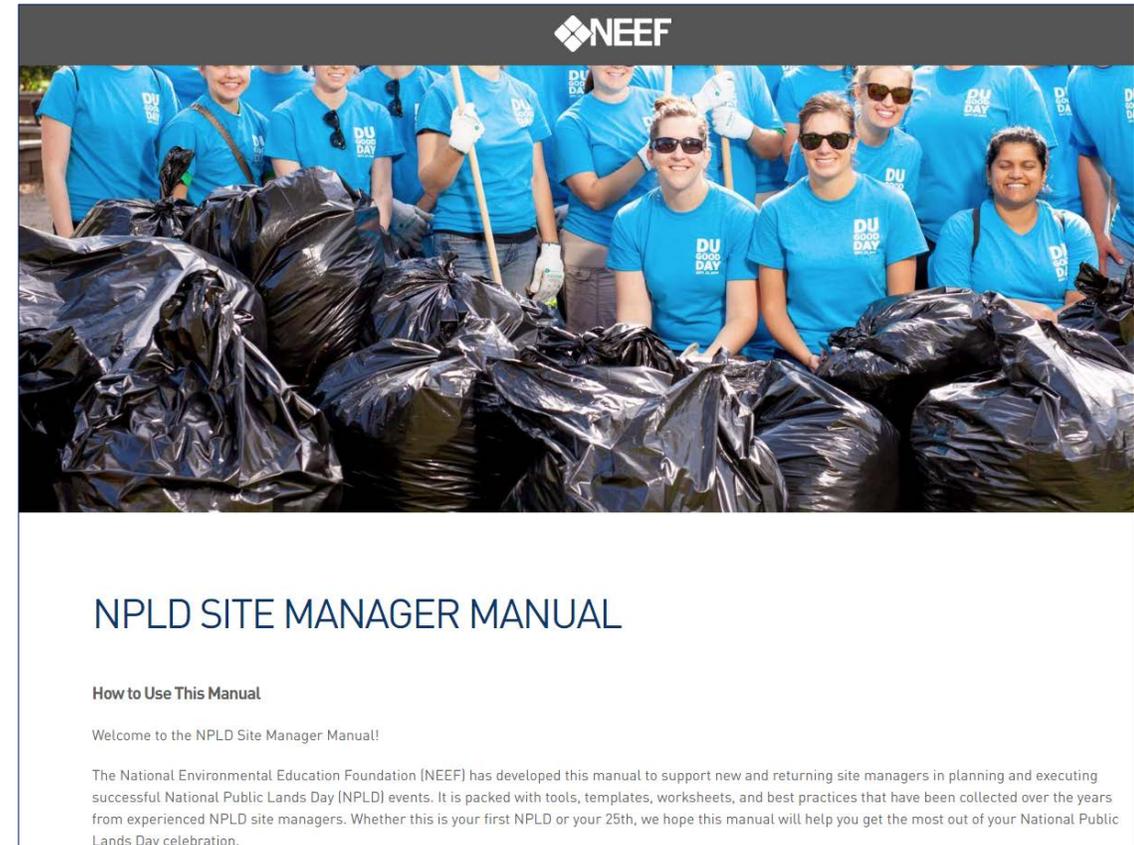


# 2019 NPLD Site Managers Manual

Designed to support new and returning site managers in planning and executing successful National Public Lands Day (NPLD) events. It is packed with tools, templates, worksheets, and best practices that have been collected over the years from experienced NPLD site managers.

Site Manager's Manual includes the following sections:

1. **PLANNING:** FROM IDEA TO ACTION
2. **ORGANIZING:** ENGAGING THE COMMUNITY AND PARTNERS
3. **PROMOTING:** SPREADING THE WORD AND RECRUITING VOLUNTEERS
4. **HOSTING:** SUCCESSFULLY EXECUTING YOUR NPLD EVENT
5. **WRAP-UP:** POST NPLD EVENT ACTIVITIES



# DoD Natural Resources Program

The Department of Defense's (DoD) Natural Resources Program (NR Program) supports the military's testing and training mission by protecting its biological resources.

The NR Program provides policy, guidance, and oversight for management of natural resources on approximately 25 million acres of military land, air, and water resources owned or operated by DoD.

The NR Program's goal is to support the military's combat readiness mission by ensuring continued access to realistic habitat conditions, while simultaneously working to ensure the long-term sustainability of our nation's priceless natural heritage.



# NPLD DoD Awards

## National Public Lands Day Department of Defense Awards:

Since 1999, the Department of Defense (DoD) Natural Resources Program provides funds to the National Environmental Education Foundation for National Public Lands Day (NPLD) projects on military lands that are open to the public for recreation.

Funds are available for base-level projects on any DoD site that supports the goals of National Public Lands Day: to improve the quality of public lands and to educate the public about natural resource issues and stewardship.



# NPLD DoD Awards

## National Public Lands Day Department of Defense Awards:

These projects enable the enhancement and preservation of precious natural resources on installations, as well as the upkeep of other manmade assets. DoD Legacy funding subsidizes maintenance projects like the repair, rehabilitation, or installation of infrastructure such as roads and bridges, visitor centers, trails, benches and signage.



# NPLD DoD Awards

## National Public Lands Day Department of Defense Awards:

In 2018, 26 applicants were selected to receive NPLD DoD Awards. Projects were diverse and spanned a range of focuses including invasive vegetation removal; restoration of habitat; infrastructure repair and more. DoD NPLD sites hosted approximately **1,296 volunteers** who donated over **400 hours of volunteer** time.

## 2018 Conservation Impact for DoD Sites:

- **996,250 lbs.** of Invasive Vegetation Removed
- **57,559** Native Plants and Trees Planted
- **5,543 lbs.** of Trash Collected
- **87 Structures** Built or Maintained
- **5 Trails** Built or Maintained



# 2018 NPLD DoD Awardees

## Camp Navajo, Arizona

Directly planted ~200 native plant including 10 different species in the raised bed gardens outside of our environmental office on the installation. We will use these gardens/greenhouse to grow native plants, seed, and for educational purposes.

This project was intended to setup the foundation for future large-scale restoration out-plantings. We now have the ability to grow ~2000 to 3000 native plants per year in which we will recruit volunteers for future NPLD events and educate volunteers and coworkers on the importance of restoration plantings to restore and create more resilient habitat for training and recreational purposes.





A group of people, mostly wearing waders and hats, are participating in a stream cleanup. They are walking along a narrow path in a wooded area with large green plants. In the foreground, a woman in a blue shirt and brown waders is pushing a blue wheelbarrow filled with long wooden poles. The scene is outdoors and appears to be a natural area.

# Questions?

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