

NATIONAL PUBLIC LANDS DAY A SUCCESS AT LAKE MENDOCINO

Ukiah, CA – Lake Mendocino got a much needed helping hand when 60 volunteers donated 4 hours to paint 70 picnic tables and roadway markings, plant native trees, collect shoreline trash, and stabilize lakeside foundations to prevent erosion on National Public Lands Day (NPLD), Saturday, September 20. Local volunteers here joined thousands of others at 500 sites nationwide. The theme for this year's event was "Lend A Hand To America's Lands," and Lake Mendocino volunteers certainly responded in kind.

Since its inception in 1994, National Public Lands Day 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 125 state and local partners supported the work of 70,000 volunteers at 426 sites. For 2003, 10,000 more volunteers and 75 new sites were expected.

"Saturday clearly showed the commitment of the American people to our special public places," said Kevin Coyle, president of The National Environmental Education & Training Foundation, which coordinates NPLD. "By the thousands they gave up a Saturday to come out to preserve and protect America's lands. In all, more than \$8 million worth of labor and supplies was contributed."

The Lake Mendocino staff would like to thank the volunteers and sponsors that made NPLD possible. Local sponsors include: Albertson's, Diamond Jims, Food Maxx, Frosty Ice Co. Inc., Grocery Outlet, Mariposa Market, Mendo Mill and Lumber Co., Motosports of Ukiah, Northwest Sporting Goods, Noyo Theatre, Purple Thistle, Raley's Supermarket, Ray's Food Place, Ronnies Basics, Ron's Grocery and Tackle, Safeway, Savings Bank of Mendocino, The Superette, Thurston's Auto Plaza, Ukiah Natural Foods, Ukiah Theatre, Vassar's Family Pizza, Wal-Mart, Waste Management, Willits Pharmacy.