

13 July 2001

CECW-ON

MEMORANDUM FOR COMMANDERS, MAJOR SUBORDINATE COMMANDS
AND DISTRICT COMMANDS

SUBJECT: National Public Lands Day – An Invitation for all Commanders

1. I am pleased to announce that the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers has 48 Civil Works projects participating in this year's National Public Lands Day celebration. I encourage you to visit one or more of the National Public Lands Day site locations within your command on 29 September 2001.
2. National Public Lands Day (NPLD) is a unique public-private partnership involving the Corps and other Federal agencies, working closely with business partners and non-profit organizations. The purpose of the one-day annual event is to "showcase the Nation's public lands and the importance of protecting the natural resources through responsible use and volunteerism." Thousands of volunteers will donate their talents by building trails, planting trees, restoring facilities or other projects designed to protect our natural resources. The National Environmental Education and Training Foundation (NEETF) manages, and generates financial support for the program. In 2000, almost 50,000 volunteers contributed \$8 million of improvements at 277 public sites across the country.
3. The Corps has become a major player in National Public Lands Day. During the last six years, the Corps has attracted over 30% of all NPLD volunteers. Our participation has increased from 10 projects in 1996 to 48 projects this year. Our managers have recognized the value that National Public Lands Day plays in supporting the Natural Resources Management and Recreation missions at our Civil Works projects.
4. Enclosure 1 is a list of the Corps of Engineers projects that are participating in this year's NPLD celebration. Also enclosed are a brochure and a news release prepared by NEETF (Enclosures 2 and 3). NEETF is also contacting congressional members and encouraging their participation at NPLD sites within their congressional districts.
5. I request that you support your project offices by attending a National Public Lands Day event on 29 September 2001.

FOR THE COMMANDER:

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HANS A. VAN WINKLE
Major General, USA
Director of Civil Works