

# National Forest Association

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## FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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**SAN BERNARDINO, Calif., September 4, 2009**

## Local Volunteers Sought to Pitch in on National Public Lands Day Saturday, September 26; 9am - 3pm



This September, volunteers will have the opportunity to partake in the exciting and enriching experience of replanting the 2007 Butler Peak burn area in the San Bernardino National Forest. Every helping hand will be part of the largest annual coast-to-coast, single-day volunteer restoration effort for America's public lands.

While rolling up their sleeves, volunteers will learn about the necessities of managing a healthy and fire safe forest. Also, while removing invasive weeds, participants will be contributing

to maintaining the natural biodiversity of our forest. In addition, seed collecting throughout the day will help prepare for future restoration projects. Working together through this great-hearted act of participation, volunteers will not only help with restoring our shared public lands, but they will also benefit from a restored sense of community.

"Last year, National Public Lands Day was a huge success. More than 120,000 participants planted more than 1.6 million trees at over 1,800 events in all 50 states. In 2009, we hope to have the participation of even more volunteers throughout the country, and make the 16th annual National Public Lands Day the most successful yet." said Robb Hampton, director of National Public Lands Day. "Every 100,000 volunteers represent an additional \$1.8 million worth of labor for American lands, and we invite you to join us in this effort." Local organizers are hoping for 150 participants.

Come and pitch in for National Public Lands Day! Meet at the Big Bear Discovery Center at 9am to caravan to the site. Travel will include driving on well-maintained dirt roads for approximately 1 mile, 4x4 not necessary. Bring a hat, sunscreen and some working hands. All tools and lunch will be provided. Volunteers who participate will be rewarded with a pass good for free entry any day during the next year at public land sites managed by: National Park Service, USDA Forest Service, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Bureau of Land Management, and U.S. Army Corps of Engineers.

For more information please call Danielle Grondin at the Big Bear Discovery Center (909) 382-2818.

**Date:** Saturday, September 26<sup>th</sup>

**Time:** 9am-3pm; Meet at the Big Bear Discovery Center

No reservations necessary; just show up! Groups larger than 10, please RSVP so we can make arrangements.

*The San Bernardino National Forest Association is the primary non-profit partner to the U.S. Forest Service, which operates six programs to care for the San Bernardino National Forest. The programs include Children's Forest, Big Bear Discovery Center, Off Highway Vehicle Outreach Education, Forest Care, Fire Lookout Hosts, and the Urban Youth Conservation Corps. For more information, or to help sponsor a program, please call Sarah Miggins at (909) 382-2796*

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