

**San Bernardino National Forest Association**  
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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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**National Public Lands Day a huge success on the San Bernardino National Forest!**

National Public Lands Day started in 1994 with 3 agencies and 700 volunteers as an annual day for Americans to pitch in and give back to America's public lands. This annual event has grown substantially as evidenced by the 2009 event completed on September 26, 2009. Over 150,000 volunteers rallied at community and national parks and forests rehabilitating over 2,000 locations!

The San Bernardino National Forest Association (SBNFA) and the San Bernardino National Forest co-hosted one of the 2,000 sites for National Public Lands Day 2009. We are pleased to announce that through community volunteers and the in-kind support of *Subway, Big Bear Lake*, the forest restoration project was a huge success! Over 100 volunteers from all over San Bernardino County pitched in and planted over 400 native trees, shrubs & flowers in the Butler burn area from the wildfire that occurred in 2007 (located outside of Fawnskin in the Big Bear Valley). They also collected seeds to grow native seedlings at the SBNFA's Children's Forest (Running Springs) and Big Bear greenhouses for future restoration efforts. Volunteers also worked along a dozer line created as a result of the 2007 Butler Fire, replanting this area located close to Big Pine Flats campground; a popular campground and Off Highway Vehicle (OHV) staging area. After a morning of hard work all volunteers were treated to tasty sandwiches, donated by Subway, Big Bear Lake. This generous donation allowed volunteers a chance to refuel and have enough energy to complete this large-scale project.

The Butler restoration project supported the mission of National Public Lands Day by getting communities involved in projects that improve public lands for outdoor recreation, with volunteers assisting land managers in hands-on work. Participants also learned about critical environmental and natural resource issues and the need for shared stewardship of these valued, irreplaceable lands. The SBNFA and Greenthumbs Forest Service Nursery would like to thank all volunteers who helped accomplish this restoration project! Collectively, they contributed 625 hours in community service, and, provided valuable prep work for Forest Aid 2010 beginning in the spring! Forest Aid is a multi-year restoration partnership of the U.S. Forest Service, SBNFA and LA-based Treepeople committed to planting over 25,000 seedlings with over 2,500 volunteers beginning next March for the year 2010. Interested volunteers can visit [www.forestaid.net](http://www.forestaid.net) for more information.

Greenthumbs Forest Service Nursery and the San Bernardino National Forest Association co-host volunteer restoration days on a seasonal basis scheduling restoration days on the 3<sup>rd</sup> Saturday of the month, March through November. The next restoration day is Saturday, October 17, 2009; 9am-3pm. No experience is necessary. Volunteers are requested to meet at the Big Bear Ranger Station flag pole at 9:00 am. Contact Juli Goss at (909) 382-2824 to verify participation.

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**About the San Bernardino National Forest Association (SBNFA)**

The San Bernardino National Forest Association is a 501(c)3 nonprofit organization; tax ID 33-0556414. Founded in 1993 by retired SBNF Supervisor, Gene Zimmerman, the SBNFA was formed to complement and expand the mission of the U.S. Forest Service in “caring for the land and serving the people”. The SBNFA matches federal dollars, builds capacity and resources through partnerships, foundation grants, fund raising events, and donations to create opportunities for people and communities to participate in public lands management. Additionally, the SBNFA instills forest stewardship values through its educational and recreational programs aimed at San Bernardino National Forest visitors and residents; over 15 million annually recreate on this national treasure. This outreach is accomplished through 1,000 volunteers supporting the SBNFA’s six divisions including the Big Bear Discovery Center, Children’s Forest, Fire Lookouts, Forest Care, Off Highway Vehicle outreach education and Urban Conservation Corps. For more information on “Your Partner for Conservation, Education & Recreation”, check out their website, [www.SBNFA.org](http://www.SBNFA.org); or, contact executive director, Sarah Miggins, if you are interested in supporting an SBNFA program.