





A list of volunteer opportunities across the state for National Public Lands Day

National Public Lands Day gives outdoor enthusiasts a chance to pitch-in

Samuel J. Baldwin - Star-Tribune staff writer | Posted: Thursday, September 24, 2009 1:00 am



Courtesy of Curt Gowdy State Park

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Any outdoor enthusiast knows that Wyoming has some of the best public access in the country. This weekend is your chance to give back.

This Saturday is National Public Lands Day, a nationwide event to celebrate publicly owned parks and recreation areas. It started in 1994, and has become the largest single hands-on volunteer effort in the country, according to a National Park Service press release.

There will be six places around the state hosting volunteer opportunities to help rebuild trails, cleanup campgrounds and remove invasive species. Except for the Grand Tetons site, all of the work will be outdoors, so prepare for the weather.

Along with chances to volunteer, entrance to all public lands across the state will be free on Saturday.

Curt Gowdy State Park

Hosted by the Wyoming Conservation Core, this will be the first Public Lands Day event at Curt Gowdy. Along with volunteer work rebuilding trails in the park, they will host the Stone Temple 8 mountain bike race and will be designated an epic destination by the International Mountain Bike Association, the first Epic designation in Wyoming.

* If you go: Volunteers must be able to walk a trail because the work will be somewhat physically demanding. Bring hiking shoes and work gloves.

Meet at 9 a.m in the Aspen Grove parking area.

* Getting there: The park is about 25 miles west of Cheyenne, Wyoming and 25 miles east of Laramie, Wyoming. Take State Route 210 to County Road 106.

* Information: Call 307-777-8557

Grand Teton National Park

Work in the Tetons starts with a showing of Ken Burn's film "This is America." Volunteers can choose between outside work, such as removing fences or replacing campground benches, or indoor work, such as cleaning visitor center exhibits.

The day will close with a free picnic lunch.

* If you go: If you plan to work outside, be sure to wear long sleeves and pants and bring work gloves.

Meet at at 8 a.m. at the Craig Thomas Discovery and Visitor Center.

* Getting there: The center is about 13 miles north of Jackson off Highway 191. Take a left on Teton Park Road. The visitor center is on the left.

* Information: Call 307-739-3991.

Middle Fork Popo Agie Trail

Volunteers will help rebuild the 1.5 miles of the Falls Trail from the campground to Popo Agie Falls. Crews will load gravel onto mule teams and spread gravel on the trail, as well as general trail maintenance work.

* If you go: Bring work boots, work gloves, long pants and a lunch.

Meet at 8:30 a.m. in the Bruce's Campground parking lot.

* Getting there: Take Sink Canyon Road about 15 miles southwest of Lander.

* Information: Call 307-332-5460.

Outlaw Cave Campground

Located on the Middle Fork of the Powder River, Outlaw Cave and the surrounding area is still recovering from a wildfire in 2006. Volunteers will help replace signs, make minor repairs to picnic tables and replace the trail register. Depending on turnout and funding, volunteers may remove some invasive species and plant native species.

* If you go: The campsite is reachable only by high-clearance vehicles, but staff will give rides to those who can't reach the site. Bring water, comfortable shoes and work gloves.

Meet at 10 a.m. at the Outlaw Cave Campground.

* Getting there: From Kaycee, take Highway 190 about 15 miles to Barnum. Follow the BLM Bar C Road south.

* Information: Call 307-684-1116.

Yellowstone National Park

Volunteers will be working on two projects: The Mammoth Cemetery Clean-up and the Wapiti Lake Trail Restoration.

Mammoth Cemetery crews will meet at 10 a.m. in the parking lot at the Mammoth Horse Corrals. Crews will paint the cemetery fence and clear brush. All volunteers will then be invited to a preview of Ken Burn's film series "The National Parks: America's Best Idea."

The Wapiti Lake Trail group meet at 9 a.m. in Wapiti Lake Picnic Area parking lot. This group will clear brush along the trail and build water bars. Volunteers will not finish in time to attend the movie showing.

* If you go: Both groups should be prepared to work outside. Drinks and snacks will be provided. Bring a lunch, water and sturdy shoes. Volunteers are asked to register ahead of time by calling 307-344-2729 or by email YELL_Volunteer_Office@nps.gov.

* Getting there: The Mammoth Horse Corrals is located across from the Lower Terraces in Mammoth. For the Wapiti Trail work, on the Grand Loop Road 2 miles south of the Canyon Junction, take the Artist Point turn-off and cross the Chittenden Bridge. There will be a right turn into the Wapiti Lake Picnic Area.

* Information: Call 307-344-2729.

Devil's Tower National Monument

The National Park Service will host a volunteer appreciation event from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. at the park picnic shelter. The event will include information about volunteering at Devils Tower and other national park units. Sneak peeks of the upcoming PBS documentary will be shown periodically throughout the event. Free hot dogs and lemonade will be provided.

* If you go: No actual volunteer work will be available. There are no special requirements to attend this event.

* Getting there: Head east on I-90 from Gillette for about 30 miles. Exit at Moorcroft and take US Highway 14 north to Wyoming Highway 24. Follow to Devils Tower.

* Information: Call 307-467-5283 or go online at www.nps.gov/September26.