

National public lands need help Saturday

Organizers of the largest cleanup and fix up of America's public lands expect to see a historic turnout of volunteers when National Public Lands Day begins Sept. 26.

Nearly 2,000 service projects have been registered at sites across the country, from Washington, D.C.'s Kenilworth Aquatic Gardens to San Francisco's Golden Gate National Recreation Area and Hawaii's Pu'ukoholā Heiau National Historic Site.

"We attribute this new surge in volunteers to the United We Serve initiative," said Robb Hampton, program director of National Public Lands Day, in a press release. "Judging from the number of people who have already signed up for our event, I think enthusiasm for volunteering will carry on well beyond the summer."

National Public Lands Day carries on the legacy of the Civilian Conservation Corps (CCC), a program established to revive communities and create opportunities for employment following the Great Depression.

On National Public Lands Day, the National Park Service and the National Park Foundation will host a day of volunteering and a sneak preview of the Ken Burns film, "The National Parks: America's Best Idea", which will premiere the following night on PBS television stations.

Free entrance will be granted to all 391 national parks on Sept. 26.

Nationwide, National Public Lands Day will offer a wide range of projects and activities, including litter removal, planting trees, testing water quality, restoring campgrounds and

educating the general public about the history of well-known national and community public lands.

For more information about National Public Lands Day and to locate a site, please visit www.publiclandsday.org.