



Contact: Bill Monahan,
605-892-7003

**LOCAL VOLUNTEERS TO PITCH IN
AT The VFW Memorial Chapel and Fort Meade Recreation Area
ON NATIONAL PUBLIC LANDS DAY**

Belle Fourche, SD – Residents of the Northern Black Hills are asked to participate on Saturday morning, September 18th in a walking trail project two miles east of Sturgis, SD thereby joining the largest annual coast-to-coast, single-day volunteer restoration effort for America's public lands.

Local volunteers will roll up their sleeves and devote their day to developing a walking trail between the Veterans of Foreign Wars' Memorial Chapel Parking Lot to the Alkali Creek picnicking and camping site on the BLM's Fort Meade Recreation Area as part of the 11th annual National Public Lands Day (NPLD) on Saturday, September 18th. Sponsored for the sixth consecutive year by Toyota Motor Sales USA, NPLD gives Americans an opportunity to give back to the very lands they use to hike, bike, climb, swim, explore, picnic or just plain relax.

To reach the work site, take Exit 34 off Interstate 90 (Black Hills National Cemetery) and follow signs to the VFW Chapel Lot. Volunteer sign-in starts at 9:00 AM and project work will run about 9:30 to 11:30 followed by an awards ceremony. A free picnic lunch hosted by the BLM and VFW will be provided to the NPLD volunteers.

This year, for the first time, volunteers who work at a site managed by any of five federal agencies will be rewarded with a free entry day during the next year at any public land site managed by those agencies: Bureau of Land Management, National Park Service, US Army Corps of Engineers, US Fish and Wildlife Service, and USDA Forest Service.

By educating volunteers at sites across the country, NPLD maintains the legacy of the Civilian Conservation Corps, an army of 3 million Americans who in the 1930's countered the devastation of the Dust Bowl and the American chestnut blight by planting more than 3 billion trees, building 800 state parks, and fighting forest fires.

For more information, contact Bill Monahan at 605.892.7003 or see a list of NPLD sites, activities, contacts, and downloadable photos from past events on www.npld.com, or call 1-800-VOL-TEER (800-865-8337).

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