

# Celebrating National Public Lands Day

National Public Lands Day (NPLD) is the largest single-day volunteer effort for the America's public lands. This year NPLD took place on Saturday, September 28th. Three USACE lakes were selected as Highlighted Sites for 2019 NPLD! Congratulations to Sacramento District's Success Lake and Dam, Eastman Lake, & Terminus Dam (Lake Kaweah).

Each of these lakes received a sponsorship package worth an estimated \$1,500: •\$500 Stipend for any supplies, tools or transportation services that are needed for the event •1 NPLD event tablecloth •1 NPLD event banner •150 NPLD Water Bottles •150 NPLD Sunglasses •High-level marketing and communications support. *Here are the wrap-ups and some great photos of their events!*

## 1 H.V. Eastman & Hensley Lake

**POC: Carrie Richardson, [Carrie.Richardson@usace.army.mil](mailto:Carrie.Richardson@usace.army.mil)**

H.V. Eastman Lake, in a partnership with USACE Hensley Lake and the National Environmental Education Foundation (NEEF), hosted a National Public Lands Day (NPLD) event. Approximately 78 volunteers participated equaling a volunteer value of \$7,930. This year's event drew enthusiastic families, individuals, and school groups from throughout the Central Valley and Sierra foothills.

After an introduction and safety message by H.V. Eastman Park Ranger Walter Pope, volunteers removed an estimated 2 miles of shoreline litter (weighing approximately 160 pounds), planted 20 native trees and shrubs, reconditioned sand in two volleyball courts and four horseshoe pits, and placed over 24 tons of playground certified bark at H.V. Eastman Lake's two playgrounds!

Once all the hard work was done, this year's volunteers received a NEEF water bottle, sunglasses, and a T-shirt celebrating the NPLD event, as a means to show appreciation for their hard work. The local community has a long and proud history of supporting H.V. Eastman Lake and USACE. This was again evident in the fantastic turn out at this year's NPLD event.



*Photo Above: Native plantings at H.V. Eastman & Hensley Lake during NPLD.*



## Summary Across USACE

# Volunteers: 10,252

# Hours: 37,103

# Tires removed: 488

Lbs of trash: 112,254

Miles of roadway cleared: 85

Miles of trail improved: 89

Acres of habitat improved: 177

# Trees/shrubs planted: 2,953

Lbs of invasive plants removed: 6,475

# Partners involved: 296



## 2 Success Lake

**POC: Sylvia Guerrero, [Sylvia.A.Guerrero@usace.army.mil](mailto:Sylvia.A.Guerrero@usace.army.mil)**

National Public Lands Day (NPLD) is much more than just a one day event. It requires months of planning, networking, and communicating with all who are involved, but it is a labor of love with a lasting effect on our public lands. National Public Lands Day is always a great success at Richard L. Schaffer Dam and Success Lake!

On September 28, 2019, Success Lake was greeted with 346 eager volunteers, each bringing something special to add to our recreational facility. The morning started with an early registration, where volunteers could prepare for the day while enjoying coffee and pastries donated by local partners, as well as receive a Success Lake NPLD t-shirt and a variety of giveaways provided by the National Environmental Education Foundation (NEEF).

*Photo Above Left: Volunteers take a moment for a group photo at H.V. Eastman Lake. Photo Below: Success Lake NPLD volunteers working together for improvements.*



After a short introduction and safety talk volunteers split into different project groups led by Success Lake's long-term volunteers, park rangers, and maintenance staff.

Participants efforts improved the Tule Recreation Area shoreline, in total 1,000 feet of irrigation line was laid, 56 trees were planted, 7 new barbeques were installed, and 9 new picnic benches were assembled and placed. The recreation area's amphitheater, arbors, and curbs were all given a fresh coat of paint and the playgrounds, a volleyball court, and various campsites were refreshed with new sand and decomposed granite. Many great things were accomplished during this year's NPLD, all credited to the hard work of each and every person who donated their time to improving our nation's public lands.

After all the hard work was complete, it was time for a little fun! Lunch was served by staff, informational booths were displayed by Success Lake's partners, door prizes were given away, and our dedicated volunteers were sent off with a special thank you!



Photo Above: Volunteers give the Tule Recreation Area curbs a fresh coat of paint.



Photos From Top to Bottom: 1. Tulare County Boy Scouts of America troops lead the 250 volunteers and staff at the flag ceremony and the Pledge of Allegiance. 2. Maintenance Worker, Josh Smalling, instructs the 2019 NPLD volunteers on safety procedures. 3. 2019 National Public Lands Day volunteers remove graffiti at Slick Rock Recreation Area. 4. At the Kaweah Heritage Visitor Center, planter boxes were created and various trees, shrubs, and plants were placed into the ground by our students fulfilling community service hours for their school.

## 3 Terminus Dam

POC: Heather Dumais, [Heather.M.Dumais@usace.army.mil](mailto:Heather.M.Dumais@usace.army.mil)

As the sun rose upon Terminus Dam, 250 enthusiastic volunteers were registering for a fun-filled day of beautifying Lake Kaweah. The smell of donuts was in the air as they were cooked on site to be devoured in preparation for the day's activities. Water safety bags were given to our volunteers by our staff filled with goodies, including NEEF water bottles and sunglasses. Volunteers topped off their new water bottles at our water stations on their way to a memorable opening ceremony. Five boy scouts troops, sleepy eyed from the following night's movie and popcorn festivities, conducted the flag ceremony, while all volunteers rose to their feet for the Pledge of Allegiance.

After introductions of our staff and itinerary for the day, the 9 work groups, dressed in their new Lake Kaweah camouflage silk screened t-shirts, dispersed to their chosen project areas. Historic projects took place such as litter pickup and graffiti removal. Additionally this year, the entire lake was beautified with over 700 trees, plants, and shrubs donated to the Project. Two large pollinator gardens were created. With a generous donation from REI, we were able to rename and restore the beloved nature trail at Horsecreek Campground, where a beautiful redwood sign with the name Ga-We-Hah Historic Trail, marks the entrance.

As all the hard working and dedicated volunteers found their way back to the NPLD meeting area, they were welcomed by the sounds of a local band and the smells of a delicious Tri-tip lunch. The view of the children playing under the kid's activity tents blowing bubbles, face painting, and shooting rockets into the air added to the fun-filled day. Over a dozen of our partners brought information and raffles for our volunteers to browse and delight in.

