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(S.D.)-Badlands to Celebrate National Public Lands Day With Fee Free Entry

By: Roxie Graham-Marski Posted at: 09/25/2012 10:39 AM

(BADLANDS NATIONAL PARK)-Badlands National Park will be joining national park units across the country in celebrating National Public Lands Day (NPLD) with fee free entry into the park.

National Public Lands Day began in 1994 and is intended to encourage shared stewardship of our nation's public lands. The day is the nation's largest hands-on volunteer effort to improve and enhance federal, state and local public lands. In Badlands National Park, volunteers and staff will be working with park visitors at the Ben Reifel Visitor Center, providing information on enjoying the park's many hiking, camping and other recreational activities.

Superintendent Eric Brunnemann stated, "This day allows us to recognize those who protect and serve our public lands in our own agency as well as for our partners."

This year, NPLD will be celebrated on Saturday, September 29th. Visitors who arrive on the 29th will be allowed to enter the park free of charge. Those who plan to spend time in the park beyond the 29th will need to pay the regular entrance fee for the remainder of their stay.

Park visitors are reminded that the fee-free designation applies to entrance fees only and does not affect fees for camping, reservations, tours, or use of concessions. Park entrance stations will have Interagency Senior and Annual Passes available for those who wish to purchase them.

Additional fee-free days in 2012 will include Veteran's Day weekend, November 10-12.

For more on what there is to see and do in Badlands National Park, visit the park's web site at www.nps.gov/badl. To learn more about National Public Lands Day, visit www.publiclandsday.org.