

INYO CRATERS WORK PARTY: CELEBRATE NATIONAL PUBLIC LANDS DAY SEPT. 26



PHOTO COURTESY FOI/MLTPA

Volunteers at a Summer of Stewardship event

By Corless

This land is your land, this land is my land. -Woody Guthrie

Nowhere does this lyric ring truer than here in the Eastern Sierra, where more than 90 percent of that land is publicly owned. From the top of Mount Whitney to the shores of Mono Lake, the beautiful places that we love belong to all of us.

Later this month we get a chance to give back to these places where we play with some back-to-basics work. On Sept. 26, some 130,000 Americans will grab shovels, pruning shears and gloves to help improve the nation's public lands as part of National Public Lands Day, an annual event held at more than 2,000 sites across the country.

Eastern Sierra volunteers can do their part by joining the effort at Inyo Craters, a popular recreation site and sightseeing destination just outside Mammoth.

For local non-profit groups Friends of the Inyo and Mammoth Lakes Trails and Public Access (MLPTA), the National Public Lands Day (NPLD) project is the grand finale in a summer of successful stewardship events around Mammoth. The "Summer of Stewardship" got under way on June 6, National Trails Day. Since then, upwards of 100 volunteers have picked up 100 of pounds of trash, painted and repaired 24 picnic tables, and maintained 30 miles of trails. All this work was made possible with the help of the Inyo National Forest and the National Forest Foundation, along with local clubs and businesses that co-sponsored the trail work and cleanup days.

On an even larger scale, the one-day army of volunteers on NPLD

has an immediate, positive impact on public lands. Last year, more than 120,000 volunteers planted an estimated 1.6 million trees, fixed hundreds of miles of hiking trails and removed trash at nearly 1,900 sites. Volunteer efforts totaled an estimated \$13 million worth of time and in-kind contributions. This year, the number of sites is expected to grow to more than 2,000 with expected contributions over \$14 million.

The nation's public lands benefit from a great variety of volunteer projects each year. This year organizers are expecting a record number of volunteers participating at events all over the nation.

In Mammoth, Friends of the Inyo and MLTPA are also expecting impressive volunteer numbers, and they encourage anyone who hikes, skis, rides and drives on the area's amazing public lands to be a part of the Sept. 26 project. After a morning of trail work, volunteers are treated to lunch and a chance to win raffle prizes, still leaving plenty of time to get out and enjoy an afternoon in the forest, on land that was made *better* by you and me.

Remember: National Public Lands Day in Mammoth ... trail work and cleanup at the Inyo Craters (north of Mammoth), 8:30 a.m. Saturday, Sept. 26. All volunteers are welcome! Wear work clothes (long pants, long sleeve shirt, sturdy shoes); tools and gloves are provided

More info: e-mail stacy@friendsoftheinyo.org or visit www.mltpa.org.

Learn more about Friends of the Inyo's efforts to preserve, explore and care for the public lands of the Eastern Sierra at www.friendsoftheinyo.org.

● ● "GREEN"-TERTAINMENT ● ●

SESAME STREET: "BEING GREEN"

2009, DVD, 47 min., G, \$12.99

By Wiggins

When Kermit the Frog sang, "It's not easy being green" in 1969, he was right ... in more ways than one. A frog trying to make it in TV and the movies? Difficult at best, though he'd go on to hit unprecedented heights of superstardom. And ecology? In those days, recycling, pollution and alternative energy were great concepts, but hardly mainstream.

These days, "green" is pretty universal ... on the order of "jello" ... and going green is getting easier and easier all the time.

Just ask Elmo, who ditched his vivid red color and has literally GONE GREEN in "Being Green," a brand new Sesame Street special.

The 47-minute DVD is part adventure, part awareness and all fun, as only the gang from Sesame Street can deliver. Guest star Paul Rudd ("Monsters vs. Aliens") joins Elmo and company as they work to save Planet Earth and learn green practices.

While Elmo and Abby (the ditzy fairie, for those of you not up to date on your characters) play hide and seek, they suddenly and without warning find themselves on the set of "The Earthathon," hosted by Mr. Earth (Rudd), outfitted in a giant globe suit. Mr. Earth is troubled that people are doing a lot of harm to the world, and he wants viewers to call and make pledges ... not financial donations, but rather "promises" to make the world a better place. Telly, Rosita and Cookie Monster man (or in this case "Muppet") the phones, taking calls and writing down the names of people who pledge to help the Earth.

The lessons cover various forms of conservation: recycling, saving energy and so on. Mr. Earth cheerfully shares lessons and tidbits with Elmo and Abby, and every once in a while we're treated to a video demonstration: a young man in South Africa recycles glass bottles; a group of kids in the U.S. midwest turn clothes into paper; and in South America a boy and his mom turn trash into useful stuff.

Along the way, we're also treated to the usual Sesame Street antics: Oscar the Grouch keeps razzing Telly, promising to make the Earth as dirty as possible. Cookie Monster suffers (what else?) cookie withdrawals and contemplates eating a telephone. And Abby accidentally turns Elmo green, naturally inspiring him to belt out a few bars of "It's Not Easy Being Green."

Rudd takes the touchy-feely tune's original sentiment and integrates it into the modern "green" era with his own upbeat number, "It's Easy Being Green." He also throws down another jam, "Earth Rocks," closing the DVD on a decidedly up note.

Rudd may seem an unusual choice to host a kids' special, but does a fine job as master of ceremonies. Energetic and engaging, he and the Muppets have an "organic" chemistry, and kids are bound to find his goofy antics entertaining.

William Wiggins is a freelance entertainment journalist from Los Angeles who's obsessed with recycling and proofs all his columns electronically. No trees were used in the writing of this article, but a few electrons may have been inconvenienced.

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