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NEWS RELEASE

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West Point Project to host National Public Lands Day event

MOBILE, Ala. - The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Mobile District, West Point Project will be hosting a National Public Lands Day (NPLD) on Saturday 24, 2016, at Earl Cook Recreation Area. The public is invited to participate in NPLD which is an annual event where people volunteer to clean up public lands and waters around the country. West Point Project's event is an excellent way for the local community to improve and enhance a valuable resource by making a positive impact on the natural environment.

Trash Removal at various sites around the reservoir is the most significant need. There is more than 56,000 acres of publicly owned land and water surface area at West Point Lake and nearly 2 million visits per year. Litter often ends up in and around the lake where it remains, as most trash is not biodegradable.

Along with litter removal, this year's event will include other ways to volunteer. Materials and supplies will be made available for building wood duck boxes and fish structures. After volunteers construct these items, USACE will install them at various locations in and around the lake for habitat improvement.

Volunteers will be provided lunch on-site by the Wendy's Restaurant on Lafayette Parkway. In addition, the Chattahoochee Riverkeeper organization will be on hand to offer boat rides on their floating classroom "Miss Sally". Lunch and boat rides begin at 11:00 a.m.

Individual and group volunteers are needed and encouraged to participate. Please register by contacting the West Point Project office at 706-645-2937 or by email <u>west point lake@usace.army.mil</u>. Registration is requested by September 16, 2016.

For more information about West Point Lake please visit http://www.sam.usace.army.mil/Missions/CivilWorks/Recreation/WestPointLake.aspx

For more information on National Public Lands Day please visit: <u>http://www.publiclandsday.org</u>

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