

Proclamation

by Governor Earl Ray Tomblin

- Whereas,** America's system of public lands includes parks, unique landscapes, forests, wildlife refuges, historic trails, natural streams and wetlands, nature centers, community gardens and other landmarks throughout the nation that individually and collectively represent our shared irreplaceable national resources; and
- Whereas,** public lands provide locally accessible natural and cultural resources for environmental learning, wildlife appreciation and recreation; and
- Whereas,** public lands promote civic ideals, including shared stewardship and recognition of public ownership; and
- Whereas,** shared stewardship requires the goodwill, cooperation and active support of citizens, communities, local and state officials, business leaders, youth and adults; and
- Whereas,** recreation opportunities offered by public lands help families and individuals lead an active lifestyle and reduce the incidence of childhood obesity; and
- Whereas,** land conservation efforts improve access to public lands for urban residents and work to break down barriers that prevent Americans from actively utilizing their public lands; and
- Whereas,** a collaboration among state and local residents, land managers and community leaders improves the condition of publicly held lands for the greater enjoyment and enrichment of all Americans; and
- Whereas,** *National Public Lands Day* is the nation's largest, single-day volunteer effort for public lands and is coordinated by the National Environmental Education Foundation. State and city park systems throughout the nation join with federal agencies such as the Bureau of Land Management, Department of Defense, Environmental Protection Agency, National Park Service, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service and U.S. Forest Service to deliver an annually anticipated celebration for local participation on publicly held lands in the great state of West Virginia.

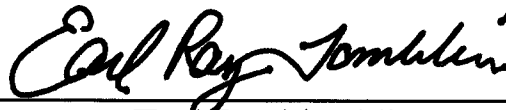
Now, Therefore, Be it Resolved that I, Earl Ray Tomblin, Governor of the Great State of West Virginia, do hereby proclaim *September 26, 2015* as:

National Public Lands Day

in the Mountain State and encourage all citizens to join me in this observance.

In Witness Whereof, I have hereunto set my hand and caused the Great Seal of the State of West Virginia to be affixed.

Done at the Capitol, City of Charleston, State of West Virginia, this the Third day of September, in the year of our Lord, Two Thousand Fifteen, and in the One Hundred Fifty-Third year of the State.



Earl Ray Tomblin
Governor

By the Governor:



Natalie E. Tennant
Secretary of State