



STATE OF TENNESSEE  
**PROCLAMATION**  
BY THE GOVERNOR

**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 represent 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 the civic ideal of shared stewardship; and

**WHEREAS**, shared stewardship requires the goodwill, cooperation and active support of citizens, community, local and state officials, and business leaders; 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 the barriers that prevent Americans from actively utilizing their public lands; and

**WHEREAS**, 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; and

**WHEREAS**, state and local park systems throughout the nation join with federal agencies to deliver an annually anticipated celebration for local participation on publicly held lands in this great State of Tennessee;

**NOW, THEREFORE**, I, Bill Haslam, Governor of the State of Tennessee, do hereby proclaim September 24, 2016 as

*Public Lands Day*

in Tennessee and encourage all citizens to join me in this worthy observance.



**IN WITNESS WHEREOF**, I have hereunto set my hand and caused the official seal of the State of Tennessee to be affixed at Nashville on this twenty-first day of July, 2016.

*Bill Haslam*

Governor

*Lee Hargis*

Secretary of State