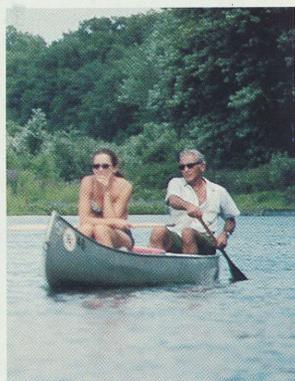
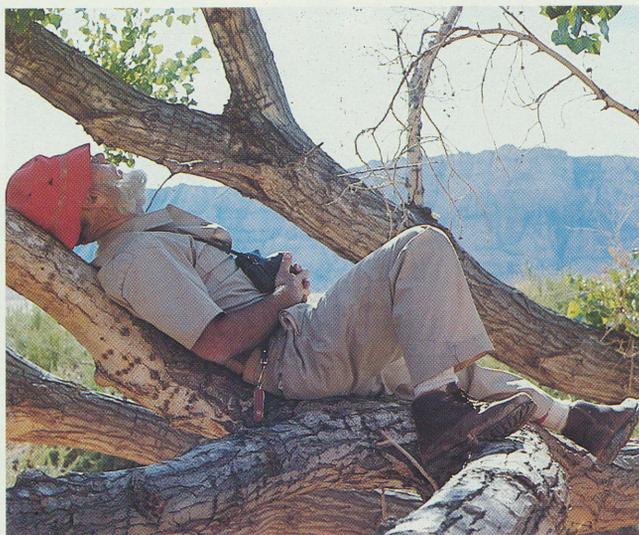


TAKE PRIDE IN AMERICA



“All Americans should take pride in their outstanding public lands . . . We must all work together for a renewed awareness that these lands are our lands” to care for and about.

***President Ronald Reagan
1986 State of the Union Message***



“Take Pride in America” is a national public awareness campaign to encourage everyone to take pride in the Nation’s natural and cultural resources.

The campaign is a partnership of public and private organizations committed to ensuring the wise use of the resources that belong to all of us.

Many of us enjoy the outdoors on lands and waters that are for everyone’s benefit.

Recreation opportunities abound at our forests, deserts and wildlife refuges; on rivers, lakes, and seashores; and at parks, campgrounds, playgrounds and urban open spaces. Public lands also contribute to our economy and national security through appropriate development of our natural resources.

Important symbols of our past are protected for our mutual benefit as well. These historic sites and landmarks preserve places and memories of the great individuals, cultures, occasions and examples of architecture that make up our heritage.

“Take Pride in America” is based on the premise that these resources are not just the concern of the government agencies that manage them.



Each of us has an obligation to be a good steward.

Although most people take pride in our lands, others act as if the lands belong to "everyone" and no one has responsibility to take care of them.

Around the country, in urban and rural areas, public and private resources have suffered from misuse.

Shores, roadsides, trails, and campgrounds have been littered.

Signs and structures have been defaced and fences destroyed.



Wildlife have been poached.

Playgrounds and buildings have been covered with graffiti.

Archeological sites have even been bulldozed so that their "loot" can be stolen more easily.

Some people must not realize that their carelessness is damaging the resources they share with their children and fellow citizens. Their actions could foreclose opportunities for themselves and others.



Our lands and resources must be protected for and by us, not from us. We must prevent thoughtless behavior by a few that reduces enjoyment for many.



"Take Pride in America" seeks to reduce destructive behavior and encourage constructive activity on our lands.

In every State, people are involved in activities ranging from outdoor stewardship and self-policing programs; archeological resource protection awareness efforts; and, "watch" programs or hotlines to report vandalism, wildlife poaching, theft, and other destructive activity.

Others help care for parks, trails, shorelines, campsites and playgrounds through clean-up, maintenance and general assistance when needed.

All of us, young and old, can show our pride:

- We can leave the lands better and know that others will enjoy their visits more because we made a difference.
- We can properly dispose of our trash and, when appropriate, carry it out with us.
- We can observe rules and report destructive activity we might see. Rules have been made for our protection and for the benefit of the resources.
- We can remember that historic artifacts are irreplaceable and should be left intact so that others may study them.



- We can encourage our friends, families, companies, clubs, church and synagogue groups, and communities to take pride in their public lands and choose a favorite area to help care for.
 - We can look for opportunities to communicate the good stewardship message to others through speeches, articles, slide shows, field trips and similar efforts.
- We can make a difference.



The destiny of America's public lands and resources depends on our commitment to their future.

We can enjoy our magnificent lands, waters, wildlife, and history; but, we must help care for them to ensure they will be everlasting.

Individually, we can make a difference. Together there is no limit to what we can do.

Take Pride in America! This land is our land.



Photographs provided by the Bureau of Land Management, Bureau of Reclamation, National Park Service, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, and the U.S. Forest Service. Brochure coordinated by the U.S. Department of the Interior on behalf of the Take Pride in America Campaign.

From

To

