

## **PUBLIC LANDS DAY**

WHEREAS: America's system of public lands includes parks, unique landscapes, forests, wildlife refuges, historic trails, natural streams and wetlands, nature centers, gardens and other landmark areas throughout the nation that individually and collectively represent irreplaceable national resources; and

WHEREAS: Public lands provide locally accessible natural and cultural resources for environmental learning, wildlife appreciation and recreation, promoting civic ideals that include shared stewardship and recognition of public ownership; and

WHEREAS: Land conservation builds awareness among urban dwellers with concerns about planned development, shared land use, preservation of wild areas and natural habitats and the benefits realized by diligent restoration and enhancement efforts; and

WHEREAS: Partnerships among citizens, land managers, community and business leaders improve the condition of publicly held lands for the greater enjoyment and enrichment of all citizens; now

THEREFORE: I, SONNY PERDUE, Governor of the State of Georgia, do hereby proclaim September 20, 2003, as PUBLIC LANDS DAY in Georgia and encourage our citizens to enjoy Georgia's public lands and participate in local preservation projects.

In witness thereof, I have hereunto set my hand and caused the Seal of the Executive Department to be affixed this 20<sup>th</sup> day of September in the year of our Lord two thousand three.