

U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service

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U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service
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News Release



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Desert National Wildlife Refuge Complex Hosting Volunteer Events at Southern Nevada NWRs

LAS VEGAS – The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service's (FWS) Desert National Wildlife Refuge Complex is providing opportunities next weekend for the public to help enhance two southern Nevada national wildlife refuges (NWRs). The complex is holding volunteer events that offer hands-on experience.

On Saturday, October 23, 2010, the Desert NWR invites volunteers to participate with FWS, Friends of the Desert NWR Complex, Friends of the Nevada Wilderness, and the Red Rock Audubon Society for the first of three consecutive Saturdays constructing the new Bird Song Trail at Corn Creek. Work is scheduled for 7:30 a.m. until noon, with some additional activity in the afternoon. Volunteers are asked to gather at the trailhead, which is located next to the main information kiosk at Corn Creek.

The day includes a potluck lunch sponsored by the Southern Nevada Conservancy, the Friends of the Desert NWR Complex, and Desert NWR staff, as well as some afternoon fun and educational activities for children.

The Friends of the Desert NWR Complex are holding an all-day membership drive, as well. Visitors can learn more about the Friends group and consider joining the organization. For more information, contact Angelina Yost at (702) 515-5453, or via email to angelina_yost@fws.gov.

The 1.5 million-acre Desert NWR (www.fws.gov/desertcomplex/desertrange) is approximately 23 miles north of Las Vegas on U.S. Highway 95. A sign on the east side of the highway marks the entrance to the four-mile gravel road leading to Corn Creek.

(More)

Saturday, October 23, 2010, is Stewardship Saturday at the Ash Meadows NWR. The public is invited to help FWS staff plant native trees and grasses along a restored section of the Fairbanks Channel. Planting native species is an important part of the restoration process, as native plants can overtake exotic species, stabilize disturbed soils, and provide habitat for wildlife. Planting can be fairly strenuous work, requiring repetitive bending and kneeling in direct sunlight. Therefore, volunteers should bring plenty of water, a hat, sunscreen, and comfortable clothing suitable for getting wet and muddy. Planting starts at 8:30 a.m. and ends at noon — snacks, water refills, work gloves, and tools will be provided.

Everyone is encouraged to bring a picnic lunch and enjoy some games (with prizes) in the afternoon. Children ages 8 and up are welcome to take part in the fun. To participate, please register online at www.getoutdoorsnevada.org. For more information, please call the wildlife refuge headquarters at (775) 372-5435.

The 23,448-acre Ash Meadows NWR (www.fws.gov/desertcomplex/ashmeadows) is located in the Amargosa Valley of southern Nye County approximately 30 miles northwest of Pahrump. The west entrance to the wildlife refuge is on State Route 373, and the south entrance is on Bell Vista Road. Signs mark both entrances.

The mission of the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service is working with others to conserve, protect and enhance fish, wildlife, plants and their habitats for the continuing benefit of the American people. We are both a leader and trusted partner in fish and wildlife conservation, known for our scientific excellence, stewardship of lands and natural resources, dedicated professionals and commitment to public service. For more information on our work and the people who make it happen, visit www.fws.gov.