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U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service
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News Release



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Visitor Contact Station at Desert NWR to Close New Visitor Center to be built at Corn Creek

LAS VEGAS – The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (FWS) today announced that the Corn Creek Visitor Contact Station at the Desert National Wildlife Refuge Complex (Desert NWR) will close its doors on October 31, 2010. The trailer that houses the contact station will be moved to make way for construction of a new visitor center.

According to Desert NWR Manager Amy Sprunger, the single-wide trailer was placed at Corn Creek in 2000 to serve as the center for information about the wildlife refuge. The station also offers books and gift items for sale. Most remaining items have been discounted in advance of the contact station's closing.

The Visitor Contact Station will be open for the last time this weekend — 9 a.m. - 2 p.m. on Friday and 8 a.m. – 2 p.m. on Saturday and Sunday. The facility will close for good at 2 p.m. on Sunday, October 31, 2010.

Once the trailer is removed, the site will be prepared for layout of utilities. Groundbreaking for the visitor center is planned for late spring of 2011, and construction is expected to take approximately 15 months. The new 11,000-square-foot facility will include visitor services and exhibits, as well as administrative offices.

In the meantime, the FWS is seeking volunteers to staff the Desert NWR on weekends. The volunteers will be stationed at Corn Creek to assist visitors with directions, provide literature, and answer questions the public might have about the wildlife refuge or the construction of the new visitor center. Persons interested in volunteering are asked to contact Harry Konwin, Volunteer Coordinator, by phone at (702) 515-5494 or via email to harry_konwin@fws.gov.

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The 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 turnoff to the four-mile gravel road leading to Corn Creek. The wildlife refuge was established May 20, 1936, for the conservation and development of wildlife resources, including the desert bighorn sheep. At 1.5 million acres, it is the largest national wildlife refuge in the continental United States.

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.