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# News Release



For Immediate Release  
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## Small Mammals, Birds, and Fossils Featured Saturday at Moapa Valley National Wildlife Refuge

**LAS VEGAS** – The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (FWS) invites the public to visit the Moapa Valley National Wildlife Refuge (Moapa Valley NWR) this weekend for a trail walk that promises to be fun and informative. This marks the second in a series of weekend programs scheduled at the wildlife refuge.

On Saturday, October 23, 2010, from 10 a.m. until noon, biologist Bruce Lund will lead a walk along the trails and streams at the Moapa Valley NWR in search of small mammals, birds, and fossils. Lund is a Moapa resident and volunteer biologist at the wildlife refuge.

At night, the wildlife refuge is alive with a variety of small mammals that emerge from their underground burrows to feed. Visitors rarely see these nocturnal animals. For this walk, Lund is placing live traps in various locations the night before the walk. If all goes well, participants will have close-up looks at some of the nocturnal mammals living on the refuge. Following discussions about the animals, Lund will release them back to their burrows.

Throughout the walk, visitors should also be on the lookout for fall and/or winter birds, as well as for fossils that are all around. The walk is easy and cameras and binoculars are welcome.

The Moapa Valley NWR is open on Saturdays and Sundays from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m., from now until Memorial Day. The visitor area includes two walking trails with new interpretive panels and a stream profile chamber featuring a water-level view of the endangered Moapa dace (small fish).

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The wildlife refuge is staffed by citizen volunteers, and can only be open to the public if the FWS enlists enough volunteers. Persons interested in volunteering are asked to contact Harry Konwin, Volunteer Coordinator, at (702) 515-5494 or [harry\\_konwin@fws.gov](mailto:harry_konwin@fws.gov).

The 117-acre Moapa Valley NWR is located in Clark County approximately 60 miles north of Las Vegas off of Interstate 15 on Warm Springs Road, about 1.4 miles southwest of State Route 168. The wildlife refuge was established in 1979 to secure habitat for and protect the endangered Moapa dace. In addition to spring and channel restoration efforts, re-vegetation with native plants, removing non-native species, and enhancing stream flows have benefited the Moapa dace and the White River springfish, as well as other endemic (native) species at the wildlife refuge.

To learn more about the Moapa Valley NWR visit [www.fws.gov/desertcomplex/moapavalley](http://www.fws.gov/desertcomplex/moapavalley) on the Internet, or contact Refuge Manager Amy LaVoie via email at [amy\\_lavoie@fws.gov](mailto:amy_lavoie@fws.gov) or by phone at (702) 515-5225.

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](http://www.fws.gov).