

Department of the Interior  
U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service  
Desert National Wildlife Refuge Complex  
4701 North Torrey Pines Drive  
Las Vegas, NV 89130  
Phone: (702) 515-5450  
Fax: (702) 515-5460  
<http://fws.gov/desertcomplex>

# News Release



For Immediate Release  
Date: November 5, 2010

Contact: Dan Balduini  
(702) 515-5480

## Nature Walk, Volunteer Work Scheduled at the 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) next weekend for an informative trail walk focused on small mammals, birds, and fossils. The following weekend offers the public an opportunity to help FWS with weed removal and planting at the wildlife refuge.

### Nature Walk

On Saturday, November 13, 2010, from 10 a.m. until noon, biologist Bruce Lund will lead a walk along the trail 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.

### Volunteer Event

On Saturday, November 20, 2010, from 8:30 a.m. until noon, FWS staff will be at the Moapa Valley NWR removing weeds and planting native species. Volunteers are needed to assist in this effort — part of the ongoing restoration work at the wildlife refuge. While not required, FWS encourages volunteers to pre-register at [www.getoutdoorsnevada.org/events.htm#1120moapa](http://www.getoutdoorsnevada.org/events.htm#1120moapa).

- More -

Volunteers should be in good physical condition, as weeding and planting require a great deal of bending and kneeling on uneven ground. Individuals should bring a container for water, a hat, sunscreen, and comfortable clothing and footwear. Snacks, water refills, basic work gloves, and tools will be provided.

Removing invasive, non-native plant species is an important part of the restoration process at the Moapa Valley NWR. Exotic species compete with native plants for soil nutrients and lead to a loss of biodiversity. Invasive plants disrupt the natural environment by forming unique habitats and by altering ecological processes necessary for native plants and animals to survive.

Located about 60 miles northeast of Las Vegas, the 117-acre Moapa Valley NWR was established in 1979 to secure habitat for and protect the endangered Moapa dace (small fish). The visitor area at the wildlife refuge 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 Moapa dace.

More information about the Moapa Valley National Wildlife Refuge can be found on the Internet at [www.fws.gov/desertcomplex/moapavalley](http://www.fws.gov/desertcomplex/moapavalley), 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).