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News Release



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Ash Meadows NWR to Celebrate Grand Opening of New Point of Rocks Boardwalk

AMARGOSA VALLEY, Nev. – The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service's (FWS) Desert National Wildlife Refuge Complex is celebrating a new visitor attraction at the Ash Meadows National Wildlife Refuge (Ash Meadows NWR). The public is invited to join the FWS on Saturday, October 30, 2010 for the grand opening of the Point of Rocks Boardwalk.

The public is welcome to visit anytime between 10 a.m. and 2 p.m. as FWS showcases the interpretive boardwalk and introduces visitors to the natural and cultural history of the Point of Rocks area. Face painting, giveaways, and more promise to make this a fun day for the entire family.

The Point of Rocks Boardwalk guides visitors through a natural desert oasis with plants and trees, warm springs, and a scenic overlook. Rare plants and animals, many found nowhere else on earth, are highlighted along the way, as are ancient grinding stones used centuries ago by Native Americans. The boardwalk enhances the visitor experience with wide, even walking surfaces and easy wheelchair access. A round trip on the boardwalk covers approximately .7 miles.

Construction began in June 2009 and the boardwalk was opened to the public in November 2009. The project includes a sheltered picnic area and restrooms, as well as interpretive displays, benches, and bridges. Additional informative elements and a covered amphitheater with viewing scopes are scheduled for completion this winter. The project is funded entirely through the Southern Nevada Public Lands Management Act with revenue from the sales of public lands in Nevada.

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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.