

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: February 16, 2011

Contact: Dan Balduini
(702) 515-5480

Stewardship Saturday Scheduled at Ash Meadows NWR

AMARGOSA VALLEY, Nev. – The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (FWS) invites the public to volunteer for habitat restoration work at the Ash Meadows National Wildlife Refuge (NWR). The next such opportunity is scheduled this month at the wildlife refuge in Nye County.

February 26, 2011 is a Stewardship Saturday at the Ash Meadows NWR. Volunteers are needed from 8:30 a.m. until noon to help improve pupfish habitat. Participants will assist Ash Meadows staff in cutting back overgrown cattails in King's Pool. Cattails slow water movement and benefit the population of invasive crayfish, so removing the cattails is an important part of the restoration process. Crayfish and other exotic species eat the endangered Ash Meadows Amargosa pupfish and take over pupfish habitat.

Volunteers should be comfortable working in water and mud up to three feet deep. The water temperature in King's Pool is 90 degrees Fahrenheit. It is recommended that participants wear shoes and clothes that can get wet and dirty, and bring towels and a change of clothing. Snacks and water will be provided. Volunteers are welcome to bring a lunch to enjoy afterwards at one of the picnic areas.

Those wishing to volunteer are asked to register online at www.getoutdoorsnevada.org. For additional information, please contact the Ash Meadows NWR office 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.

- More -

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.

-30-

LV11-005