

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
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Contact: Dan Balduini
(702) 515-5480

Prescribed Burning Planned Next Week at Ash Meadows National Wildlife Refuge

AMARGOSA VALLEY, Nev. – The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (FWS) is planning to conduct a prescribed burn sometime between January 25 and 27, 2011, on the Ash Meadows National Wildlife Refuge (NWR). The fire will eliminate excess growth (fuel) in specific areas of the wildlife refuge in order to minimize the effects of wildfires that might occur at that location in the future.

The prescribed fire will target approximately 260 acres southwest of the Ash Meadows NWR headquarters, including Horseshoe Reservoir. (See attached map) Engine crews from the Bureau of Land Management, the National Park Service, and the Sacramento and Stillwater NWRs will assist with the burn.

The burn is intended to remove heavy fuel loads consisting of cattails in Horseshoe Reservoir and invasive weeds in the former agricultural field to the north of Horseshoe Reservoir. The fire will also reinvigorate existing native vegetation and widen a fire break to help protect Ash Meadows NWR personnel, buildings and equipment, and the general public in the event of a wildfire. Additionally, burning cattails around Horseshoe Reservoir will ensure open water for waterfowl.

Timing of the burn depends on weather conditions. For this particular burn, winds cannot exceed 12 miles per hour.

A portion of Crystal Loop Road, including access to Horseshoe Reservoir and Lower Crystal Marsh, has been closed to vehicles since December 24, 2010, due to flooding. That road will remain closed until January 31, 2011. Walk-in access for hunting is allowed, except while prescribed burn activities are underway. Access to Crystal Reservoir from the east is open to the public.

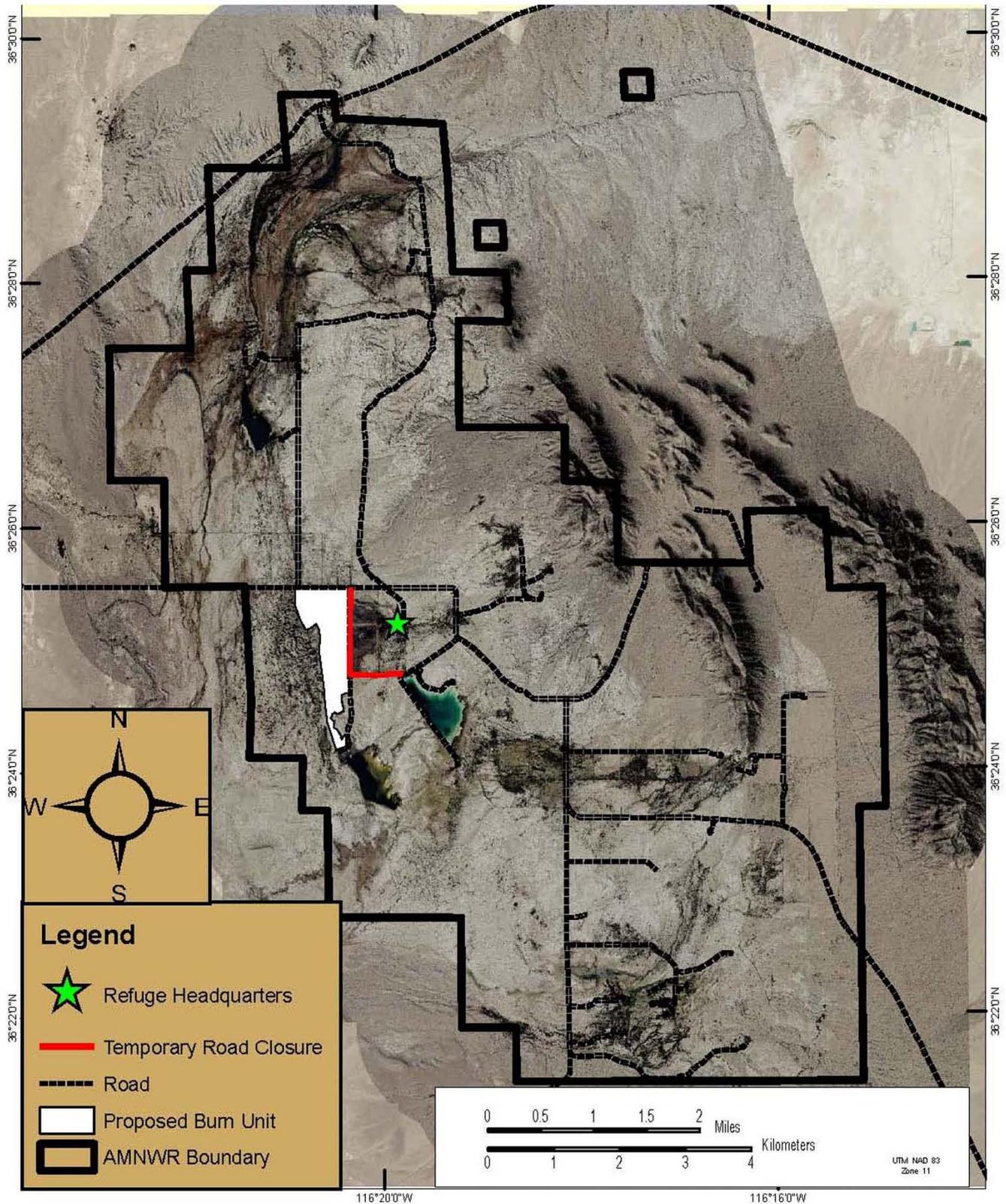
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Specific questions about the planned prescribed burn should be directed to Tim Rash at (702) 376-0155.

Ash Meadows NWR, located 90 miles northwest of Las Vegas in Nye County, was established in 1984 under the authority of the Endangered Species Act of 1973, as amended. It comprises 23,448 acres of spring fed wetlands and desert uplands that provide habitat for at least 26 plant and animal species that occur nowhere else in the world. For more information, call (775) 372-5435, or visit www.fws.gov/desertcomplex/ashmeadows.

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.

Ash Meadows NWR - January 2011 Prescribed Burn



This map is a product of Ash Meadows National Wildlife Refuge and is for reference purposes only. The map is not designed to provide site-specific information or to be used to establish legal ownership. Information depicted was derived from various sources with varying levels of accuracy. Reasonable efforts have been made to ensure the accuracy of this map, but it is not guaranteed to be without error. Ash Meadows NWR expressly disclaims responsibility for damages or liability that may arise from use of this map.