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# News Release



For Immediate Release  
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## Desert National Wildlife Refuge Turns 75 on May 20, 2011

### *The Public is Invited to Join the Celebration*

**LAS VEGAS** – The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (Service) is hosting several events for the public this month at the Desert National Wildlife Refuge (NWR). The activities are associated with the 75<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the wildlife refuge's creation.

**Saturday, May 14, 2011** is **International Migratory Bird Day** throughout the world. Service staff invites the public to assist in a count of the bird nests in and around Corn Creek. The day includes fun, educational activities for the entire family. Anyone interested in helping with the nest count is encouraged to bring binoculars and a camera, along with an appetite for learning about the birds that frequent the Desert NWR. Participants should also equip themselves with a hat, sunscreen, and plenty of water. The event is scheduled from 8 a.m. until 1 p.m.

The Service is offering another option on **May 14, 2011** — a **jeep tour of Mormon Well Road**. Visitors will follow the route taken in centuries past by pioneers and others traveling through the Las Vegas and Sheep mountain ranges. Participants will need a high-clearance vehicle, and organizers hope to arrange a carpool. Those touring will gather at 7 a.m. at a location in North Las Vegas, with the tour scheduled to finish up by 3 p.m. For details and the exact meeting location, call the Desert NWR at (702) 879-6110.

On Monday and Tuesday, **May 16-17, 2011**, the Desert NWR staff will begin construction of the Whispering Ben Trail. Volunteers are needed for this effort, as a new trail system takes shape at Corn Creek. Both workdays run from 8 a.m. – 4 p.m. The public can volunteer by registering at [www.getoutdoorsnevada.org/events.htm](http://www.getoutdoorsnevada.org/events.htm). The registration deadline is May 12, 2011, and the Service is looking for up to 20 volunteers.

- More -

More events are scheduled, including a 75<sup>th</sup> birthday party for the wildlife refuge on Saturday, May 21, 2011. Other activities will be announced in a forthcoming news release. A listing of events is available on the Internet at [www.fws.gov/desertcomplex/desertrange](http://www.fws.gov/desertcomplex/desertrange).

The 1.5 million-acre Desert NWR is approximately 23 miles north of Las Vegas on U.S. Highway 95. Signs on both sides of the highway mark the entrance to the 4-mile gravel road leading to Corn Creek. It is the largest national wildlife refuge in the continental United States. The wildlife refuge was established on May 20, 1936, for the conservation and development of wildlife resources, including the desert bighorn sheep. Visit the refuge at the above Internet address or call the staff at (702) 879-6110.

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).