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News Release



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Exciting, Informative Events Scheduled in May at Desert NWR *Activities Are Part of the Wildlife Refuge's 75th Anniversary Celebration*

LAS VEGAS – The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (Service) invites the public to participate in a number of activities during the month of May at the Desert National Wildlife Refuge (NWR). The events lead up to the 75th anniversary of the creation of the wildlife refuge north of Las Vegas.

On **Saturday, May 1, 2011**, researchers Thomas Piechota and Brian Bird from the University of Nevada-Las Vegas and David Charlet with the College of Southern Nevada will present “Climate Change in our Backyard.” The researchers will discuss methods of climate change study currently underway on the Desert NWR and in other parts of southern Nevada. The public will have the opportunity to see how computer models and live webcams are used in the process and visit a nearby monitoring station. The presentation takes place at Corn Creek from 2 p.m. until 4 p.m.

The evening of **Friday, May 6, 2011**, offers the “**Desert Under the Stars**” astronomy program. Members of the Las Vegas Astronomical Society will present a program about Saturn and give the public a tour of the night sky. The program runs from 7:30 p.m. until 9:30 p.m. at Corn Creek.

Saturday, May 14, 2011 is **International Migratory Bird Day** throughout the world. Service staff will celebrate with a nest count and fun, educational activities for the entire family. Anyone interested in helping with the nest count and learning about the birds that frequent the Desert NWR is encouraged to participate. The event is scheduled from 8 a.m. until 1 p.m., at Corn Creek.

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Those not wishing to count bird nests have another option on **May 14, 2011** — travel back in time on a **Jeep tour of Mormon Well Road**. The tour will take you along the same path the pioneers and other travelers used to cross the Sheep Mountains. Participants will need a high-clearance vehicle. A carpool might be available. 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.

More events are scheduled, including a 75th birthday party for the wildlife refuge on Saturday, May 21, 2011. Details will be announced in a forthcoming news release, and information is available on the Internet at 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 four-mile gravel road leading to Corn Creek. It is the largest national wildlife refuge in the continental United States. The wildlife refuge was established 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.