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News Release



For Immediate Release

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Moapa Valley National Wildlife Refuge Opens to the Public Beginning Labor Day Weekend

Wildlife refuge will offer expanded hours in 2011-2012

LAS VEGAS – The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (Service) today announced weekend hours at the Moapa Valley National Wildlife Refuge (NWR). The wildlife refuge will open to the public this coming Labor Day weekend and is expected to be open each weekend thereafter through Memorial Day 2012.

For the Labor Day weekend only, the Moapa Valley NWR will be open Friday, September 2, 2011 through Monday, September 5, 2011, which is Labor Day. The refuge will be open from sunrise to sunset all four days.

Following the Labor Day weekend, the Moapa Valley NWR is scheduled to be open to the public from sunrise until sunset every Friday, Saturday, and Sunday through the 2012 Memorial Day weekend. Weekday group visits are also available. School groups, clubs, businesses, and other organizations can schedule a tour of the refuge in advance by contacting the refuge manager at (702) 515-5225.

Visitors will see a number of features on the Moapa Valley NWR, including stream profile windows which provide a glimpse into the underwater world of the endangered Moapa dace, Moapa White River springfish and other aquatic wildlife. A short, accessible walking trail offers an enchanting stroll through a spring and stream system where dragonflies and birds can be observed. A new half-mile hiking trail heads up a desert hillside to a panoramic view of the refuge, the adjacent Warm Springs area, and the surrounding mountains. Several information kiosks are in place and the Service plans to install additional interpretive displays early this fall. A pavilion with shade and picnic tables is located near the parking lot.

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Public access to the Moapa Valley NWR is made possible with the help of citizen volunteers. Those interested in volunteering at the wildlife refuge are asked to contact Harry Konwin via email to harry_konwin@fws.gov or by phone at (702) 515-5494.

The 116-acre Moapa Valley NWR was established in 1979 to secure habitat for and protect the endangered Moapa dace. In addition to spring and channel restoration efforts, re-vegetation with native plants, removing non-native species, and enhancing stream flows have benefited the Moapa dace and the Moapa White River springfish, as well as other endemic (native) species on the refuge.

The Moapa Valley NWR is located in Clark County approximately 60 miles north of Las Vegas in the 4000 block of west Warm Springs Road in Moapa, Nevada. The wildlife refuge is about eight miles southwest from the intersection of Interstate 15 and State Route 168 (Moapa/Glendale exit), and about 15 miles southeast of the U.S. Highway 93 and SR 168 intersection.

For more information about the Moapa Valley NWR, visit www.fws.gov/desertcomplex/moapavalley or contact Refuge Manager Amy LaVoie via email to amy_lavoie@fws.gov or by telephone at (702) 515-5225.

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/cno. Connect with our Facebook page at www.facebook.com/usfwspacificsouthwest, follow our tweets at <http://twitter.com/USFWSPacSWest>, watch our YouTube Channel at www.youtube.com/usfws and download photos from our Flickr page at www.flickr.com/photos/usfws_pacificsw/.