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News Release



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It's a "Star Party" at the Pahrnagat National Wildlife Refuge

Explore the night sky in a tranquil lakeside setting

LAS VEGAS – The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service invites the public to the Pahrnagat National Wildlife Refuge (NWR) next Friday for an evening of astronomical wonder. The entire family will enjoy the Star Party at the wildlife refuge just south of Alamo, Nevada.

The event is scheduled for Friday, September 16, 2011, from 7:30-10 p.m. (PDT) at the Upper Pahrnagat Lake campground. Volunteers from the Las Vegas Astronomical Society will set up high-powered telescopes to provide views of deep sky objects such as galaxies, nebulae, and stars too distant to clearly see with the naked eye.

Ranger Sierra Willoughby will host the gathering in a setting that offers an astounding view of the night sky over the refuge. Star gazers are attracted to the Pahrnagat NWR and rural Nevada because there are no city lights clouding the view of the multitude of sparkling heavenly bodies.

Those taking part are encouraged to bring comfortable shoes, warm clothes (it can cool off at night by the lake), a lightweight chair, a blanket to lay on the ground for seating, and a flashlight (red filters will be provided to help preserve night vision). Personal telescopes or binoculars are optional, but not necessary.

For more information about this evening experience, contact Sierra Willoughby at (775) 725-3417 or via email to Christopher_Willoughby@fws.gov.

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The Pahrnagat NWR (www.fws.gov/desertcomplex/pahrnagat) was established on August 16, 1963, to provide habitat for migratory birds, especially waterfowl. The wildlife refuge is located approximately 90 miles north of Las Vegas on U.S. 93 in Lincoln County, Nevada. Situated along the Pacific Flyway, Pahrnagat's 5,380 acres contain lakes and marshes — a rare sight in this part of Nevada.

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/.