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# News Release



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## Stewardship Saturdays Scheduled at Desert NWR

**LAS VEGAS** – The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (FWS) invites the public to volunteer for habitat restoration work at the Desert National Wildlife Refuge (NWR). Two such opportunities are scheduled in the next few weeks at the wildlife refuge north of Las Vegas.

February 19, 2011 marks the first Stewardship Saturday of the year at the Desert NWR. Volunteers are needed from 8 a.m. until noon to help remove invasive weeds in the vicinity of Corn Creek. Participants will help FWS staff remove noxious, non-native weeds that are springing up after several days of rain this past December. Invasive weeds can quickly overtake the natural habitat, posing a threat to the endemic species on the wildlife refuge. There are 29 plant species of concern on the Desert NWR, as well as the threatened desert tortoise and the endangered Pahrump poolfish.

Volunteers are welcome to bring their own trowel and gloves; however, these items will be provided for those who have none. Snacks and water also will be provided.

Another Stewardship Saturday is set for March 5, 2011, when volunteers have the opportunity to help Desert NWR personnel take an unauthorized road out of service. Operating motor vehicles in undesignated areas on the wildlife refuge destroys the natural desert habitat. FWS staff and volunteers will restore a portion of what is now an unauthorized road. Turning the “road” back to a natural state will provide a safer environment for wildlife and create a walking trail for visitors.

Volunteers are welcome to bring their own shovel, rake, or hoe, and gloves; however, these items will be provided for those who have none. Snacks and water also will be provided.

- More -

Volunteers for both events are asked to register online at [www.getoutdoorsnevada.org](http://www.getoutdoorsnevada.org). For additional information, please contact Ida Castillo by telephone at (702) 879-6110, or via email to [ida\\_castillo@fws.gov](mailto:ida_castillo@fws.gov).

The 1.5 million-acre Desert NWR ([www.fws.gov/desertcomplex/desertrange](http://www.fws.gov/desertcomplex/desertrange)) is approximately 23 miles north of Las Vegas on U.S. Highway 95. A sign on the east side of the highway marks the entrance to the four-mile gravel road leading to Corn Creek.

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).