

Department of the Interior
U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service
Desert National Wildlife Refuge Complex
4701 North Torrey Pines Drive
Las Vegas, NV 89130
Phone: (702) 515-5450
Fax: (702) 515-5460
<http://fws.gov/desertcomplex>

News Release



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Contact: Dan Balduini
(702) 515-5480

It's time for another Carp Rodeo at the Pahranaagat National Wildlife Refuge

Public invited to help fish out invasive carp from wildlife refuge waters

ALAMO, Nev. — The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (Service), the Southern Nevada Agency Partnership, and the Nevada Department of Wildlife (NDOW) are teaming for another Carp Rodeo — a special day of public fishing and fun at the Pahranaagat National Wildlife Refuge. As with the first Carp Rodeo at Pahranaagat (July 2010), this year's event is targeting removal of invasive carp from the waters on the wildlife refuge. More than 300 people from all over southern Nevada participated in the first Carp Rodeo.

The Carp Rodeo runs from 9 a.m.–noon on Saturday, April 28, 2012. The event will be based at the day-use area of the Upper Pahranaagat Lake campground, which is located three miles north of the wildlife refuge headquarters. NDOW will provide loaner rods and reels to the first 100 people on hand who do not bring or have their own.

State fishing regulations will be in force, so anyone aged 12 and over who wants to fish must have a current Nevada fishing license. Anglers can buy a license from an authorized retailer or on-line at www.ndow.org. For Nevada residents a one-day license costs just \$9, while an annual fishing license costs \$13 for persons 12 through 15 years of age and \$29 for persons 16 years of age or older. Those who qualify for a senior license pay only \$13.

Service and NDOW personnel will offer information about native and non-native fish species in the Pahranaagat Valley. Representatives of the Nevada Naturalist Program will also assist with the event. Prizes will be awarded for the largest and most carp caught. The day also includes a nature walk, educational booths, a barbeque lunch, and prizes for the first 100 people in attendance. Fish printing and other crafts will be available for children of all ages. For more details, contact Angelina Yost at (702) 515-5453.

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Since their introduction to Nevada waters, carp have spread throughout the state. As bottom feeders, carp stir up materials in search of vegetative roots and insect larvae, making the water muddy. This disrupts the calm, clear environment that native fish need to reproduce and thrive. Carp can grow to an enormous size and destroy habitat by quickly consuming the natural lake vegetation. The state-record carp weighed 34 pounds, 10 ounces, and measured 38 inches in length.

The Pahrnagat National Wildlife Refuge 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 — rare sights 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/.