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# News Release



**For Immediate Release**  
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## **Grand opening of new trails on tap Sunday at Desert NWR**

### *Various activities planned to kick off National Wildlife Refuge Week*

**LAS VEGAS** — The public is invited to the Desert National Wildlife Refuge (NWR) on Sunday, October 14, 2012, as the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service officially opens four new and improved trails at Corn Creek. The event kicks off National Wildlife Refuge Week and includes activities for the entire family.

The event runs from 11 a.m. – 2 p.m. (PDT), and is free of charge. There are five trails at Corn Creek, all of which connect at some point. The trails feature informative displays, spectacular views of the desert, and opportunities to see wildlife. Four of the trails are loops — Coyote Loop, Jackrabbit Loop, Bighorn Loop, and Birdsong Loop. The Whispering Ben Trail branches off of the Bighorn Loop. The Birdsong Loop was officially opened in November 2011.

The pathways range in length from .1 to .5 miles. The hikes are considered easy to moderate and three of the loops are wheelchair accessible.

Those on hand can see how pioneers lived courtesy of the Richardson Family, whose ancestors homesteaded at Corn Creek at the turn of the 20<sup>th</sup> century. The day also features live birds of prey courtesy of Lisa Ross of the Wild Wing Project, Paula Garrett from the Harry Reid Center for Environmental Studies is bringing live reptiles for everyone to see, and biologist Bruce Lund will provide information about the area's insects and demonstrate how to capture bugs with a net. The Southern Nevada Agency Partnership's EXPLORE! Mobile Exhibit will also be there.

**-More-**

The Desert NWR is approximately 23 miles north of Las Vegas on U.S. Highway 95. Signs on both sides of the highway mark the turnoff to the 4-mile gravel road leading to Corn Creek. The wildlife refuge was established on May 20, 1936, for the conservation and development of wildlife resources, including the desert bighorn sheep. At 1.6 million acres, it is the largest national wildlife refuge in the continental United States. Visit the [Desert NWR](#) website and [Facebook](#) page for more information.

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