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U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service
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News Release



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Activities on tap through mid-April at Desert, Moapa Valley, and Pahrnagat National Wildlife Refuges

LAS VEGAS — The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service is offering several opportunities through mid-April for the public to connect with nature at three of its national wildlife refuges in southern Nevada. Activities include wildlife habitat restoration, camping under the stars, and gazing at the heavens through a telescope.

On Saturday, March 31, 2012, volunteers are needed from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. (PDT) to help refuge staff plant trees and shrubs at the Pahrnagat National Wildlife Refuge. The planting will expand habitat for the endangered Southwestern Willow Flycatcher. Those wishing to volunteer are asked to register online at www.getoutdoorsnevada.org. For additional information, please contact Nick Bechtold at (775) 725-3417.

The Pahrnagat NWR 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.

Two events are scheduled at the Desert National Wildlife Refuge the weekend of April 14, 2012:

- Saturday, April 14 is a Stewardship Saturday at the Desert National Wildlife Refuge. The public is invited to join refuge staff from 8 a.m. until noon (PDT) to work on habitat improvement and restoration at Corn Creek. Volunteers can register online at www.getoutdoorsnevada.org. For additional information, please contact the Desert NWR office at (702) 879-6110.

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- A “Discover Desert” camping event is set for Saturday and Sunday, April 14 and 15, on the Desert NWR. Those interested in camping — especially families looking for their first camping experience — are invited to join the Friends of the Desert National Wildlife Refuge Complex and the Mojave Family Experience for the overnight campout. The weekend includes fun, educational activities for campers of all ages. For more information, contact Frank Simpson of the Friends group at friendsdnwrc@aol.com.

The Desert NWR is approximately 23 miles north of Las Vegas on U.S. Highway 95. Signs on both the east and west sides of the highway mark the turnoff to the 4-mile gravel road leading to Corn Creek. The wildlife refuge was established 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.

The Moapa Valley National Wildlife Refuge will host an astronomy program on the evening of Saturday, April 14, 2012. The public is invited to join the Las Vegas Astronomical Society from 7:30 p.m. - 10 p.m. (PDT) at the Moapa Valley NWR to view the night sky. Telescopes will provide clear views of Saturn, the stars, nebulae, and deep space objects. For more information, contact Amy LaVoie at (702) 515-5225.

Located at 4001 W. Warm Springs Road in Moapa, the 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, the White River springfish, and other species endemic (native) to the refuge.

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. 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/.