

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



For Immediate Release
Date: February 6, 2012

Contact: Dan Balduini
(702) 515-5480

Public Invited to Enjoy a Day of Scrambling on Fossil Ridge

LAS VEGAS – The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (Service) and the Friends of the Desert National Wildlife Refuge Complex invite the public to explore the wealth of geologic history on Fossil Ridge. Fossil Ridge is on the Desert National Wildlife Refuge (NWR), just north of Las Vegas.

On Sunday, February 19, 2012, representatives of the Service and the Friends of the Desert NWR will lead an expedition on the ridge from 10 a.m. – 3 p.m. The scramble is limited to the first 20 people who register. Participants can reserve a spot by contacting Friends of the Desert NWR Complex board member Frank Simpson via email at mojaveft@gmail.com.

Those wishing to join the scramble must have a high-clearance vehicle with good tires. The organizers suggest bringing a sack lunch and plenty of water. Proper clothing for the conditions and footwear suitable for hiking are also recommended. The group will begin the day at the Corn Creek Field Station at 10 a.m.

Fossil ridge offers a rare glimpse into prehistory, from its fascinating geology to its abundant marine fossils from the Paleozoic era, which ended 251 million years ago. Fossil Ridge is also home to cryptobiotic (living) soil formations, and spectacular vistas. The ridge is located to the northwest of Gass Peak, the highest point in the Las Vegas Mountain Range.

The 1.6 million-acre Desert NWR 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 4-mile gravel road leading to Corn Creek. The Desert NWR Complex is comprised of four wildlife refuges in southern Nevada; the Ash Meadows NWR, the Desert NWR, the Moapa Valley NWR, and the Pahranaagat NWR.

- More -

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/.

-30-