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U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service
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News Release



For Immediate Release
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Moapa Valley National Wildlife Refuge Hosting Open House

Enjoy FREE activities for all ages — see refuge improvements and new features

LAS VEGAS — The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (Service) invites the public — especially residents of the Moapa Valley — for a Saturday of fun with nature at the Moapa Valley National Wildlife Refuge (NWR). The event is set for March 24, 2012.

The open house is scheduled from 8 a.m. to 2:30 p.m. (PDT), with the bulk of the activities beginning at 10 a.m. The “star” of the event is the wildlife refuge itself — specifically, the improvements and new features the Service completed within the past year. The refuge now has a complete set of informative displays; more habitat has been restored for the Moapa dace and other endemic fish, plants, and wildlife; and an overlook structure sits at the highest point on the Loop Trail where visitors have a panoramic view of the refuge and nearly the entire Warm Springs area. The open house is free of charge.

A number of programs are on tap, many of them interactive:

- 8 a.m.–10 a.m. — Birding in the Warm Springs Natural Area
- 10 a.m.–11 a.m. — Presentation: History and Nature of the Warm Springs Natural area
- 10 a.m.–10:30 a.m. & 1:30 p.m.–2:00 p.m. — Presentation: Dragonflies and Damselflies
- 10:30 a.m.–11 a.m. — Presentation: RESTORE! Bringing Back Life
- 11 a.m.–11:30 a.m. & 1:30 p.m.–2: 00 p.m. — An Artist’s Tour of Moapa Valley NWR Exhibits
- 11:30 a.m.–12:30 p.m. — Presentation: The Mammals of Moapa
- 12:30 p.m.–1:30 p.m. — Presentation: The Culture of the Moapa Band of Paiutes
- 2 p.m.–2:15 p.m. — Presentation: What is a Refuge? & Raffle drawing for nature-related prizes (Free of Charge)

Family and children’s activities throughout the day will include, a scavenger hunt, exploring the nature trail, a live reptile demonstration, and a Moapa dace game.

–More–

The Friends of the Desert National Wildlife Refuge Complex will be on hand with information about their activities and the Southern Nevada Agency Partnership's EXPLORE! Mobile Exhibit will be there. The 36-foot recreational vehicle houses displays with photographs and information about the abundance of recreational options on southern Nevada's public lands.

For more information about the open house, contact Sierra Willoughby at (775) 725-3443.

The Moapa Valley NWR is open to the public, free of charge, from sunrise until sunset every Friday, Saturday, and Sunday through the 2012 Memorial Day weekend. Weekday visits, especially for groups, are encouraged and can be scheduled on request by contacting the refuge manager at (702) 515-5225.

Public access to the Moapa Valley NWR is made possible with the help of citizen volunteers, as the Service does not have enough staff to keep the wildlife refuge open throughout the year. Those interested in volunteering to staff the refuge are asked to contact Harry Konwin via email at harry_konwin@fws.gov, or by phone at (702) 515-5494.

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 and the White River springfish, as well as other endemic (native) species at the wildlife refuge. For more information about the Moapa Valley NWR, follow the Internet link above or contact Refuge Manager Amy LaVoie via email at amy_lavoie@fws.gov or by telephone at (702) 515-5225.

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/.