

News Release

DeSoto & Boyer Chute National Wildlife Refuges Visitor Services

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Winter at DeSoto National Wildlife Refuge

Missouri Valley, Iowa - Winter is a wonderful time to visit DeSoto National Wildlife Refuge. Ice fishing is a popular pastime on the refuge. Ice fishing is open on DeSoto Lake from January 2 to February 28. Ice fishing is permitted these dates when conditions permit. It is up to individual anglers to determine the safety of the ice. A general guideline is 4 inches of clear and solid ice as a minimum for foot travel and ice fishing. Due to waterfowl using the lake, ice fishing will be prohibited on a small area of the lake stretching from south of the visitor center to east of the Bob Starr Wildlife Overlook. Look for barricades on the lake to determine closed areas.

As always, the visitor center is open every day 9:00 a.m. - 4:30 p.m. except federal holidays. The windows overlooking DeSoto Lake allow glimpses into the wintry days without the cold of the outside. Ducks and geese have a large hole in the ice open right in front of the center. Bald eagles are also hanging out in this area. There are also bird feeders at the center that have been attracting a wide array of birds including cardinals, harris sparrows, blue jays and goldfinches. Winter is a unique time at DeSoto National Wildlife Refuge; you never know what you might discover.

An entrance permit is required for all vehicles on days other than fee free days. The regular daily entrance fee for private vehicles is \$3.00. Permits may be obtained at the pay stations near the entrances or at the Visitor Center. The charge for commercial vans and buses is \$20, or \$30 if 21 or more people are aboard. Annual permits, including the \$15 DeSoto Refuge Pass, can be obtained at the visitor center.

DeSoto & Boyer Chute National Wildlife Refuges are located north of Omaha, Nebraska along on U.S. Highway 30 between Missouri Valley, Iowa and along U.S. Highway 75 near Ft. Calhoun, Nebraska. For more information contact 712/388-4800 or email the refuge at desoto@fws.gov. Check our websites, www.fws.gov/midwest/desoto/ or www.fws.gov/midwest/boyerchute/, for refuge updates. Like us on Facebook - search for DeSoto and Boyer Chute National Wildlife Refuges.

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