

# News Release

## *DeSoto & Boyer Chute National Wildlife Refuges Visitor Services*

---

1434 316th Lane, Missouri Valley, IA 51555  
712/388-4800 Fax: 712/388-4800 <http://fws.gov/refuge/desoto>

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE  
January 3, 2013

Contact:  
Ken Block, 712.388.4803, [Kenneth\\_block@fws.gov](mailto:Kenneth_block@fws.gov)

### 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 with the season this year 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.

Ice fishing, refuge roads and refuge trails will be closed the weekend of January 12-13, 2013 for the muzzleloader deer hunt. The visitor center will remain open to the public during deer hunt.

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. Eagles, ducks and geese have been spotted from the visitor center viewing gallery windows in recent days. There are also bird feeders at the center that have been attracting a wide array of birds including cardinals, 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](mailto:desoto@fws.gov). Check our websites, [www.fws.gov/midwest/desoto/](http://www.fws.gov/midwest/desoto/) or [www.fws.gov/midwest/boyerchute/](http://www.fws.gov/midwest/boyerchute/), for refuge updates. Like us on Facebook - search for DeSoto and Boyer Chute National Wildlife Refuges.

*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](http://www.fws.gov).*

