

Media Advisory

DeSoto National Wildlife Refuge Visitor Services

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

Temporary Refuge Closures at DeSoto National Wildlife Refuge

When: Saturday, October 18 – Monday, October 20
Where: DeSoto National Wildlife Refuge
Who: Contact DeSoto Visitor Services at (712) 388-4800

1. All refuge roads and nature trails will be closed beyond the visitor center on Saturday and Sunday, October 18-19 to ensure public safety and facilitate a white-tailed deer hunt. The visitor center will remain accessible and open from 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. All spots for the deer hunt have been filled.

The refuge facilitates these hunts in cooperation with the Iowa Department of Natural Resources and the Nebraska Game and Parks Commission. Hunting is used as a management tool to control the number of deer on the Refuge. Hunting is one of six wildlife-dependent recreational uses on refuges which also include wildlife observation, wildlife photography, fishing, environmental education and interpretation.

2. DeSoto National Wildlife Refuge will be closed entirely, including the visitor center, on Monday, October 20 to facilitate repairs to the refuge tour road loop. The north entrance gate will be shut all day; the south gate will remain closed as previously scheduled throughout the migration season until April 15, 2015.

DeSoto National Wildlife Refuge is located 25 miles north of Omaha, Nebraska on U.S. Highway 30, between Missouri Valley, Iowa and Blair, Nebraska. The visitor center is open from 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. daily, except most federal holidays. For more information on the refuge contact 712/388-4800, look us up on the web at <http://www.fws.gov/refuge/desoto/> or email the refuge at desoto@fws.gov

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