

News Release

DeSoto & Boyer Chute National Wildlife Refuges Visitor Services

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Friends of Boyer Chute & DeSoto National Wildlife Refuges Donate Water Pump to Restore and Maintain Wetlands at DeSoto

Missouri Valley, Iowa – The Friends of Boyer Chute & DeSoto National Wildlife Refuges recently donated \$5,000 to purchase a pump, critical to maintaining wetland habitat at DeSoto National Wildlife Refuge. The wetland restored using this pump is attracting thousands of migrating ducks and geese along the tour road just south of the visitor center at DeSoto. The donation directly supports the refuges' mission to provide habitat for migratory waterfowl and other wetland dependent birds. When this new wetland is full it will provide over 90 acres of excellent habitat for migratory birds.

Each fall and spring DeSoto's wetlands provide an important stopover for migratory birds providing habitat that offers protection from predators, and a place to rest, feed and renew the energy required to travel thousands of miles during migration. While many of the refuges' wetlands are in areas closed to the public to avoid disturbance to migrating birds, this wetland restored with the help of the Friend's donation, should offer visitors plenty of great wildlife viewing opportunities throughout the fall, and again in the spring.

According to Refuge Manager Tom Cox "The best thing about this is the refuge would not have been able to purchase this pump without the assistance of the Friends Group. Not only were they successful in acquiring the pump which instantly provided needed habitat, the pump is portable and can be used at other sites as well to provide even more habitat. This is an excellent example of how folks can get involved and help make a positive difference in their community."

Interested in supporting DeSoto and Boyer Cute National Wildlife Refuges? Think about joining the Friends of Boyer Chute & DeSoto National Wildlife Refuges. Friend's membership offers the chance to support the refuges through many different channels which include community outreach, coordinating special events, developing and delivering educational, interpretive, and other visitor services programs, conducting habitat restoration, assisting with biological projects, fundraising and public support.

For more information about the Friend's call the refuge at 712-388-4800 or check out the Friend's website <http://friendsofboyerdesoto.org/>.

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/refuge/desoto/ or www.fws.gov/refuge/boyer_chute/, 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.

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