

Media Advisory

DeSoto National Wildlife Refuge Visitor Services

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

Seasonal Tour Road Openings for Ice Fishing Access at DeSoto National Wildlife Refuge Friday January 2 – Saturday February 28

When: Friday January 2, 2015 – Saturday February 28, 2015
Where: DeSoto National Wildlife Refuge
Who: Contact DeSoto Visitor Services at (712) 388-4800

DeSoto National Wildlife Refuge will re-open all sections of the public use roads on Friday, January 2, 2015 to allow for ice fishing access on DeSoto Lake. This includes the south entrance gate, as well as the south and eastside of the refuge tour loop road. When conditions permit, DeSoto Lake is open to ice fishing January 2nd through the end of February each year – the time period between the fall and spring migrations.

Please note - it is up to individual anglers to determine the safety of the ice. As of Wednesday, the surface ice was approximately three inches deep. ***A general guideline is four inches of clear and solid ice as a minimum for foot travel and ice fishing.*** If there are waterfowl using the lake in January and February, ice fishing may be prohibited on small areas of the lake. Look for barricades and signs along the lake to determine any closed areas.

DeSoto Lake will be closed and migration seasonal road closures will be back in effect from March 1 – April 14. The purpose of the road closure is to reduce potential disturbance to waterfowl that use DeSoto Lake and refuge wetlands as a stopover area during the migration periods.

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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