

# News Release

## *DeSoto and Boyer Chute National Wildlife Refuges*

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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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**Contact:**

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### **Deer Hunting Opportunities at DeSoto and Boyer Chute National Wildlife Refuges**

**Missouri Valley, IA.** – DeSoto National Wildlife Refuge will have two antlerless deer hunts on October 24-25 and December 19-20, 2015. Hunters will be allowed to hunt the entire refuge. Both hunts are muzzleloader and antlerless deer only.

Nebraska residents can apply for the hunts through the Nebraska Game and Parks Commission office. Iowa residents can apply by dropping off at DeSoto, or sending in, a card with their name, address, and phone number. Or the information can be emailed to [mindy\\_sheets@fws.gov](mailto:mindy_sheets@fws.gov). The drawing will be September 1<sup>st</sup> if needed. Any unfilled slots will be available after the drawing on a first come basis. For Iowa residents the October and December hunt will only require antlerless licenses that are specific for the DeSoto hunts and will not count against the hunter's take. Specific information concerning the licenses will be provided to those drawn. Hunters can apply by mailing their requests to DeSoto Refuge, 1434 - 316th Lane, Missouri Valley, IA 51555.

All hunters must possess a DeSoto NWR Hunting Regulation Permit for the hunts. These are free of charge and can be obtained on the DeSoto's website <http://www.fws.gov/refuge/desoto/>, at the visitor center, or by contacting Mindy Sheets at [mindy\\_sheets@fws.gov](mailto:mindy_sheets@fws.gov) or 712-388-4802.

Archery deer hunting is also available on DeSoto Refuge and is open to the public. The archery season on the refuge runs from October 1<sup>st</sup> until January 10, 2016. Hunters must be properly licensed and carry a free DeSoto NWR Hunting Regulations Permit from the refuge. The Permit has a map showing the areas that are open to archery deer hunting and explains the refuge regulations. The Permit can be picked up at the refuge visitor center or off the refuge website listed above. Archery hunters can also use their archery tags and a bow to hunt during the refuge's muzzleloader hunts.

Boyer Chute National Wildlife Refuge will have a deer hunt from December 12<sup>th</sup> through the 20<sup>th</sup>, 2015. This hunt will be refuge wide and antlerless only. Hunters will need a Season Choice-Wahoo or a state-wide muzzleloader license which can be obtained through Nebraska Game and Parks Commission. This will be a muzzleloader only hunt. Hunters that come to the refuge to hunt will need to pick up a free Access Permit that has specific refuge regulations concerning the hunt. The permits will be available during the hunts at the main entrance gate to Boyer Chute. Prior to the hunts, the permits will be available on the Boyer Chute website at [http://www.fws.gov/refuge/boyer\\_chute/](http://www.fws.gov/refuge/boyer_chute/)

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.

The nation's 563 national wildlife refuges and 38 wetland management districts welcomes over 45 million visitors each year. Visitors participate in activities such as fishing, hunting, wildlife observation, birding, interpretive hikes, and photographing iconic wildlife in their natural setting.

DeSoto & Boyer Chute National Wildlife Refuges are located north of Omaha, Nebraska. DeSoto National Wildlife Refuge is located south of U.S. Highway 30 between Missouri Valley, Iowa and Blair, Nebraska. Boyer Chute National Wildlife Refuge, managed by staff at DeSoto National Wildlife Refuge, is located east of U.S. Highway 75 near Ft. Calhoun, Nebraska. Check our websites, [www.fws.gov/refuge/desoto/](http://www.fws.gov/refuge/desoto/) or [www.fws.gov/refuge/boyer\\_chute/](http://www.fws.gov/refuge/boyer_chute/), for refuge updates. Like us on Facebook - search for DeSoto and Boyer Chute National Wildlife Refuges. For more information please contact 712/388-4800 or email the refuge at [desoto@fws.gov](mailto:desoto@fws.gov).

*The mission of the U.S. Fish & 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. For more information on our work and the people who make it happen, visit [www.fws.gov](http://www.fws.gov).*

