

News Release

DeSoto & Boyer Chute National Wildlife Refuges Visitor Services

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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, Iowa- DeSoto National Wildlife Refuge will have two antlerless deer hunts on October 18-19 and December 20-21, 2014. Hunters will be allowed to hunt the entire refuge. Both hunts are muzzleloader and antlerless deer only. The October hunt will have two hundred hunters and the December hunt will be unlimited.

Nebraska residents can apply for the October hunt through the Nebraska Game and Parks Commission office. For the December hunt Nebraska hunters would use a Season Choice-Wahoo or a state-wide muzzleloader license.

Iowa residents can apply for the October hunt by dropping off at DeSoto, or sending in, a card with their name, address, phone number. The information can also be emailed to mindy_sheets@fws.gov. The drawing will be September 1st. Any unfilled slots will be available after the drawing on a first come basis. For Iowa residents, the October hunt will only require antlerless licenses that are specific for the DeSoto hunts and will not count against the hunters 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. The December hunt will require a season 2 shotgun license and a Harrison or Pottawattamie antlerless tag if desired.

All hunters must possess a DeSoto Access 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 or 712-388-4802.

Boyer Chute National Wildlife Refuge will have a deer hunt from December 13th through the 21st, 2014. 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/

Archery deer hunting is also available on the refuge and is open to the public. The archery season on the refuge runs from October 1st until January 10, 2015. Hunters must be properly licensed and carry a free Archery Deer Access 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 Access Permits can be picked up at the refuge visitor center or off the refuge website at <http://www.fws.gov/refuge/desoto/>. Archery hunters can also use their archery tags and a bow to hunt during the refuge's muzzleloader hunts.

An entrance permit is required for all vehicles. The 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. 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.

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