

Media Advisory

DeSoto and Boyer Chute National Wildlife Refuges

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

September 8, 2015

Contact:

Visitor Center 712/388 4800

Celebrate Iowa Archaeology Months at DeSoto National Wildlife Refuge

When: 11:00 am on Sunday, September 13, 2015
Where: DeSoto National Wildlife Refuge's Visitor Center
Who: Contact DeSoto Visitor Services at (712) 388-4800

In celebration of Iowa Archaeology Month, join us on Sunday, September 13 at 11:00 am at DeSoto National Wildlife Refuge's Visitor Center to learn the story of the steamboat *Bertrand* and its connection to the Missouri River. In a follow-up to last weekend's program, the museum curator will present *A Moment Frozen in Time: Artifacts from the Bertrand Collection* for a more detailed account of many of the artifacts found during the excavation of the steamboat *Bertrand*, and then time will be given after the presentation to browse the museum collection exhibits and artifacts. Afterwards, join a ranger on a visit to the steamboat *Bertrand* discovery site to learn how westward expansion brought about dramatic changes and impacts to the wildlife and natural habitats of the Missouri River Valley. Learn about wetland and river habitat restoration and how the refuge works to support healthy floodplain habitats that benefit wildlife. Refuge resources and the story of the *Bertrand* foster an appreciation for the refuge's role in conserving the river's unique natural history.

Steamboats like the *Bertrand* played a vital role in our nation's westward expansion by providing an economical way of transporting supplies to new frontier communities. The collection of cargo on this steamboat from 1865 was of items and supplies that settlers would need to survive on the post-Civil War frontier. The amazing preservation and assortment of foods, clothing, tools, and other everyday items truly makes this artifact collection of extraordinary significance to the American people.

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/ or 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.

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.

