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News Release



For Immediate Release
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Prescribed Fire Planned Next Week at Ash Meadows National Wildlife Refuge

AMARGOSA VALLEY, Nev. – The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (Service) is planning to conduct a prescribed burn the week of February 6, 2012, on the Ash Meadows National Wildlife Refuge (NWR). The fire will eliminate hazardous fuels (excess growth) in specific areas of the wildlife refuge in order to protect infrastructure from wildfires that might occur in the future.

The prescribed fire will target approximately 180 acres southwest of the Ash Meadows NWR headquarters, including all of Horseshoe Reservoir, as well as debris piles in a small area on the east side of the wildlife refuge. The Service will conduct the burn with assistance from the Bureau of Land Management.

The closed portion of Crystal Loop Road, including access to Horseshoe Reservoir and Lower Crystal Marsh, will remain closed after the prescribed burn is completed. The public can access Crystal Reservoir from the east (see attached map).

The burn is intended to remove heavy fuel loads consisting of cattails and invasive weeds in Horseshoe Reservoir and in an old agricultural field. The fire will widen a fire break to help protect Ash Meadows NWR personnel, buildings and equipment, and the general public in the event of a wildfire. The burn will also reinvigorate existing native vegetation, while burning cattails around Horseshoe Reservoir will provide open water for waterfowl.

The burn is planned for February 7, 2012, but timing depends on weather conditions.

Specific questions about the planned prescribed burn should be directed to the wildlife refuge at (775) 372-5435.

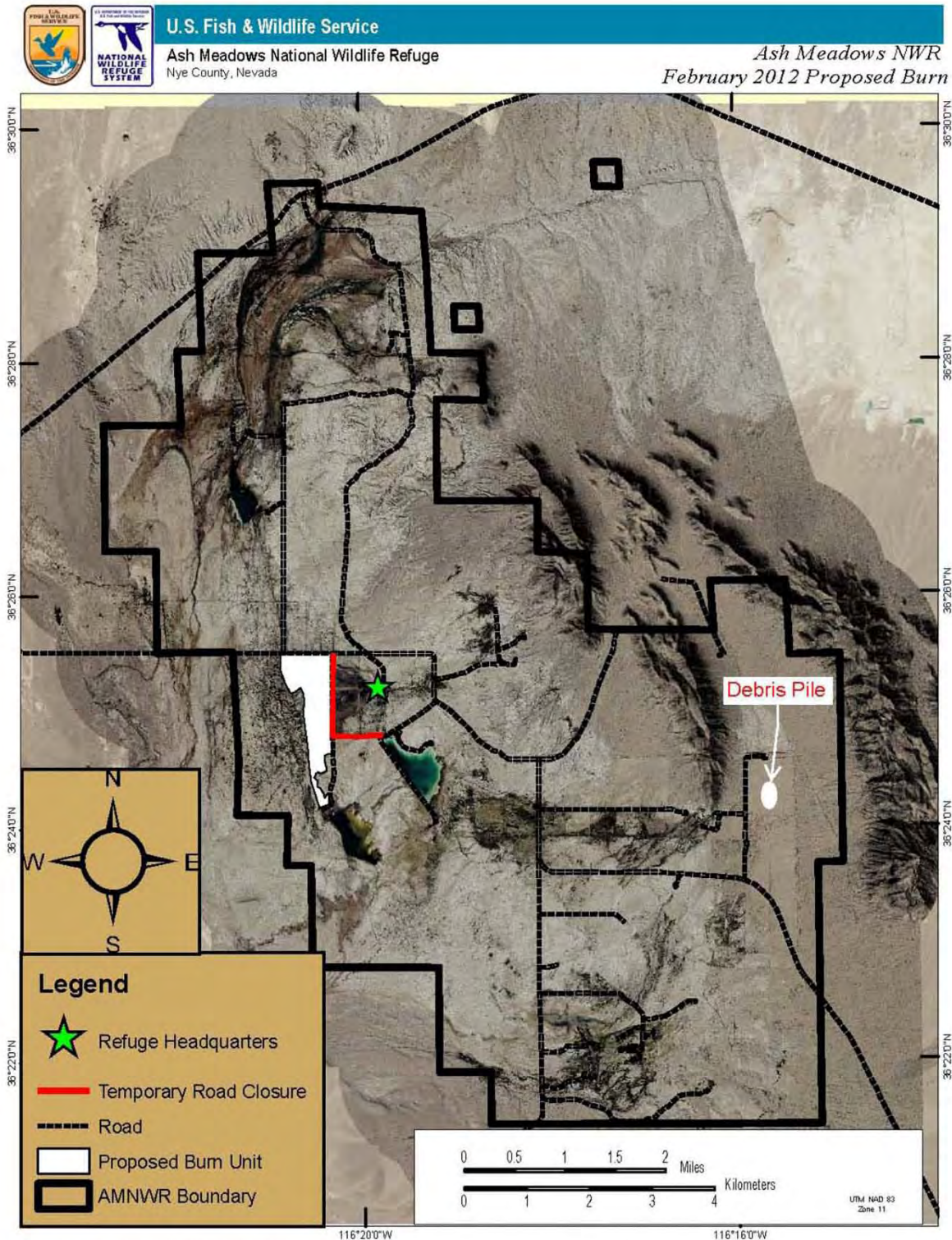
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Ash Meadows NWR, located 90 miles northwest of Las Vegas in Nye County, was established in 1984 under the authority of the Endangered Species Act of 1973, as amended. It comprises 23,448 acres of spring-fed wetlands and desert uplands that provide habitat for at least 24 plant and animal species that occur nowhere else in the world. For more information, call (775) 372-5435, or visit www.fws.gov/desertcomplex/ashmeadows.

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/cno. Connect with our Facebook page at www.facebook.com/usfwspacificsouthwest, follow our tweets at <http://twitter.com/USFWSPacSWest>, watch our YouTube Channel at www.youtube.com/usfws and download photos from our Flickr page at www.flickr.com/photos/usfws_pacificsw/.

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NOTE: See map on next page ▼



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