



## **NEWS RELEASE**

**For immediate release: January 16, 2009**

### **Community Invited to Humbug Marsh Public Use Forum**

Trenton, Michigan- A public meeting will take place on Wednesday, February 18, 2009 from 7-9pm at the Westfield Center in Trenton, Michigan. The meeting, hosted by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, International Wildlife Refuge Alliance, Friends of Detroit River and the Trenton Parks and Recreation Department, will provide information on the visitor services plan under development for the refuge, projects recently completed at Humbug Marsh, plans for the Refuge Gateway, and projects still in the planning stages. The common goal of these projects is to create a quality experience for the visitors, as well as to uphold the mission of the Fish and Wildlife Service.

The Detroit River International Wildlife Refuge obtained the Humbug Complex, made up of Humbug Island, Humbug Marsh, and adjacent undeveloped upland habitats, in 2004. It includes 410 acres of unique fish and wildlife habitats in Trenton and Gibraltar, Michigan. Humbug Marsh represents the last mile of natural shoreline on the U.S. mainland of the Detroit River. Over 97% of such coastal wetlands in the river have been lost to shoreline development and 90% of such coastal wetlands in western Lake Erie have disappeared during the past 50 years. Because they are home to such a high diversity of fish and wildlife, such marshes have been identified by The Nature Conservancy as globally unique and globally significant in biological diversity - nothing like this marsh exists anywhere outside the Great Lakes. The Detroit River International Wildlife Refuge strives to protect and preserve the fish, wildlife, and plants under its care as well as facilitating ways for the public to participate in wildlife dependent recreation.

The public will hear from the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, the Friends of the Detroit River and the local government. The agenda includes time set aside for not only questions from the public, but feedback and input regarding plans for the Humbug Marsh Unit.

For more information please contact Kristi Thiel (734-692-7649), John Hartig (734-692-7608) of the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service or David Howell (734-675-0141) of the Friends of the Detroit River.

***Discover Our Wild Side***