

News Release



Long Island National Wildlife Refuge Complex
340 Smith Road

Contact: Michelle Potter, Refuge Manager

Phone: 631-286-0485

Shirley, New York 11967

Fax: 631-286-4003

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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HABITAT RESTORATION AT THE WERTHEIM NATIONAL WILDLIFE REFUGE

The U. S. Fish & Wildlife Service, Long Island National Wildlife Refuge Complex plans to continue restoring approximately 30 acres of tidal marsh along the Carmans River (near Indian Landing) and Little Neck Run at Wertheim National Wildlife Refuge. The primary objective of this effort is to improve wildlife habitat by controlling common reed (*Phragmites australis*), a non-native aquatic invasive plant using an adaptive management approach that includes a combination of chemical and mechanical treatments.

Herbicide treatments will be applied between September 1 - 15, 2012, using glyphosate. These treatments will be applied by a ground-based, licensed contractor with experience working in wetland habitats. Glyphosate is a common herbicide used in many household weed control products. The exact dates of the treatments will depend on tides and weather conditions, and should approximately take 2 - 4 days to complete.

To ensure public safety, the southern portion of the Black Tupelo Trail (near Indian Landing) will be closed to the public during the actual dates of the herbicide applications. The trail will re-open after the treatment in this area is complete.

Invasive, non-native plants and animals are considered one of the top threats to maintaining biological diversity around the world. Like many non-native, invasive plant species, common reed (also known as *Phragmites*) aggressively outcompetes native vegetation for space, water, nutrients and degrades wildlife habitat. This plant is found in wetland habitats throughout Long Island and is being successfully controlled at other sites within the Refuge Complex.

During the late fall, winter or early spring, Refuge staff plan to mechanically treat the standing dead canes of common reed by mowing the treated areas so that sunlight can reach the soil surface and encourage native plants to grow. Once restored, these areas will provide valuable foraging and nesting habitat for wading birds, song birds, shorebirds and waterfowl. This restoration will also reduce the potential for wildfires at the Refuge since common reed is a highly flammable plant.

For additional information, please view our website <http://longislandrefuges.fws.gov/> or contact the Long Island National Wildlife Refuge Complex Office at 631-286-0485.

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.

