**About this Collection**

Public comment period open for U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service environmental assessment for aerial herbicide application at Agassiz National Wildlife Refuge

**U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service**  
*News Release*

**Agassiz National Wildlife Refuge**  
22996 290th Street  
Middle River, Minnesota 56737

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

June 30th, 2023

Contact: Agassiz NWR Phone: 218-449-4115

**Public comment period open for U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service environmental assessment for aerial herbicide application at Agassiz NWR**

The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service is seeking public review and comments regarding a draft environmental assessment for continuing aerial herbicide application at Agassiz National Wildlife Refuge. The refuge has historically implemented aerial herbicide application as part of integrated pest management efforts.

The primary need for aerial herbicide application is to reduce and control dense populations of invasive and undesirable plant species, to set back succession in areas where prescribed fire or ground application of herbicides is not practical or cannot be conducted on a frequent basis, and to maintain refuge facilities and infrastructure, thus fulfilling the mission of the National Wildlife Refuge System, as outlined by the National Wildlife Refuge System Administration Act (NWRSAA), as amended by the National Wildlife Refuge System Improvement Act (16 U.S.C. 668dd et seq.) “... to administer a national network of lands and waters for the conservation, management and, where appropriate, restoration of the fish, wildlife, and plant resources and their habitats within the United States for the benefit of present and future generations of Americans.” The draft environmental assessment reviews two alternative approaches for herbicide application on the refuges: the preferred alternative of taking no action and continuing current management efforts that include aerial herbicide application and ending all aerial herbicide application on the refuges but using other invasive species treatment tools.

**You are invited to review and comment on the draft Environmental Assessment document. The documents are available starting June 30, 2023 and comments are being accepted until July 20, 2023.** Documents are available on the refuge website: <http://www.fws.gov/refuge/agassiz/>. You can contact the refuge at 218-449-4115 to request documents in alternative formats.

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