

U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service

Detroit River International Wildlife Refuge
U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service
Large Lakes Research Station
9311 Groh Road
Grosse Ile, MI 48138
Phone: (734) 365-0219
Fax: (734) 692-7603
http://www.fws.gov/refuge/detroit_river

News Release



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Contacts: Greg Norwood (734) 692-7611
Jamie Lanier (734) 692-7649

U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service Prescribed Burn Postponed at Detroit River International Wildlife Refuge near Estral Beach Village

GROSSE ILE, MICHIGAN – The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) is postponing a prescribed burn planned for this spring at the Strong Unit of the Detroit River International Wildlife Refuge near Estral Beach Village in Monroe County. The purpose of the 266-acre was to remove dead *Phragmites*, an invasive plant that creates poor wildlife habitat and creates a wildfire risk. The previous herbicide treatments and prescribed fire has significantly reduced the *Phragmites*. Although another burn is still required, this winter's snow accumulation pushed any remaining plant litter into wetland soils. The current conditions will not carry fire that will reach all of the objectives of the burn. Refuge personnel will evaluate the unit again during the summer to determine the possibility of a fall burn.

The Detroit River International Wildlife Refuge covers 48 miles of shoreline along the Detroit River and western Lake Erie (http://www.fws.gov/refuge/Detroit_River). The Refuge focuses on conserving, protecting and restoring habitat for 30 species of waterfowl, 117 kinds of fish, and 300 species of migratory birds. The Detroit River International Wildlife Refuge is the first international refuge in North America. Unique habitats being managed within the Refuge include islands, shoals, coastal wetlands, and riparian forests.

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