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DETROIT RIVER INTERNATIONAL WILDLIFE REFUGE WELCOMES NEW VISITOR SERVICES MANAGER JODY DEMEYERE

Grosse Ile, Mich. – The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service is pleased to welcome Visitor Services Manager Jody DeMeyere to the staff of the Detroit River International Wildlife Refuge. Jody most recently worked at the Long Island NWR complex where she served in the role of Visitor Services Manager.

Jody comes to the Detroit River IWR with extensive knowledge in visitor services. She has spent 14 years working for the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service where she has served in southeast Louisiana, Alaska, the Upper Peninsula of Michigan, Long Island New York and back to Michigan at the Detroit River International Wildlife Refuge. She not only appreciates America's public lands as an employee, but also as a visitor to these special places. A few years ago, Jody and her husband took off on an adventure exploring North America with their two dogs in a van for a year and a half!

Jody developed a love for the outdoors as a young child growing up in Michigan and it has followed her throughout her career, in her studies and first job as an Adventure Ranger at Sleeper and Port Crescent State Parks at the tip of the thumb. Throughout her career as a Park Ranger, Jody has valued working with volunteers. When asked what her favorite part of the job was Jody responded, "I really enjoy working with volunteers. I am blown away by their dedication of time and energy. Our national wildlife refuges always benefit from their knowledge and talents." Jody has a gift for finding projects that compliment volunteers' strengths.

Jody comes to the refuge at a critically important time as she will be leading the design of the interpretive displays found in the new visitor center and surrounding area. This will come as nothing new to Jody as she has already spearheaded the opening of three other national wildlife refuge visitor centers throughout the nation!

Jody looks forward to meeting those of you who have helped shape the refuge into what it is today. She invites you to drop a note and tell her what you think makes this place so special or what you would like to see offered at the new visitor center. Jody honors her role as a public

servant and truly wants to hear your thoughts or concerns. You can reach Jody at jody_demeyere@fws.gov or (734) 692-7649.

The Detroit River International Wildlife Refuge represents a new model for conservation – one that both manages habitats for fish and wildlife in an urban area through innovative public-private partnerships and that provides a blueprint for bringing conservation to cities across the nation. The Detroit River International Wildlife Refuge extends along 48 miles of lower Detroit River and western Lake Erie, focusing on the conservation of the region's biodiversity by protecting and managing some of the last remaining Great Lakes coastal marshes and lakeplain forests for their many values. The Refuge currently owns or cooperatively manages 5,817 acres of unique habitats that include islands, coastal wetlands, marshes, wet prairies, shoals and riverfront lands. To date, 3,797 acres of Essex Region Conservation Authority lands and 981 acres of City of Windsor lands have been added to a Canadian registry of lands, and 7,897 acres of Michigan Department of Natural Resources lands have been added to the U.S. registry of lands for conservation purposes. When totaled between Canada and U.S., 18,492 acres of land in southwest Ontario and southeast Michigan are now being collaboratively managed and protected for the benefit of wildlife and outdoor recreation in the spirit and intent of the 2001 Conservation Vision and the Detroit River International Wildlife Refuge.

The mission of the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service is “working with others to conserve, protect and enhance fish, wildlife, and 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, and dedication and commitment to public service. For more information on our work and the people who make it happen, visit www.fws.gov or www.fws.gov/refuge/detroit_river/.



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