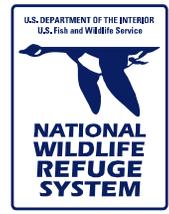


News Release

National Wildlife Refuge System



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Prescribed Burning at Prime Hook National Wildlife Refuge

Prime Hook National Wildlife Refuge, in partnership with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service's Zone Fire Staff, local fire departments, and the Delaware Forest Service, began a landscape burning program on the refuge in March of 2017. This year's plan includes a total of nearly 900 acres throughout the refuge including the **Headquarters Area that will tentatively take place beginning Monday March 8th thru Friday March 19, 2021** and will be contingent upon optimal burn conditions.

The purposes for this year's burn will be to set back field succession to early stages benefitting grassland dwelling birds, counteract against undesired non-native plant species and remove accumulated wildland hazardous fuels as previously anticipated in the refuge's Comprehensive Conservation Plan. The use of prescribed fire is an effective and cost efficient method to accomplish these objectives. Trained prescribed burning specialists will conduct these burns.

Weather conditions such as rainfall, wind speed and wind direction will determine if and when the burning will occur. Prime Hook Refuge's website will be updated appropriately to inform the public regarding daily burn plans.

The Prime Hook National Wildlife Refuge consists of over 10,163 acres of marsh, forest and uplands along the Delaware Bay between Slaughter Beach and Broadkill Beach, east of Milton.

For more information, please call (302) 684-8419 or visit Prime Hook's website: http://www.fws.gov/refuge/Prime_Hook/. Prime Hook National Wildlife Refuge is located just off Route 16 near Broadkill Beach at 11978 Turtle Pond Road, Milton, DE.

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.

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March 5, 2021