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Detroit River International Wildlife Refuge Featured in Film Series on Urban Refuges

December 6, 2016, Los Angeles, CA — The National Wildlife Refuge Association and Tandem Stills + Motion have released a short film on the Detroit River International Wildlife Refuge.

The film is one of several being created by Tandem in an ongoing collaboration with the Refuge Association to document and celebrate the importance of urban national wildlife refuges throughout the United States.

The Detroit River International Wildlife Refuge is the only international refuge in North America, established as a result of binational efforts between the United States and Canada to build a sustainable future for the Detroit River and western Lake Erie ecosystems. The refuge consists of nearly 6,000 acres of habitat, including islands, coastal wetlands, marshes, shoals, and waterfront lands. Thanks to dramatic pollution prevention and cleanup efforts, the area has made one of the most impressive environmental recoveries, creating habitat areas for wildlife and recreational opportunities for the surrounding communities. A new visitor center under development will provide educational and interpretive displays and programs.

The National Wildlife Refuge System is managed by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS). The Refuge Association is a nonprofit that supports the National Wildlife Refuge System through various strategic programs. The USFWS recently created an Urban Wildlife Conservation Program to engage communities around national wildlife refuges and to provide new opportunities for residents of America's cities to learn about and take part in wildlife habitat conservation. The films are a part of this program.



The USFWS has identified 14 priority urban wildlife refuges within the National Wildlife Refuge System. Tandem documented seven in 2015 and the remaining seven are being



documented this year. In addition to Detroit River, the others this year include the Patuxent Research Refuge in Maryland, Arthur R. Marshall Loxahatchee National Wildlife Refuge in Florida, Don Edwards San Francisco Bay National Wildlife Refuge, Bear River Migratory Bird Refuge in Utah, Minnesota Valley National Wildlife Refuge, and three refuges in South Texas: Santa Ana National Wildlife Refuge, Laguna Atascosa National Wildlife Refuge, and Lower Rio Grande Valley National Wildlife Refuge.

“These refuges are in close proximity to many of the major metropolitan areas in this country. They are a natural treasure that connect these urban communities to wildlife and wild places, and provide a variety of recreational opportunities for outdoor enthusiasts, children, and families,” said filmmaker and Tandem CEO Ian Shive. “The Urban Wildlife Conservation Program is fostering a sense of appreciation for these refuges, and providing a place for the next generation of nature lovers to learn and grow.”

The film is available at this direct link: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=NB5sUHRJoRc>.

It is also available on the USFWS Urban Wildlife Conservation Program website (<https://www.fws.gov/urban/>) and the Urban Wildlife Conservation Program YouTube Playlist (https://www.youtube.com/playlist?list=PLZb5DyVcCk97sQYhdSKnSORYXv__mgozr).

Hi resolution photos are available at this link: <https://urbanrefuge.tandemvault.com/lightboxes/ucU4TFGcd?t=zqtlvryaU>.

Photo credit: Tandem/USFWS.

About the National Wildlife Refuge Association

The National Wildlife Refuge Association (www.refugeassociation.org) works to protect America's wildlife heritage by bringing a unique perspective and creative strategies to conservation. The Refuge Association has created a powerful recipe for success by leveraging the world's largest wildlife conservation program — the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service's 150-million acre National Wildlife Refuge System — and engaging other conservation nonprofits, private land owners, and refuge Friends groups in safeguarding wildlife. By mobilizing citizens in support of conservation, generating support for wildlife conservation among decision makers, and creating mosaics of public and private protected lands, the Refuge Association is ensuring a future for wildlife across America.

About Tandem Stills + Motion

Tandem Stills + Motion (www.tandem.film) is a leading visual media company that provides premium photographs, film footage, and digital asset management for the nature, outdoor adventure, healthy living, and travel industries. Under the creative direction of Ian Shive, Tandem Stills + Motion has developed award-winning documentary-style films for television and other media outlets. As executive producer and cinematographer, Shive recently led a team of filmmakers and scientists on a groundbreaking expedition in Cuba for a segment on Discovery Channel's "Shark Week." Shive also recently partnered with the Sierra Club to produce two films for a national conservation campaign and with the United States Fish and Wildlife Service to celebrate America's urban wildlife refuges. The company is recognized as a global leader of digital content for the conservation, outdoor adventure, nature, and travel markets, and provides a state-of-the-art digital asset management service.