

COMPATIBILITY DETERMINATION

Use: Collection of Edible Wild Plant Foods for Personal Use

Station Name: Detroit River International Wildlife Refuge

Establishing and Acquisition Authority(ies):

The Detroit River International Wildlife Refuge Establishment Act, HR 1230 (P.L. 107-91), and the Ottawa National Wildlife Refuge Complex Expansion and Detroit River International Wildlife Refuge Expansion Act, HR 289 (P.L. 108-23).

Refuge Purpose(s):

The Detroit River International Wildlife Refuge was established by an Act of Congress, which became Public Law 107-91 on December 21, 2001. Section 4 of the Act states the following purposes for the new Detroit River International Wildlife Refuge:

- To protect the remaining high-quality fish and wildlife habitats of the Detroit River before they are lost to further development and to restore and enhance degraded wildlife habitats associated with the Detroit River.
- To assist in international efforts to conserve, enhance, and restore the native aquatic and terrestrial community characteristics of the Detroit River (including associated fish, wildlife, and plant species) both in the United States and Canada.
- To facilitate partnerships among the United States Fish and Wildlife Service, Canadian national and provincial authorities, State and local governments, local communities in the United States and in Canada, conservation organizations, and other non-Federal entities to promote public awareness of the resources of the Detroit River.

National Wildlife Refuge System Mission:

“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.”

Description of Use:

Allow public to collect food products on the refuge for non-commercial use.

Some species growing on the Detroit River International Wildlife Refuge produce edible products such as berries and mushrooms.

Access to harvest sites is accomplished by walking from a designated parking area or public roadway.

Collection of these foods is not a wildlife-dependent recreational use and occurs infrequently. For a small number of people, this is a traditional, family oriented activity which provides an opportunity for those participating to collect wholesome, healthy foods while enjoying the beauty of the natural environment. Allowing this use opens up a new door to get people out on the refuge who otherwise might not visit.

Availability of Resources:

Staff is available to maintain these facilities, enforce Refuge regulations, and provide information to the public. Administering this use can thus be done with existing resources for ongoing operations, maintenance and public information.

Anticipated Impacts of the Use:

Wildlife disturbance and removal of wildlife foods are the direct impacts associated with this activity.

This activity should not result in short or long-term impacts that adversely affect the purpose of the DRIWR or the mission of the National Wildlife System.

Public Review and Comment:

The Compatibility Determination will go out to public comment for 30 days.

Public Review and Comment:

Comments can be sent to:

Detroit River International Wildlife Refuge
Attn: Jody DeMeyere
9311 Groh Road
Grosse Ile, MI 48138

E-mail:

detroitriver@fws.gov

Phone:

734-692-7649

Determination (check one below):

Use is Not Compatible

Use is Compatible With Following Stipulations

Stipulations Necessary to Ensure Compatibility:

- 1.) The use of motorized vehicles or motorized water craft is prohibited.
- 2.) Camping, overnight use and fires are prohibited.
- 3.) Digging of plants or their roots is prohibited.
- 4.) Plant food products cannot be sold.
- 5.) Damage to trees is prohibited.

Justification:

This use will have limited and localized impacts when conducted within the stipulations above. Administration of the use will require little to no administrative time or funding. This use will not diminish the conservation of migratory birds and wildlife. This will allow a new audience to come to the refuge and feel connected to nature.

Signature: Project Leader: _____

Concurrence: Regional Chief: _____

Mandatory 10-year Re-evaluation Date: 2026