



Crow Island State Game Area Summer Report - 2020

www.michigan.gov/wetlandwonders

Growing Season Conditions

This early growing season was impacted by heavy rains and subsequent dam failures in Midland County. Due to the nature of the floodplain system in which the game area lies, water from Sandford and Wixom lakes flows to the Saginaw River before flowing to Saginaw Bay. Therefore, the area experienced severe and prolonged flooding, along with some significant infrastructure damage. The DNR was able to move water off the area as flood waters receded. Sharecroppers planted the fields but were unable to plant certain low spots. Crops in the Stork Unit, given the flooding, are in exceptional condition. All corn will be five to seven feet tall.

Unit Conditions

Panko Unit: For the most part, this unit is at or above full pool all year.

East Unit: This marsh was at full pool and above all year. This has had a negative effect on the road and may cause road closures.

Greenhead Unit: This unit was also flooded and was above full pool for a large part of the year. Staff have been able to draw the water down and will keep levels lower this year or until we experience flooding again. The dikes were not repaired this summer, so flooding will likely happen again.

Baldpate Unit: Due to flooding, this unit was breached and was way above full pool, causing damage to the Interurban road and parking lots. Staff have been able to draw the water down and currently the unit is at normal level.

Davis Unit: This unit is where water from the Saginaw River breached the dike and in turn flooded the other units. Water has been flowing in and out of this unit all spring and summer.

Plowdry Unit: This unit is open to the river with no water control.

Stork Unit: This unit is not flooded and has both grass, woods, and crops, which are all looking good.

Area Projects

Post-flood infrastructure repair is ongoing. The DNR is pursuing federal funding for repairs through the Natural Resources Conservation Service. Due to historic flooding, COVID-19, and associated budget impacts, no major projects were completed in 2020.

Wetland Wonders

During the waterfowl season hunters can find information on waterfowl refuge counts, area conditions, and harvest information for the managed waterfowl hunt areas by visiting www.michigan.gov/wetlandwonders.