



Pointe Mouillee Managed Waterfowl Area Summer Report - 2020

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Growing Season Conditions

2020 had a favorable spring for growing conditions. Unfortunately, due to the Covid-19 pandemic, all field staff was unable to work in the field from late March to the beginning of June. Despite the late start and staffing shortages, the staff at Pointe Mouillee were still able to get all crops planted. Corn, buckwheat, and millet were planted and treated in the correct window. Buckwheat and millet are growing optimally in all units, while corn is exceptional in the Nelson and Bloody Run units, but short in the Walpatich unit. Walpatich corn was not tilled because of a shortage of time to properly prepare the ground. Soybeans were planted in the western portion of the Nelson Unit and will be harvested this fall. A mix of buckwheat, sorghum, soybeans, and sunflowers were planted along dikes at the end of July to provide additional food for waterfowl and other wildlife. Overall, the crops look good and are on track to finish well.

Staff are expecting to have great hunting season conditions and are hoping for a good migration. The crops are doing very well, and all the units will be ready to go on October 10.

Managed Zones

- 2-10 Long Pond Unit – Managed Cattail Marsh – Accessible via foot or by boat. (Cross the river from HQ and over rollers into Zone 4). Water has been left in the unit for the second consecutive year. This promotes control of unwanted aquatic vegetation and creates openings in the cattails. Additional mechanical control will be performed to create more openings prior to the season. The marsh looks great and will be a good hunting opportunity.
- 11-14 Nelson Unit – Flooded Ag Fields – Walk-in only hunting. Cover food and water will all be very good. Goose damage was light this year. Flooding was not an issue, and the corn is growing well. Zones 11 and 12 are alternating strips of corn, buckwheat, and millet, while 13 and 14 are alternating strips of corn and buckwheat. Zones 11 and 12 strips run east to west and 13-14 run north and south.
- 15-16, 19, 21 Walpatich Unit – Ag fields and cattail marsh – Walk-in only hunting. Zone 15 is mostly a dry field with alternating strips of corn and buckwheat. Zone 16 has corn and buckwheat on the west end and marsh on the east. Zone 19 and 21 are alternating strips of corn and buckwheat and will be completely flooded. The corn in these units is short this year but should still provide cover.
- 17-18, 20, 22 Walpatich Unit – Managed cattail marsh – Walk-in only hunting. Zones 17 and 18 were treated as marsh units this year. Historically, they have been completely drained to allow for agriculture planting. Zone 17 has standing corn stalks from 2019. Zones 20 and 22 will be similar to last year, but mechanical control will be done to create more openings.

Open Hunting Areas

Humphries Unit: The Humphries Unit will be on the deep side again this year. With Lake Erie continuing to

rise, staff continue to fight to keep additional water out and remove water via gravity flow when able. Like last year, the east end of the unit will be unfavorably deep. However, the water still reaches the west end of the unit, so there is opportunity for hunting in the shallower waters further west. The unit can be accessed by foot from the west or by boat from the launch at the end of Roberts Road.

Vermet Unit: The Vermet Unit is in much better condition than recent years. In January, water was drawn down to hunting levels to promote vegetation growth that had been lost in previous years to high water levels. Cattails and lotus pads are plentiful, and the unit should yield good results. The unit is best accessed by boat. Enter via the rollers over the North Causeway from the lake and over the Middle Causeway from the Humphries Unit. Walk-in is still an option, but a permit is required for access via walk-in.

Bad Creek: The Bad Creek Unit is a public hunting unit managed using moist soil management techniques. It is positioned on the west side of the Humphries Unit off of Roberts Rd. For the fourth consecutive year, the unit has been under water, providing ample vegetation cover and potholes. There is a channel that goes around the south, east, and west side, perfect for a canoe or kayak, and a land bridge on the east side to provide ample opportunity for walk-in hunting.

Area Projects

Staff reinforced the spillway dike portion behind the large pump house. It had washed away from rising Lake Erie and Mouillee Creek water.

Additional projects (such as the new Cripple Point Unit) were put on hold due to the Covid-19 pandemic. The main goal for staff at Pointe Mouillee this summer was to complete the usual annual operations (agriculture, dike maintenance, HQ maintenance, infrastructure maintenance, etc.) due to limited time and limitations on spending.

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.

Location

The Pointe Mouillee State Game Area (PMSGGA) is located in Northeastern Monroe County at the confluence of the Huron River, Detroit River, and Lake Erie. PMSGGA is just east of I-75 in Rockwood Michigan. PMSGGA managed hunting consists of 21 managed zones issued through a draw system on opening day and every Sunday AM/PM, Tuesday AM and Thursday AM/PM thereafter. Open hunting is available every day of the week during any open season on almost 3,000 acres of the PMSGGA. The PMSGGA check station is open on draw days from 5AM – 4PM Field Office Location: 37205 Mouillee Rd Rockwood MI 48173. **No open house will be held in 2020 and the Pointe Mouillee Waterfowl Festival has been cancelled this year.**

Questions

The office is currently closed, so calls cannot be returned. Please contact a [DNR Customer Service Center](#) if you have questions.