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Wetland Compensation: Enhancement By Means Of *Phragmites* Control

RedHorse Environmental conducted an environmental site assessment to facilitate the replacement of a defective section of a liquid fuels pipeline along a right-of-way near Braceville, Trumbull County, Ohio. Located within a NWI mapped wetland along an abandoned rail line, an extensive site evaluation including a wetland delineation per U.S. Army Corps of Engineers protocols and an Ohio EPA ORAM Assessment of the approximate 200 acre wetland was completed. The wetland was a Category 3 (ORAM score of 91). The site was also screened for the presence of sensitive species.

The USACE Pittsburgh District issued a Nationwide Permit for the site following a public hearing by OEPA. As part of the permit a *Phragmites* control program as compensation was developed to maintain the integrity of this exceptional wetland. RedHorse secured all permits, managed all construction work, and is implementing the compensation and long-term monitoring program.

Phragmites stands were initially treated in the fall of 2011 with Habitat herbicide. Effectiveness was evaluated in spring 2012 with control exceeding 95%. Successive yearly herbicide applications have nearly eliminated *Phragmites* from the majority of the wetland complex. Transport of vegetative materials down Eagle Creek has enabled new, albeit very low-density stands, to become established. The long-term prognosis is that when enhancement requirements are met in 2016 *Phragmites* may eventually become reestablished in this high quality wetland.



Locations of treated *Phragmites* stands within 200 acre wetland



Recolonization of revisly treated *Phragmites* stand by *Peltandra virginica*



Phragmites stand treated Fall 2014

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