

James River National Wildlife Refuge

Comprehensive Conservation Planning Newsletter

Comprehensive Conservation Planning

The U. S. Fish and Wildlife Service (Service) is starting work on a draft Comprehensive Conservation Plan (CCP) and Environmental Assessment (EA) for James River National Wildlife Refuge (NWR). The plan will establish management goals and objectives for all refuge programs over the next 15 years. Our habitat management, visitor services and administrative programs will all be evaluated during the planning process.

This planning process provides a unique opportunity for the Service to involve all of those interested in the long-term management of the refuge. You can play a role in the development of this plan!

Public Open Houses

Prince George County Human Services Building

6400 Administration Drive
Building #12
Prince George, VA 23875

September 12th, 2012

2:00 PM - 4:00 PM

Presentation begins at 2:15 PM

6:00 PM - 8:00 PM

Presentation begins at 6:15 PM

A brief presentation on the CCP process and refuge overview will be followed by a facilitated discussion.

Please call the refuge in advance with any specific accessibility needs at (804) 829-5413.



Bald eagle chicks

Dave Menke/USFWS

Developing the Plan

Eastern Virginia Rivers NWR Complex staff in Charles City and Warsaw, Virginia will lead the planning effort, with assistance from the Service's Northeast Regional Office. We hope that you will actively participate in this public planning process. We would like to hear your thoughts on our current management, your vision for the future of the refuge's biological and visitor service programs, or any other refuge-related issues of importance to you.

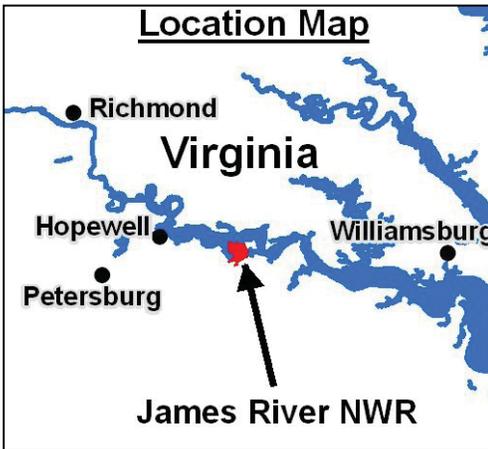
We will facilitate public participation in this planning process by:

- Hosting public meetings
- Developing informational newsletters
- Providing news releases to local media outlets
- Giving presentations at community meetings
- Holding working group sessions and technical expert meetings
- Regularly updating our refuge planning Web site

How Can You Get Involved?

Please help us evaluate current management, envision future desired conditions on the refuge, plan the future of our public use programs, and identify other important issues. Please let us know if you have suggestions for additional forums that can be used to reach out to the community. You can start getting involved by attending one of our scoping meetings (see tan box) and/or providing comments to us by mail or email (see contact information on back page of newsletter). To stay informed throughout the planning process, please visit our refuge Web site at <http://www.fws.gov/northeast/planning/jamesriver/ccphome.html>.

James River NWR



James River NWR location

Who is Leading this Effort?

The Service is the principal Federal agency responsible for conserving, protecting, and enhancing the nation's fish and wildlife populations and their habitats.

The Service manages the National Wildlife Refuge System, the world's largest collection of lands and waters set aside specifically for the protection of fish and wildlife populations and their habitats. Refuges not only provide important habitat for native plants and animals, but also facilitate the preservation of threatened or endangered species. Specific public uses are offered on refuges when appropriate and compatible with the purpose of the refuge.

Refuge Overview

James River NWR was established in 1991 as a nationally significant nesting and roosting habitat for the bald eagle. The 4,324-acre refuge lies in the Chesapeake Bay Watershed and is located along the James River in Prince George County, Virginia.

The refuge consists of riparian, wetland, and forested habitats, which support a variety of songbirds, raptors, rare plants, and other species of conservation concern. James River also provides opportunities for the public to engage in wildlife-dependent recreation, including environmental education programs, wildlife observation and photography, nature hikes, an annual white-tailed deer hunt, canoe trips, and volunteer workdays.

What's Next?

We encourage you to get involved during the planning process, especially at scoping meetings, so that you may have the opportunity to interact with the planning staff. This gives you the chance to share ideas for refuge programs or provide feedback on any issues. Your input is essential to every step of the planning process.

Contact Information

For more information, please contact Meghan Carfioli, Natural Resource Planner, by telephone at (804) 829-5413.

You can send emails to:

EasternVirginiaRiversNWRC@fws.gov

Please include "James River CCP" in the subject line.

To learn more about the refuge, please visit our Web site at:

<http://www.fws.gov/northeast/jamesriver/>



Forest along Powell Creek

Preliminary Issues and Concerns

The CCP Team has already identified several categories of issues to help organize the list of individual concerns. We welcome your input and comments on these categories. Feel free to offer additional considerations as well.

- Landscape Scale/Ecosystem-wide Issues: climate change, roles within regional land protection, water quality
- Land Management Issues: management, restoration, inventories, monitoring, research, acquisition, easement
- Facilities, Infrastructure, Staffing Issues: safety, sustainability, accessibility, additional needs
- User Conflicts and Compatibility with Refuge System Mission: appropriate uses in line with wildlife protection mandates required on refuges
- Public Use: access, safety, conflicting uses, range or quality of programs
- Community Relations, Outreach, and the Local Economy: tourism, quality of life, local impact
- Agency and Partner Coordination: regional planning, technical assistance, volunteer opportunities

James River National Wildlife Refuge: Comment by October 15, 2012

Draft Vision Statement

James River National Wildlife Refuge safeguards nationally significant riparian and forest habitats along the lower James River for nesting, roosting, and foraging bald eagles and associated vulnerable species of the Chesapeake Bay. From high bluff vantages along the James River's southern shores to its meandering streams and upland habitats, bald eagles prosper; waterfowl find shelter within the riparian corridors, and songbirds flourish in forest and field in an ever-changing landscape. The refuge serves as a living laboratory for environmental studies in keeping with the Service's mission to support scientific excellence through working with others.

Visitors will awaken their senses with sights, sounds, and smells of a dynamic planet. Entry into this wild place will be rewarded with the chorus of frogs, gobbling wild turkeys, fragrant spring flowers, lush fall leaves, and inconspicuous wildlife awaiting discovery. The serene experience reinvigorates the mind, body, and spirit, while instilling a stewardship ethic. America's hunting heritage for future generations is promoted and preserved at the refuge by offering recreational hunting opportunities that benefit wildlife resources and encourage partnerships with a broad spectrum of stakeholders.

Draft Goals

We developed the following goals to describe the desired future conditions of the refuge and to establish a framework within which to develop management objectives.

Wildlife and Their Habitat: Contribute to the long-term ecological integrity of the Coastal Plain hardwood forest ecosystem for the benefit of native flora and fauna, including those that are endangered or threatened, resources of regional or State conservation concern, or landscape conservation cooperative representative species.

Cultural Resources: Protect and conserve the refuge's cultural resources and landscape, and seek opportunities to increase knowledge and appreciation of the refuge's history as part of the lower James River.

Wildlife-Dependent Recreation: Provide wildlife-dependent recreational opportunities for visitors to connect with nature and foster enhanced stewardship of the lower James River, Chesapeake Bay estuary, and the National Wildlife Refuge System.

Partnerships: Develop new partnerships and strengthen existing partnerships to promote natural and cultural resource conservation and the mission of the National Wildlife Refuge System.

How to Comment

We look forward to hearing from you. Some questions to consider as you develop your comments include:

1. What is your vision for refuge wildlife and habitat management?
2. What is your vision for public uses on the refuge?
3. Is there anything else that should be addressed or considered?

If you are unable to attend the open houses but would like to provide your comments and concerns, please share them with us by October 15, 2012. We will accept comments provided in letters, faxes, emails, and phone calls.

To submit comments or obtain additional information, contact:

Meghan Carfioli, Natural Resource Planner
U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
11116 Kimages Rd
Charles City, VA 23030

Phone: (804) 829-5413

Fax: (804) 829-9606

Email: EasternVirginiaRiversNWRC@fws.gov
(Please put "James River CCP" in the subject line).



Eastern Box turtle on the refuge



U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service
<http://www.fws.gov>

**Federal Relay Service for the deaf or
hard of hearing 1 800/877/8339**

September 2012

James River NWR



Cyrus Brame/USFWS

James River National Wildlife Refuge

U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
NWRS - Refuge Planning
300 Westgate Center Drive
Hadley, MA 01035

