

James River

National Wildlife Refuge

Eastern Virginia Rivers National Wildlife Refuge Complex

Represented by the following Members of Congress:

Senator John W. Warner (R)
Senator George F. Allen (R)
Rep. Bobby Scott (D-3rd)

Contact

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Managed as the Eastern Virginia Rivers National Wildlife Refuge Complex, which includes James River, Rappahannock River Valley, Plum Tree Island and Presquile National Wildlife Refuges.

Purpose

James River National Wildlife Refuge was established to protect nationally significant habitat for bald eagles.

Public Use Notes

- Access to the refuge is limited. Visitors should contact the refuge manager prior to their visit.
- Hunting for white tailed-deer

Management Activities

- Managing forests to protect and improve bald eagle roosting and nesting habitat
- Managing local deer population through annual hunts
- Enhancing habitat for forest-dwelling migratory birds



Bald eaglet

USFWS

Highlights

Following three decades of successful recovery efforts, the Service recently proposed removing the bald eagle from the federal List of Threatened and Endangered Species.

The refuge contains one of the largest summer roosting areas for juvenile bald eagles east of the Mississippi River. The refuge also supports several bald eagle nests.

Up to 500 adult and juvenile bald eagles visit the refuge each summer.

Powells Creek and James River are important spawning and nursery sites for alewife, American shad, blueback herring, gizzard shad, hickory shad and striped bass. Bald eagles find ample food supplies in the river and tidal areas.

Issues

Significant historical and cultural resources exist on the refuge, precluding some options for forest management. However, a recent agreement on logging protocols allows for active management and cultural resource protection.

Improved forest management is needed to maintain habitat values for bald eagles and other migratory birds.

A contract to thin 116 acres of pine forest was issued in 2005.

Current staffing is inadequate to conduct habitat management or public use activities.

U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service
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