

during the planning process by mail, email, or fax (see **ADDRESSES**).

We will conduct the environmental review of this project and develop an EA in accordance with the requirements of the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969, as amended (NEPA) (42 U.S.C. 4321 *et seq.*); NEPA regulations (40 CFR parts 1500–1508); other appropriate Federal laws and regulations; and our policies and procedures for compliance with those laws and regulations.

James River National Wildlife Refuge

James River NWR is one of four refuges that comprise the Eastern Virginia Rivers National Wildlife Refuge Complex. James River NWR lies in the Chesapeake Bay watershed and is located along the James River in Prince George County, Virginia, approximately 8 miles southeast of the City of Hopewell and 30 miles southeast of the City of Richmond.

The refuge was established in 1991 to protect nationally significant nesting and roosting habitat for the bald eagle (*Haliaeetus leucocephalus*). The 4,325-acre refuge consists of riparian, wetland, and forested habitats, including loblolly pine plantations. These habitats support a variety of songbirds, raptors, rare plants, and other species of conservation concern. The federally threatened plant, sensitive joint-vetch (*Aeschynomene virginica*), occurs in wetlands on the refuge. The refuge also has a rich cultural history, illustrated by the numerous archaeological and historical sites on the refuge.

James River NWR also provides opportunities for the public to engage in wildlife-dependent recreation. Popular activities on the refuge include wildlife observation, nature photography, and onsite environmental education and interpretive programs. The refuge also offers an annual white-tailed deer hunt. Public access to the refuge is by permit to limit disturbance to bald eagles, as well as to minimize risks to public safety while habitat management activities (e.g., prescribed burning, timber management) are underway.

Scoping: Preliminary Issues, Concerns, and Opportunities

We have identified several preliminary issues, concerns, and opportunities that we intend to address in the CCP. These include the following:

- Opportunities to restore the native southern pine ecosystem and maintain a healthy riparian corridor along the James River and its tributaries;
- The potential to manage suitable habitat for red-cockaded woodpeckers (*Picoides borealis*), a federally listed

species not currently known on the refuge but known to occur in an adjacent county;

- The protection of bald eagles and management of their nesting and roosting habitat;
- The protection of sensitive joint-vetch, a federally threatened wetland plant;
- The protection of cultural resources, including historical and archaeological sites;
- The amount and distribution of compatible public uses to allow;
- The potential for climate change to impact refuge resources;
- The potential for boundary expansion, including land acquisition and conservation easements;
- Opportunities to collaborate with partner organizations for interpretation and education programming.

We expect that members of the public, our conservation partners, and Federal, State, Tribal, and local governments may identify additional issues during public scoping.

Public Meetings

During the planning process, we will hold meetings for the public to provide comments, issues, concerns, and suggestions about refuge management. When we schedule formal comment periods and public meeting(s), we will announce them in the **Federal Register**, local news media, and on our refuge planning Web site at: <http://www.fws.gov/northeast/planning/jamesriver/ccphome.html>.

You can also obtain the schedule from the planning team leader or project leader (see **FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT**).

Public Availability of Comments

Before including your address, phone number, email address, or other personal identifying information in your comment, you should be aware that your entire comment—including your personal identifying information—may be made publicly available at any time. While you can ask us in your comment to withhold your personal identifying information from public review, we cannot guarantee that we will be able to do so.

Dated: December 5, 2011.

Salvatore M. Amato,

Acting Regional Director, Northeast Region, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service.

[FR Doc. 2012–376 Filed 1–10–12; 8:45 am]

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DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

Fish and Wildlife Service

[FWS–R3–ES–2011–N258;
FXHC113003000005B–123–FF03E00000]

Notice of Availability; Draft Springfield Plateau Regional Restoration Plan and Environmental Assessment

AGENCY: Fish and Wildlife Service, Interior.

ACTION: Notice of availability; request for public comments.

SUMMARY: The United States Department of the Interior (DOI), acting through the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (FWS), and the State of Missouri, acting through the Missouri Department of Natural Resources, have written a Draft Springfield Plateau Regional Restoration Plan and Environmental Assessment (Plan), which describes proposed alternatives for restoring injured natural resources in the Springfield Plateau ecoregion, and an environmental assessment, as required pursuant to the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA). The purpose of this notice is to inform the public of the availability of the Draft Plan and to seek written comments. This notice is provided pursuant to Natural Resource Damage Assessment and Restoration (NRDAR) regulations and NEPA regulations.

DATES: To ensure consideration, please send your written comments on or before February 27, 2012.

ADDRESSES: Send comments via U. S. mail to: John Weber, Restoration Coordinator, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, 101 Park DeVille Dr., Suite A, Columbia, MO 65203; or Frances Klahr, Natural Resource Damages Coordinator, Missouri Department of Natural Resources, P.O. Box 176, Jefferson City, MO 65102–0176; or by electronic mail (email) to John_S_Weber@fws.gov, or frances.klahr@dnr.mo.gov.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:

Case Management and Logistical Information: Dave Mosby, (573) 234–2132 (x113).

Technical Information: John Weber, (573) 234–2132 (x177).

Missouri Natural Resource Damages Coordinator: Frances Klahr, (573) 522–1347.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: The U.S. Department of the Interior (represented by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service) and the State of Missouri (represented by the Missouri Department of Natural Resources) (Trustees) are trustees for natural resources considered in this restoration plan, pursuant to subpart G of the National Oil and Hazardous

Substances Pollution Contingency Plan (40 CFR 300.600 and 300.610) and Executive Order 12580. The *Memorandum of Understanding Between the Missouri Department of Natural Resources and U.S. Department of the Interior* establishes a Trustee Council charged with developing and implementing a restoration plan for ecological restoration in the Springfield Plateau of southwest Missouri.

The Trustees followed the NRDAR regulations found at 43 CFR part 11 for the development of the Plan. The draft Springfield Plateau Regional Restoration Plan and Environmental Assessment will be finalized prior to implementation, after all public comments received during the public comment period are considered. Any significant additions or modifications to the Plan as restoration actions proceed will be made available for public review before any additions or modification are undertaken.

The objective of the NRDAR process in the Springfield Plateau is to compensate the public, through environmental restoration, for losses to natural resources that have been injured by releases of hazardous substances into the environment. The Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation, and Liability Act (CERCLA, more commonly known as the Federal "Superfund" law; 42 U.S.C. 9601, *et seq.*), and the Federal Water Pollution Control Act (commonly known as the Clean Water Act (CWA); 33 U.S.C. 1251 *et seq.*) authorize States, federally recognized tribes, and certain Federal agencies that have authority for natural resources "belonging to, managed by, controlled by or appertaining to the United States" to act as "trustees" on behalf of the public, to restore, rehabilitate, replace, and/or acquire natural resources equivalent to those injured by releases of hazardous substances.

The Trustees worked together, in a cooperative process, to identify appropriate restoration activities to address natural resource injuries caused by releases of hazardous substances into the Springfield Plateau environment. The results of this administrative process are contained in the planning and decision document being published for public review under CERCLA. Natural resource damages received, either through negotiated settlements or adjudicated awards, must be used to restore, rehabilitate, replace, and/or acquire the equivalent of those injured natural resources. The Plan addresses the Trustees' overall approach to restore, rehabilitate, replace, and/or acquire the equivalent of natural

resources injured by the release of hazardous substances into the Springfield Plateau environment.

Public Involvement

Interested members of the public are invited to review and comment on the Plan. Copies of the Plan can be requested from the address listed below or can viewed online at <http://www.fws.gov/midwest/nrda/motrystate/> or <http://www.dnr.mo.gov/env/hwp/sfund/nrda.htm>. You may also submit requests for copies of the Plan by sending electronic mail (email) to: John_S_Weber@fws.gov, or frances.klahr@dnr.mo.gov. Persons without access to the Internet may obtain copies of the Plan by contacting John Weber, Restoration Coordinator, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, 101 Park DeVille Dr., Suite A, Columbia, MO 65203.

Copies will also be available for on-site review at the following locations:

- *Joplin Public Library*: 300 S. Main Street, Joplin, MO;
- *Neosho Public Library*: 201 W. Spring Street, Neosho, MO;
- *Springfield Public Library*: 4653 S. Campbell Ave, Springfield, MO;
- *U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service*: 101 Park DeVille Dr. Suite A, Columbia, MO; and *Missouri Department of Natural Resources*: 1730 E. Elm St., Jefferson City, MO.

Availability of Comments

The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service will provide copies of all comments to the other Trustees. All comments received from individuals become part of the official public record. Requests for such comments will be handled in accordance with the Freedom of Information Act and the Council on Environmental Quality's NEPA regulations (40 CFR 1506.6(f)), as well as the State of Missouri's Sunshine Law (Chapter 610, RSMo.). Before including your address, phone number, email address, or other personal identifying information in your comment, you should be aware that the entire comment, including your personal identifying information, may be available at any time. While individual respondents may request that the Fish and Wildlife Service and State of Missouri withhold their personal identifying information from public review, we cannot guarantee we will be able to do so.

Authority

This notice is provided pursuant to Natural Resource Damage Assessment and Restoration (NRDAR) regulations

(43 CFR 11.81(d)(4)) and NEPA regulations (40 CFR 1506.6).

Dated: December 20, 2011.

Charlie Wooley,

Acting Regional Director, Midwest Region, Bloomington, MN.

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DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

Fish and Wildlife Service

[FWS-R9-MB-2011-N272; FF09M21200-123-FXMB1231099BPP0L2]

Migratory Bird Hunting; Service Regulations Committee Meeting

AGENCY: Fish and Wildlife Service, Interior.

ACTION: Notice of meeting.

SUMMARY: The Fish and Wildlife Service (hereinafter Service) will conduct an open meeting on February 1, 2012, to identify and discuss preliminary issues concerning the 2012-13 migratory bird hunting regulations.

DATES: The meeting will be held February 1, 2012.

ADDRESSES: The Service Regulations Committee will meet at the Holiday Inn Hotel and Suites Denver Airport Hotel, 6900 Tower Road, Denver, CO 80249; (303) 574-1300.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Chief, Division of Migratory Bird Management, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Department of the Interior, ms-4107-ARLSQ, 1849 C Street NW., Washington, DC 20240; (703) 358-1714.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: Under the authority of the Migratory Bird Treaty Act (16 U.S.C. 703-712), the Service regulates the hunting of migratory game birds. We update the migratory game bird hunting regulations, located at 50 CFR part 20, annually. Through these regulations, we establish the frameworks, or outside limits, for season lengths, bag limits, and areas for migratory game bird hunting. To help us in this process, we have administratively divided the nation into four Flyways (Atlantic, Mississippi, Central, and Pacific), each of which has a Flyway Council. Representatives from the Service, the Service's Migratory Bird Regulations Committee, and Flyway Council Consultants will meet on February 1, 2012, at 8:30 a.m. to identify preliminary issues concerning the 2012-13 migratory bird hunting regulations for discussion and review by the Flyway Councils at their March meetings.

In accordance with Department of the Interior (hereinafter Department) policy