Mason Neck

National Wildlife Refuge
Potomac River National Wildlife Refuge Complex

Represented by the following Members of Congress:
Senator John W. Warner (R)
Senator George F. Allen (R)
Rep. Tom Davis (R-11th)

Contact
Greg Weiler, Refuge Manager
Potomac River National Wildlife Refuge Complex
14344 Jefferson Davis Highway
Woodbridge, VA 22191-2716
Phone: 703/490 4979
Fax: 703/490 5631
TDD: 800/877 8339
E-mail: fw5rw_msnnwr@fws.gov

The refuge is managed as part of the Potomac River National Wildlife Refuge Complex, which includes Mason Neck, Occoquan Bay and Featherstone National Wildlife Refuges. Budget and staffing amounts reflect numbers for the entire complex.

Purpose
Mason Neck was the first national wildlife refuge established to preserve nesting, feeding and roosting habitat for the threatened bald eagle.

Public Use Notes
- Refuge is available for use as an outdoor classrooom
- Opportunity to observe and learn about more than 300 species of wildlife in wetland and forest habitats

Management Activities
- Manage refuge areas to prevent disturbance of nesting bald eagles
- Monitor local bald eagle populations
- Manage refuge ecosystems (forest, grassland, wetland) for the benefit of migratory birds
- Implement and oversee bald eagle research

Bill Wallen/USFWS

Great Marsh yellow flowers

Highlights
Seven bald eagle pairs nest on or adjacent to the refuge and up to 100 bald eagles use the refuge as a wintering ground.

The refuge protects valuable wetland and forest habitat located at the confluence of the Potomac and Occoquan rivers, 18 miles south of Washington, D.C.

One of the largest great blue heron colonies in Virginia (up to 1,600 nests) is found on the refuge.

The refuge, Mason Neck State Park, Pohick Bay Regional Park, Gunston Hall Plantation and BLM collectively protect more than 6,000 acres of land in the area. The refuge shares resource protection and visitor services with these partners.

The refuge provides environmental education through a local high school magnet program.

Issues
High bluffs along the river are subject to erosion.

Limited public access is necessary to prevent disturbance to eagles and herons.

Enhanced interagency partnerships may be contingent upon availability of Service contributions in the form of funds or other resources.

Providing resource protection and a visitor safety presence is an issue.

U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service
1 800/344 WILD
http://www.fws.gov

January 2006