

# News Release



Potomac Rivers National Wildlife Refuge Complex  
14050 Dawson Beach Road  
Woodbridge, VA 22191  
Phone: (703) 490 4979  
Email: Richard\_Nye@fws.gov

For immediate release  
05/14/2025

Contact: Richard Nye  
Phone Number: (413) 409-7857  
Email: Richard\_Nye@fws.gov

## Potomac River NWR Complex Seeks Public Comment on Draft Compatibility Determinations

Potomac Rivers National Wildlife Refuge (NWR) Complex is seeking public review and comment on a Draft Compatibility Determination for research and surveys on Featherstone NWR, Elizabeth Hartwell Mason Neck NWR, and Occoquan Bay NWR. The refuge proposes to allow research and surveys to occur where these activities do not compromise the mission and operations of the national wildlife refuge. The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (Service) will accept comments received or postmarked on or before May 28, 2025.

The Service prepares Compatibility Determinations to ensure that public and economic uses of national wildlife refuges do not interfere with or detract from the purposes for which each refuge was established. Compatibility Determinations also describe how these uses would contribute towards achieving refuge purposes and the mission of the National Wildlife Refuge System.

Comments or requests for additional information may be made by email to [potomacriverrefuges@fws.gov](mailto:potomacriverrefuges@fws.gov) or U.S. Mail to 14050 Dawson Beach Road, Woodbridge, VA 22191, Attn: Refuge Manager.

All comments received from individuals become part of the official public record. The Service's practice is to make comments, including names and home addresses of respondents, available for public review during regular business hours. Individual respondents can request that we withhold their home address from the record, which we will honor to the extent allowable by law. If you wish to have your name and/or address withheld, you must state this prominently at the beginning of your comments.

Electronic copies of the Draft Compatibility Determinations can be found:

Featherstone NWR: <https://www.fws.gov/refuge/featherstone>

Elizabeth Hartwell Mason NWR: <https://www.fws.gov/refuge/elizabeth-hartwell-mason-neck>

Occoquan Bay NWR: <https://www.fws.gov/refuge/occoquan-bay>

Hard copy of the Draft Compatibility Determinations for each refuge can be viewed upon request at the front desk of Visitor Information Center located at 14050 Dawson Beach Road, Woodbridge, VA 22191.

*The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service works with others to conserve, protect and enhance fish, wildlife, plants and their habitats for the continuing benefit of the American people. For more information, visit [www.fws.gov](http://www.fws.gov), or connect with us through any of these social media channels: [Facebook](#), [Twitter](#), [YouTube](#) and [Flickr](#).*