management of specific refuge habitats to support priority species whose habitat needs would benefit other species of conservation concern that are found in the area. We would promote the transition of 2,651 acres of former pine plantation toward mature pine savanna for resident and breeding cavity-dwelling and ground-nesting species, including the brown-headed nuthatch, Chuck-will’s-widow, red-headed woodpecker, and yellow-billed cuckoo. We would also emphasize protecting and promoting bald eagle nesting habitat, and protecting the integrity of the refuge’s other habitats for native species, including migrating waterfowl, waterbirds, the federally endangered Atlantic sturgeon, and federally threatened sensitive joint-vetch. We would also expand our conservation, research, monitoring, and management partnerships to help restore and conserve the refuge.

We would enhance our cultural resource protection to increase knowledge and appreciation for the refuge’s rich cultural history and heritage, as well as expand our visitor services programs to improve opportunities for wildlife-dependent recreation. Visitor service improvements would include expanding the on-refuge opportunities for wildlife observation, photography, environmental education, and interpretation of natural and cultural resources in partnership with others. We would also pursue Service administrative requirements to expand public deer hunting, open the refuge to spring and fall turkey hunting, open the refuge to limited waterfowl hunting by youth, promote youth involvement in all hunting opportunities, and open the refuge to fishing at two designated locations. Further details on our selected alternative and management actions can be found in the CCP.

Public Availability of Documents

In addition to sources listed under ADDRESSES, you can view the final CCP at the Prince George Library, 6605 Courts Drive, Prince George, VA 23875.

Dated: June 11, 2015.

Deborah Rocque,
Acting Regional Director, Northeast Region.

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