

# News Release

## Great Dismal Swamp National Wildlife Refuge



3100 Desert Road, Suffolk, Virginia 23434  
Phone: 757/986-3705 Fax: 757/986-2353  
[www.fws.gov/northeast/greatdismalswamp](http://www.fws.gov/northeast/greatdismalswamp)

For Immediate Release  
February 4, 2009

Contact: Chris Lowie  
Refuge Manager

### Popular Trail Temporarily Closed

**Suffolk, VA.** Great Dismal Swamp National Wildlife Refuge will temporarily close the Washington Ditch Entrance, beginning Monday, February 9th, 2009, for up to three weeks. Trails within the entrance include the boardwalk trail and the hiking and biking trail to Lake Drummond. The closure will facilitate preparation work for a new boardwalk trail, scheduled to be constructed later this year. Visitors will be able to access Lake Drummond by hiking, biking and auto pass using the Railroad Ditch entrance. The Jericho Ditch and Portsmouth Ditch entrances will also remain open for hiking and biking.

Refuge manager, Chris Lowie reports “The Washington Ditch boardwalk trail is one of the most visited sites on the refuge. We are excited to get this project underway and hope that our visitors will be patient with this inconvenience while we get the replacement project moving forward.”

Additional brief closings of the entrance will be needed as the project progresses during the coming year. The public will be able to access current information for all future openings and closings on the refuge website ([www.fws.gov/northeast/greatdismalswamp](http://www.fws.gov/northeast/greatdismalswamp)) or by calling the refuge during business hours. The office is open Monday-Friday, 8:00 am to 4:00 pm. It is closed on weekends and federal holidays.

The Great Dismal Swamp is one of 550 national wildlife refuges in the National Wildlife Refuge System. More than 16 million people each year use the Refuge System’s 2,500-miles of foot, boat and auto trails. Within the Great Dismal Swamp there are more than seventy miles of trails opened daily for hiking, biking, and wildlife observation.