

Great Dismal Swamp

National Wildlife Refuge



Welcome

Welcome to Great Dismal Swamp National Wildlife Refuge (NWR). Established in 1974, the Refuge contains some of the most important wildlife habitat in the mid-Atlantic region

Safety

The Refuge is open to all users on hunt days. Please be aware of your surroundings and familiarize yourself with Refuge trails and high-use areas. No shooting within 150-feet of any road, trail, boardwalk, parking area, or building. Hunters are required to wear blaze orange or pink according to state regulations.

Firearms

Persons possessing, transporting, or carrying firearms on National Wildlife Refuge System lands must comply with all provisions of State and local law. Persons may only use (discharge) firearms in accordance with refuge regulations (50 CFR 27.42 and specific refuge regulations in 50 CFR Part 32.)

Vehicles

Licensed motor vehicles are permitted in limited areas as shown on the map. ATVs and UTVs are prohibited. Boat trailers may be used at Lake Drummond from Railroad Ditch Trailhead; cartop boats only at all other locations.

Accessibility Information

Equal opportunity to participate in and benefit from programs and activities of the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service is available to all individuals regardless of physical or mental ability. For more information please contact the U.S. Department of the Interior, Office of Equal Opportunity, <https://www.doi.gov/pmb/eeo/public-civil-rights>.

A Disabled Hunt Permit is available for hunters with mobility constraints. This permit can be purchased in lieu of the regular hunt permit, and grants additional access to the designated Disabled Hunt Area. Hunting from the road is ONLY permitted in the Disabled Hunt Area. Disabled hunt permittees will need to call the

Refuge Office to reserve a spot and obtain a gate code.

The Disabled Hunt Area is located in a trailhead which is open to all users on hunt days. While the Disabled Hunt Area is designated as closed to other users, it is the responsibility of the hunter to use extreme caution while hunting from the road in this area.

Hunting Regulations

Hunting regulations are designed to provide safe recreational opportunities through wise use of renewable wildlife resources. Hunting is permitted in accordance with Federal regulations governing public use on National Wildlife Refuges as set forth in Title 50 of the Code of Federal Regulations.

Hunting will be in accordance with applicable State of Virginia, North Carolina and/or local regulations subject to the conditions stated below. Brochures may be obtained by mail, at the refuge headquarters, or from the refuge website.

Access

Hunters may only access the Refuge one hour before hunting hours until one hour after legal hours.

Hunters must access at designated entrances, as identified on the map below, to access the Refuge for hunting.

Prohibited Activities:

- Hunting with dogs
- Baiting or hunting over bait
- Carrying or discharging rifles
- Camping, fires, and all overnight use
- Use or possession of alcoholic beverages
- The use of permanent markers, such as paint, to locate stands or trails
- Discharging firearms within 150 feet of refuge roads, trails, boardwalks, or structures
- Parking vehicles in any manner which block roads

Permitting and More Information

Additional hunt details and hunt permits can be obtained from the following webpage:

<https://GreatDismalSwamp.RecAccess.com>

Harvest Reporting

In addition to meeting statewide harvest reporting and to be eligible for next year's refuge hunting season, permitted hunters must complete a Big Game Harvest Report (FWS form 3-2359) and return it to the refuge by February 15.

Tree Stands

Tree stands may be put up no earlier than the opening day of deer season and must be removed by the last day of deer season. The use of nails, screws, or any other material that may damage trees is prohibited.

Please call the Refuge Office(757-986-3705)to report all bear harvests to the Refuge Manager within 24 hours of harvest.

Weapons and Ammunition

Hunters may use shotgun (any gauge), muzzleloader, or archery equipment in accordance with State seasons between October 1 - January 1. Rifles are not permitted. Non-lead ammunition is required for coyote, turkey, and squirrel hunting on the refuge. Non-lead ammunition is encouraged for all species, and will be required for all species beginning 2026.

Refuge Office:
3100 Desert Rd.
Suffolk, VA 23434
(757)-986-3705

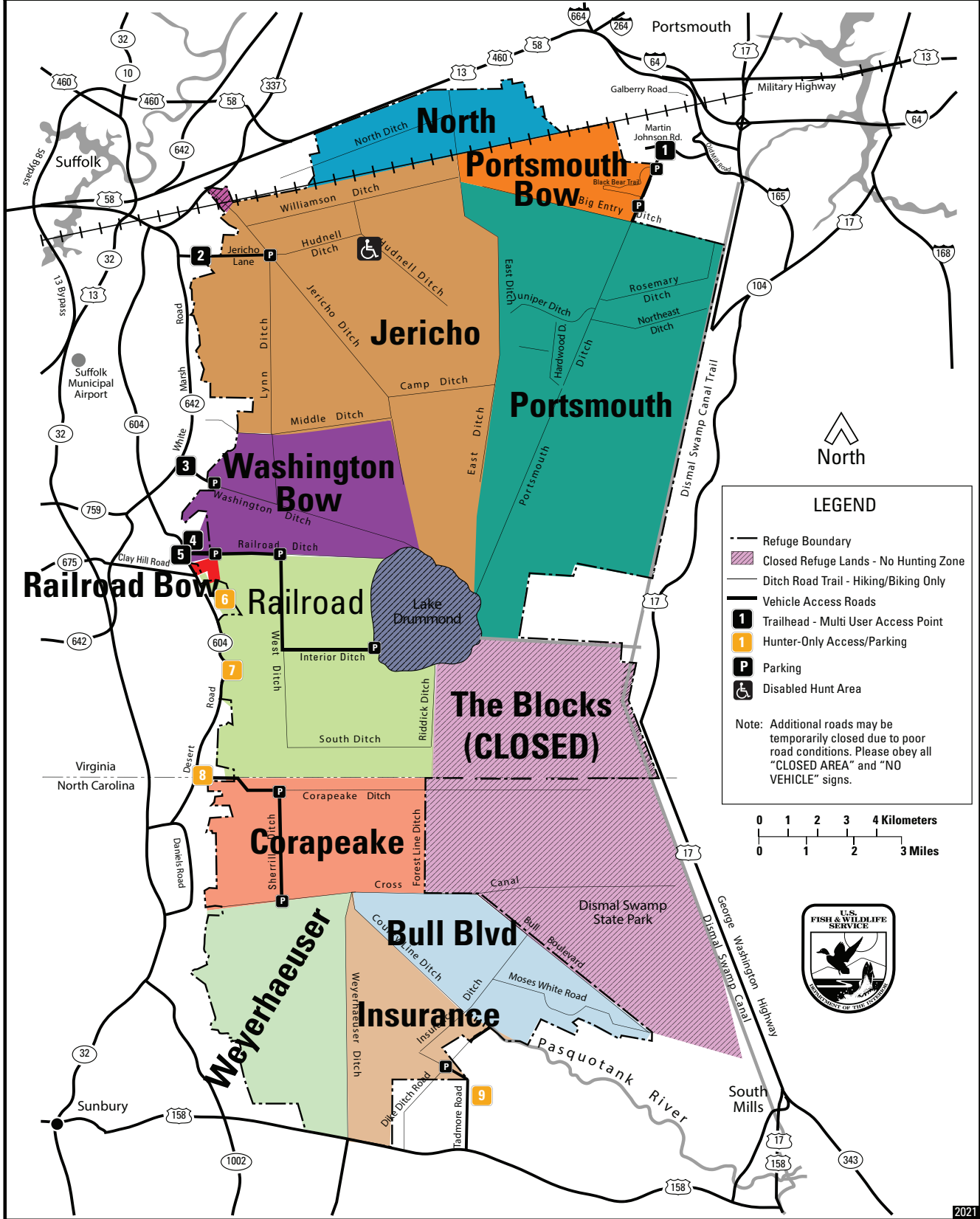
U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service
1-800-344-WILD
August 2021



Activity	2021 Refuge Season Dates	Hunt Units	Special Regulations
Deer Archery	Oct 1 - Jan 1	All VA units	No dogs, no baiting
	Oct 2 - Jan 1	All NC units	
Deer Firearms	Oct 1 - Nov 30	All VA (no bow units)	No dogs, no rifles, no baiting
	Oct 16 - Jan 1	All NC units	
Deer Muzzleloader	Oct 1 - Nov 30 and Dec 11 - Jan 1	All VA (no bow units)	No dogs, rifles, or baiting
	Oct 2 - Jan 1	All NC units	
Bear Archery	Oct 1 - Jan 1	All VA units	No dogs. No baiting. NC units follow Gates County season dates.
	Nov 13-21 and Dec 11-26	All NC units	
Bear Firearms	Oct 1 - Jan 1	All VA (no bow units)	No dogs, rifles, or baiting. NC units follow Gates County season dates.
	Nov 13-21 and Dec 11-26	All NC units	
Bear Muzzleloader	Oct 1 - Jan 1	All VA (no bow units)	No dogs, rifles, or baiting. NC units follow Gates County season dates.
	Nov 13-21 and Dec 11-26	All NC units	
Turkey Archery	Oct 2 - Nov 12	Jericho, Washington, and Railroad	Closed in Chesapeake
	Nov 25, and Dec 2-11		
Turkey Firearms	Oct 16-29, Nov 25, and Dec 2 - 11	Jericho and Railroad	Closed in Chesapeake Non-lead ammunition required
Squirrel	Oct 1 - Jan 1	All VA units	No take of fox squirrels in VA units Non-lead ammunition required
	Oct 18 - Jan 1	All NC units	
Coyote	Oct 1 - Jan 1	All units	No night hunting Non-lead ammunition required

Refuge hunting open Thurs, Fri, Sat ONLY. State regulations apply unless otherwise noted.

2021 HUNTER ACCESS POINTS Great Dismal Swamp National Wildlife Refuge



2021 Hunt Unit Access
Numbers below correlate with map

Trailheads (Open to All Users)

1. Portsmouth: 3457 Martin Johnson Rd
2. Jericho: 1330 White Marsh Rd
3. Washington Bow: 3076 White Marsh Rd
4. Headquarters (Bow Only Parking): 3100 Desert Rd.
5. Railroad: 3120 Desert Rd.

Hunter-Only Access Points

6. Brothers Entrance: 36.609526, -76.554719
7. Moss Swamp Entrance: 36.583816, -76.545088
8. Corapeake Entrance: 36.550520, -76.5557787
9. Insurance Entrance: 36.444898, -76.450305
(Enter from Tadmore Rd)