



News Release

Great Dismal Swamp National Wildlife Refuge
3100 Desert Road
Suffolk, VA 23434
757.986.3705
www.fws.gov/refuge/Great_Dismal_Swamp

CONTACT:
Chris Lowie, Refuge Manager
757-986-3705

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Great Dismal Swamp National Wildlife Refuge Hosts Public Meeting in Support for Woodpecker Reintroduction Project

Suffolk, VA. The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Great Dismal Swamp National Wildlife Refuge announced today that it will host a public meeting in order to foster stewardship and support from local communities for a project to re-introduce the endangered red-cockaded woodpecker.

The meeting will be:
Thursday June 18, 2015
6:00 p.m. – 8:00 p.m.
3100 Desert Road
Suffolk, VA 23424

The *Great Dismal Swamp National Wildlife Refuge and Nansemond National Wildlife Refuge Final Comprehensive Conservation Plan* (2006) addressed the re-establishment of the red-cockaded woodpecker on the Great Dismal Swamp National Wildlife Refuge. The goal of the project is to establish a second breeding population in Virginia, which also supports the State's conservation plan for the woodpecker.

Red-cockaded woodpeckers were last seen on the Refuge in 1974. Having a new breeding colony “will help protect the Virginia population against loss from catastrophic events like disease and storms, and put the bird on the track to recovery,” says Chris Lowie, refuge manager.

The meeting is meant for anyone wishing to learn more about the project, assist with its implementation, or who may have questions or concerns. “The Refuge has agency and university partners; however, this project is very labor intensive so we will need all the supporters we can get,” says Lowie.

If you cannot attend the meeting, but still would like to be involved or have questions, please contact the Refuge office at: 757-986-3705.

The mission of the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service is working with others to conserve, protect and enhance fish, wildlife, plants and their habitats for the continuing benefit of the American people. We are both a leader and trusted partner in fish and wildlife conservation, known for our scientific excellence, stewardship of lands and natural resources, dedicated professionals and commitment to public service. For more information on our work and the people who make it happen, visit www.fws.gov.