



U. S. Fish and Wildlife Service

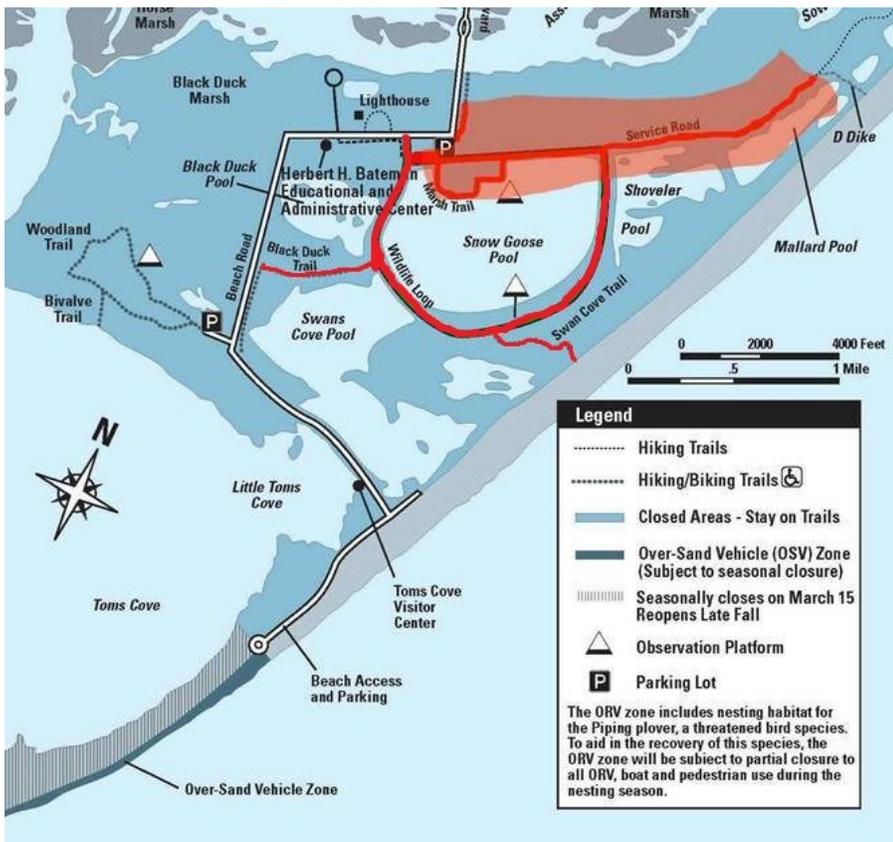
Chincoteague National Wildlife Refuge

Wildlife Loop Temporary Closures!

Intermittent Closure of Black Duck and Swans Cove Trails **Starting April 12, 2016**

In December 2015 a USDA Forest Service health evaluation confirmed a heavy infestation of southern pine beetles on the refuge. Various locations along the west side of the Wildlife Loop and Service Road were dramatically impacted by increased beetle activity in 2015.

Starting April 12, refuge staff will use heavy equipment to cut dead pine trees in the project area, from the Wildlife Loop parking lot to the entrance of the Service Road. The type of forestry equipment being used requires a 500 foot safety radius, to prevent bodily injury from flying debris.



Until further notice and for your safety, the Wildlife Loop, Black Duck Trail, and Swans Cove Trail will close to all public access Monday through Friday until 3 pm.

You may hear loud noises such as heavy equipment and chain-saw cutting near the Wildlife Loop. We apologize for the noise and the inconvenience of closing these trails. Please bear with us and enjoy your exploration of the rest of the refuge.