



Using the Limited Resources of the Great Dismal Swamp National Wildlife Refuge for a Maximum Effect on Conservation: With or Without a Focus on Maintaining a Red-Cockaded Woodpecker Population.

Objectives:

- Mitigation and Adaptation Research
- Monitoring and collecting data on Red-Cockaded Woodpeckers
- Protect a federally endangered species



Image Via USFWS

The Research Team Used:

- Mitigation and Adaptation Research Institute Case Study Template to develop feasible recommendations
- Monitoring techniques via peeping poles and tree ladders for cavity checks
- Past data on:
 - Translocations that have occurred
 - Natural and artificial cavities
 - Number of fledglings
 - Population numbers
- Information from different stakeholders who manage for Red-Cockaded Woodpeckers

Primary Recommendations Include:

- Installing artificial cavities in areas with mineral soil
- Translocate Red-Cockaded Woodpeckers from similar habitats to that present at the Great Dismal Swamp National Wildlife Refuge
- Prescribed burns in the blocks
- Partner with the Dismal Swamp State Park to monitor for birds that may have migrated to their lands
- Quit all management practices

Current Situation and Challenge:

The Red-Cockaded Woodpecker is a federally listed endangered species with a population present at the Great Dismal Swamp National Wildlife Refuge.

This population present on the Refuge is in a steady decline.

So, with limited resources and funding available how can the staff manage for this population to ensure its survival?

Or

Should current management practices be stopped?



Images via Benjamin Leonard



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