

## Game Department Buys 3,800 Acres in Dismal Swamp

Dismal Swamp's protected watershed will be expanded by 3,800 acres, thanks to a \$4,200,000 purchase of cut over timberland from International Paper. The Virginia Department of Game and Inland Fisheries (VDGIF) purchase received some financial help from the US Fish and Wildlife Service and the Nature Conservancy. The land will be added to the VDGIF's existing 758 acre Wildlife Management Area (WMA). Chesapeake City also helped in buying a 100 acre property in adjacent North Carolina. The land deal helps protect water supplies for Chesapeake.

VDGIF has more than 30 WMA's, in all areas of the state. Funded by hunting and fishing licenses and the Federal Pittman-Robertson Act, large tracts are bought and managed primarily for the benefit of game species. Along with that, viewsheds and watersheds are protected, access to non-hunters is available, and, in some, boat putins are maintained.

Some other WMA's of note:

Chickahominy WMA provides 5,217 acres and a boat access 12 miles west of Williamsburg.

Hardware River WMA has 1,034 acres and includes James River bottomland forest and a takeout where the Hardware meets the James.

Turkeycock Mountain comprises 2,679 acres of forest in the Roanoke River watershed. This large mountain east of the Blue Ridge is an outstanding landmark for Franklin County.

Goshen-Little North Mountain WMA is enormous, 33,697 acres. Its' two sections are on either side of Maury River, and its runoff is enjoyed by many a canoeist and kayaker.

Big Survey WMA's 8,300 acres were added to the system largely due to the persistence of Wytheville environmentalist Liza Field. A jumble of mountains towering above that town, it includes Stuart Mountain. Jeb Stuart crossed the Blue Ridge from Patrick County to attend high school with cousins in Wytheville. Reed Creek and Cripple Creek run at the foot of either side of this mountain range.

All of Virginia's Wildlife Management Areas are described at [dgif.virginia.gov/hunting/wma](http://dgif.virginia.gov/hunting/wma).

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