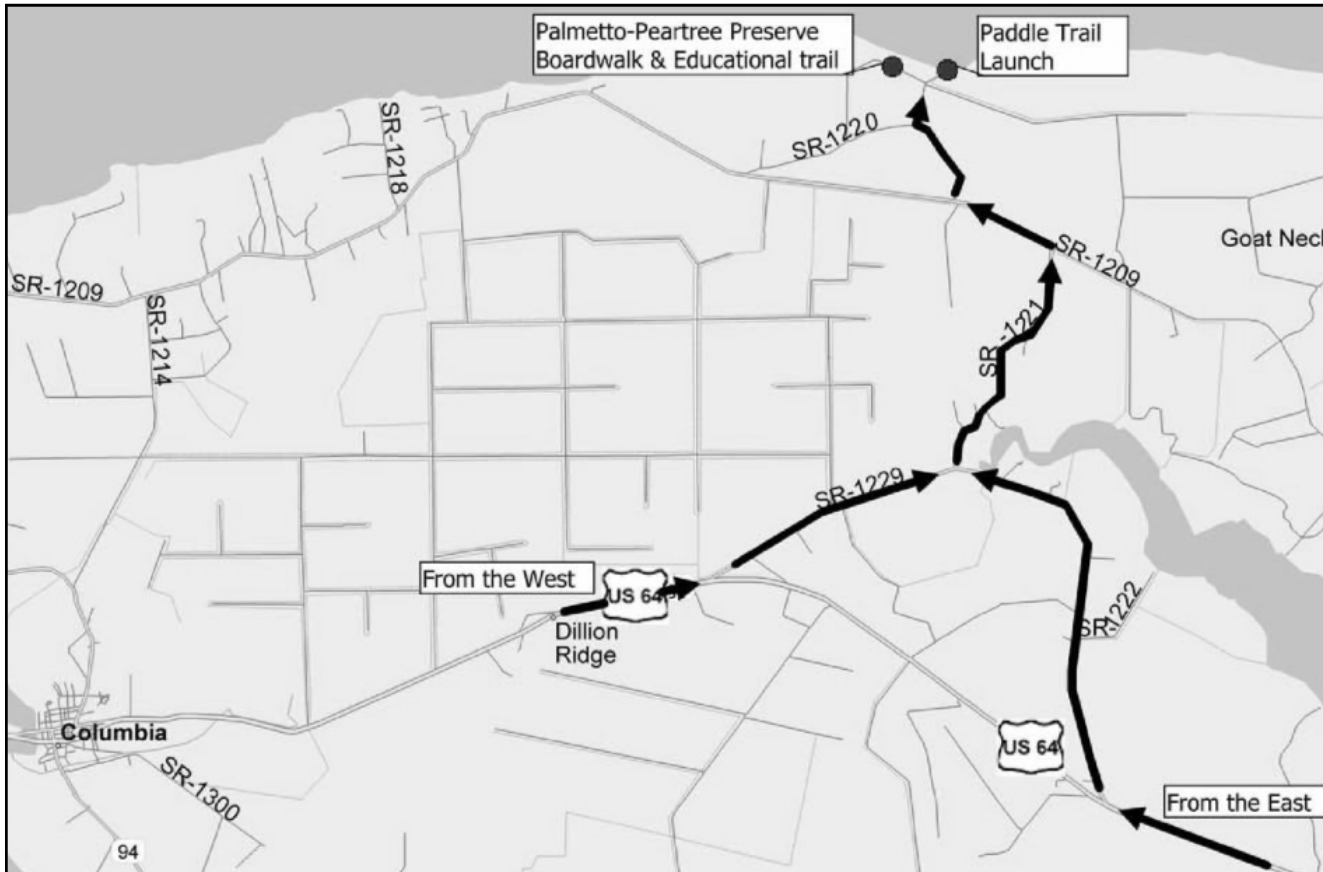


Directions

Five miles East of Columbia on US-64 or approximately five miles West of the Alligator River Bridge on US-64, turn North onto Old US-64 (SR-1229). After approximately 2 miles, turn North onto Newfoundland Road (SR-1221). Turn left onto Soundside Road (SR-1209). Continue on Soundside Road for less than a mile, turn right onto Pot Licker Road (SR-1220). The entrance to the preserve is on the right. Follow the signs to the boardwalk and canoe launches.

For assistance contact the
Tyrrell County Visitor's Center
203 South Ludington Drive, Columbia NC 27925
Phone: (252) 796-0723 Fax: (252) 796-0303

The Conservation Fund is a national nonprofit organization dedicated to balancing economic and environmental objectives to preserve America's natural, cultural, and historic heritage.



Palmetto-Peartree Preserve



*Protecting the natural heritage
of Tyrrell County*

THE CONSERVATION FUND
Partners in Land and Water Conservation

www.palmettopeartree.org

About the Preserve

The Palmetto-Peartree Preserve encompasses 10,000 acres of wetland forest in Tyrrell County, North Carolina. The preserve was established to protect and provide habitat for the endangered red-cockaded woodpecker (RCW). The Conservation Fund purchased the property in 1999 with funding from the North Carolina Department of Transportation. Protection of the RCWs at the preserve will mitigate the loss of RCW habitat in road construction projects.

Red-cockaded woodpeckers are the only woodpeckers that build their cavities in living pine trees. The dominant pine species at the preserve is loblolly pine. The RCWs are cooperative breeders that live in family “groups” or “colonies”. Each group occupies a collection of cavity trees called a “cluster”. There are 26 active clusters of red-cockaded woodpeckers at the preserve.

The preserve is also home to other protected species including the bald eagle, peregrine falcon, American alligator and red wolf. The preserve hosts more than 100 species of migratory birds and waterfowl. Bobcats, black bears, white-tailed deer and a wide variety of plant species also flourish at the preserve.



Steve Maslowski, USFWS

Discover Nature

A system of boardwalks and trails at the preserve offers visitors a unique opportunity to experience the habitat up close. Wildlife viewing stations provide a quiet place for bird watching. Signage provides information on the history of the property, native plant and animal species, and the forest communities of the preserve.

A canoe/kayak trail can be accessed from the preserve, offering 14 miles of water exploration along the Albemarle Sound and Alligator Creek. One mile west of the boardwalk, paddlers can find Hidden Lake surrounded by cypress trees and Spanish moss. The lake is only accessible by canoe or kayak and offers a quiet serenity that must be experienced.



Mike Dechter



Ian Britton

Management Activities

Goals of the preserve:

- To manage the preserve to protect the existing red-cockaded woodpecker clusters while enhancing the habitat for additional clusters
- To use an ecosystem approach to protect and manage the preserve’s resources
- To develop natural resource-based economic and community development through ecotourism
- To provide sustainable revenue sources through selective logging, hunt leases, and nature tourism activities



RCW protection requires extensive monitoring, which includes bird counts and banding to track survival as well as periodic habitat assessments to determine management needs. Forest management techniques are critical to the survival of the RCW and the maintenance of a healthy ecosystem. Management activities include selective thinning, reforestation, and prescribed burns.