

**United States Department of the Interior  
FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE  
Chesapeake Marshlands NWR Complex  
BLACKWATER NATIONAL WILDLIFE REFUGE  
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## **NEWS RELEASE**

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: October 30, 2008**

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### **Blackwater National Wildlife Refuge Re-opens One Third of the Temporarily Closed Wildlife Drive**

Blackwater National Wildlife Refuge re-opens the middle of the temporarily closed Wildlife Drive and associated facilities on Saturday, November 1, 2008. Visitors may now enter the Wildlife Drive at the entrance to the headquarters parking lot from 8:00 am to 4:00 pm. The parking lot goes past the office building to the Wildlife Drive. Please do not park in the headquarters parking lot unless you have business in the office. Visitors may turn right at the Wildlife Drive and follow the road to the exit on Route 335. It is a one way road with no exit onto Key Wallace Drive. Visitors may also turn left out of the headquarters parking area and park at the Woods Trail parking area to walk the Woods Trail. The road is closed to all visitors beyond this point. However, visitors should be careful in returning to the Wildlife Drive from the Woods Trail parking area. The short distance to the road coming from the headquarters parking area is a two way road, while the rest of the Wildlife Drive is a one way road. Please stop at the Visitor Center to get a map and clear directions.

The first two thirds of the Wildlife Drive have been closed since June 30, 2008 for replacement of the bulkhead separating pool one freshwater impoundment and dike from the Little Blackwater River. The last third section of the Wildlife Drive has been open and free of charge. The two thirds of the Wildlife Drive now open to Visitors will remain free of charge. Visitors may continue to enter from what is normally the first exit, one-quarter mile west of the Visitor Center, on Key Wallace Drive and travel the last third of the Drive to exit onto Route 335. It is presently a one way entrance road. Visitors using this entrance must turn right onto the last third of the Wildlife Drive to exit at Route 335.

Construction is expected to be completed in January 2009. The Visitor Center, Key Wallace Trail, Tubman Road Trail, and the orange and green canoe trails will remain open for visitor use. The purple canoe trail is closed October 1 – March 31 every year for migratory waterfowl. The Visitor Center is open daily 8:00 am to 4:00 pm weekdays and 9:00 am to 5:00 pm weekends except Thanksgiving Day and Christmas Day.

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](http://www.fws.gov).