

Eastern Neck, Martin, and Susquehanna National Wildlife Refuges

Chesapeake Marshlands National Wildlife Refuge Complex Fact Sheet for Members of Congress

Represented by Members of Congress:

Senator Barbara A. Mikulski (D-MD)
Senator Benjamin L. Cardin (D-MD)
Rep. Wayne T. Gilchrest (R-MD-1st)
Senator John Warner (R-VA)
Senator James H. Webb (D-VA)
Rep. JoAnn S. Davis (R-VA-1st)

Contact

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Profile

First unit established: 1962
Current acres:
Eastern Neck NWR 2,286
Martin NWR 4,569
Susquehanna NWR 4
FY 2006 budget:
Salaries/ops. (4 FTEs) \$443,210
One-time project funds \$62,181
Fees \$0
2006 volunteer hours: 9,330
2006 visitation: 55,200

*Includes annual maintenance, utilities, contracts, etc.

**Includes deferred maintenance, construction, equipment and biological projects

Purpose

Eastern Neck, Martin, and Susquehanna national wildlife refuges were established to provide sanctuary and for other management purposes for migratory birds. They represent a unique ecosystem component of the Chesapeake Bay, providing relatively isolated and predator-free critical nesting and wintering habitat. A host of waterfowl, wading birds, shorebirds, terrapins and endangered species rely on these habitats.

Public Use Notes

Eastern Neck National Wildlife Refuge:

- Visitor contact station and bookstore
- Interpretive trails (fully accessible boardwalk with observation tower and bay view/butterfly trail)
- Hunting (deer and turkey)
- Fishing and crabbing
- Public boat ramp (county permit needed)

Martin National Wildlife Refuge:

- Information is available at the Smith Island Cultural Museum in Ewell

Management Activities

- Restoring and protecting wetlands and submerged aquatic vegetation beds using clean dredged material
- Managing croplands and impoundments to enhance refuge habitats for migratory waterfowl
- Protecting and managing habitat for migratory birds

- Preserving natural diversity and plant and animal abundance
- Providing nesting habitats and structures for a variety of wildlife species
- Controlling exotic invasive species
- Enforcing federal wildlife laws and refuge regulations



Heather Davidson

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July 2007

Highlights

Refuge lands are home to the second largest heron rookery in Maryland and the largest rookery in Virginia.

Bald eagles and large concentrations of ospreys nest and feed throughout the refuge's islands.

These refuges protect 16 percent of the remaining submerged aquatic vegetation in Chesapeake Bay.

Martin National Wildlife Refuge supports the largest colony of brown pelicans in the Maryland portion of Chesapeake Bay.

Refuge islands are important breeding areas for American black duck, colonial nesting shore and wading birds, and diamondback terrapins, and support large numbers

of spring and fall migrating songbirds, raptors and monarch butterflies.

Eastern Neck National Wildlife Refuge is a major staging area for migrating tundra swans, and is a designated Chesapeake Gateway.

Issues

Coastal erosion and shoreline/wetland loss

Submerged aquatic vegetation decline

Black duck nest decline

Invasive species (mute swan, certain gull species, red fox, mile-a-minute weed and *Phragmites*)

