

Waterfowl Hunting Brochure 2014-2015



**Blackwater
National Wildlife Refuge**
Cambridge, Maryland

HUNT PERMIT

I have read and understand the regulations stated in this brochure. By signing below, this brochure will serve as my refuge waterfowl hunt permit.

Print Name

Date

Signature



Blackwater National Wildlife Refuge (NWR) is part of the Chesapeake Marshlands NWR Complex. It is one of over 560 NWRs in the National Wildlife Refuge System. The primary objective of the System is to provide habitat for the conservation and protection of wildlife.

The regulations listed below supplement the general regulations which govern hunting on NWRs set forth in Title 50, Code of Federal Regulations.

Refuge Regulations

1. We only allow hunters to access hunt sites by boat; the use of air boats, all-terrain vehicles (ATVs) or amphibious vehicles of any type, (including Argos), is prohibited.
2. Dogs must be controlled while on refuge property when not actively retrieving.
3. Use or possession of alcoholic beverages while hunting is prohibited.
4. The removal or cutting of any vegetation on the Refuge is prohibited.
5. Use of cut common reed (*Phragmites australis*) in any manner is strictly prohibited.
6. All hunt blind materials and decoys must be removed at the end of each hunting day.
7. We require all hunters in a hunt party to hunt as a collective unit and only hunt within their assigned hunt unit.
8. Hunters may only use temporary blinds and blind materials.
9. The refuge is closed to all access from 9:00pm to 4:30am.
10. Commercial guiding is prohibited.

PERMIT LICENSE REQUIREMENTS

Each hunter must have the following in his/her possession and display them upon request of any FWS employee or DNR officer:

1. Valid Maryland State waterfowl hunting license, Federal Duck Stamp, and State Duck Stamp.
2. Valid government issued photo identification.
3. Signed 2014-15 Refuge waterfowl hunt permit (brochure).

Legal hunting hours are one half hour before sunrise to sunset.

PERMIT GUIDELINES

- Reservations are by phone only and non-transferrable.
- Hunters must call in and provide name, date and requested hunt unit.
- The maximum hunt party size is four.
- The individual whose name is on the reservation must be present in the hunt party on the day of the hunt.
- An individual may only reserve one hunt unit per week (see Oct. 6th and Jan. 12th exceptions).
- Each hunter must print, read, and sign the permit (front cover).
- The signed brochure will serve as your permit for all refuge waterfowl hunt days. No information will be mailed to the hunter.
- All waterfowl hunt related information must be obtained from the Blackwater NWR website.

<http://www.fws.gov/blackwater/hunting.html>

Fees: There are no fees to waterfowl hunt on Blackwater NWR. However, people wishing to hunt waterfowl on Blackwater NWR must call and reserve a hunt unit prior to hunting.

Hunting Days:

Wednesdays and Saturdays only.

Early Season (1st and 2nd Split)

October 11th, 15th, and 18th
November 8th, 12th, 15th, 19th, 22nd and 26th.

Late Season (3rd Split)

December 17th, 20th, 24th, 27th, 31st
January 3rd, 7th, 10th, 14th, 17th, 21st, and 24th.

Hunt Unit Reservation:

Call in number: 1-410-228-6202

Reservations for hunt units can only be made on the Monday of each week from 8:00am to 10:00am EXCEPT Oct. 6th and Jan. 12th (see below).

Call in dates:

Oct. 6th will be for the 11th, 15th and 18th.

Nov. 3rd will be for Nov. 8th.

Nov. 10th will be for the 12th and 15th.

Nov. 17th will be for the 19th and 22nd.

Nov. 24th will be for the 26th.

Dec. 15th will be for the 17th and 20th.

Dec. 22nd will be for the 24th and 27th.

Dec. 29th will be for the 31st and Jan. 3rd.

Jan. 5th will be for the 7th and 10th.

Jan. 12th will be for the 14th, 17th, 21st & 24th.

EARLY SEASON HUNTING UNITS

(1st and 2nd Split)

Only one hunt party per unit with a maximum of four hunters per hunt party.

October and November Units

Blackwater River East
Blackwater River Central
Blackwater River West

Beaverdam Creek East

Beaverdam Creek West

Goose Dam Creek North

Goose Dam Creek South

LATE SEASON HUNTING UNITS

(3rd Split)

December and January

Only one hunt party per unit with a maximum of four hunters per hunt party.

Barren Island North

Barren Island South

Spring Island East

Spring Island West

Bishop's Head East

Bishop's Head West

Scout dates are the following Sundays:

Oct. 5th, 12th, 19th, 26th

Nov. 2nd, 9th, 16th, 23rd.

You must meet the **Permit License**

Requirements while scouting.

Report illegal activity or related information to: USFWS Law Enforcement 443-477-1934.

ACCESS

Hunt units are only permitted to be accessed by boat. See the map for recommended "access point" for early season hunt units.

Due to parking limitations, ramp restrictions and tidal fluctuations, hunters are strongly encouraged to scout hunt units prior to their hunt day. Scouting may only be done from a boat. Individuals scouting the Goose Dam Creek hunt units will be allowed on land at the Parsons Creek dam only for the purpose of portaging their boat.

Most blind sites during early season hunts are only accessible with car top boats such as a canoe, kayak, or small jon boat.

In the event that ice, low water, or any other natural events prohibit access to hunt areas, no alternate hunt unit or hunt day will be made available.

ACCESS POINTS

The Blackwater River hunt units are accessed from the Refuge car top boat launch on Route 335.

The Beaverdam Creek hunt units are accessed from the east side of Smithville Road near the Smithville Public Boat Launch.

The Goose Dam Creek hunt units are accessed from the southwest side of the Route 16 Bridge at Parsons Creek (please note that boats must be portaged over a small dam to reach the blind locations). Canoes/kayaks are recommended due to shallow water and tree stumps in the creek.

The Barren Island, Spring Island and Bishop's Head hunt units are Chesapeake Bay island sites and the only Refuge hunt units that can be accessed with a larger boat from a launch of your choice.