

# News Release



Blackwater National Wildlife Refuge  
Chesapeake Marshlands National Wildlife Refuge Complex  
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Cambridge, Maryland 21613  
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Website: <http://www.fws.gov/refuge/Blackwater/>

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## **Blackwater National Wildlife Refuge to Hold Public Meeting on Proposed Deer Hunt Changes for the 2016/17 Season**

*Cambridge, MD* – The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service is inviting the public to attend an informational meeting on proposed changes to quality public deer hunting opportunities for Blackwater National Wildlife Refuge (NWR), Dorchester, Maryland during the 2016/17 hunting season. The meeting will be an opportunity to learn more about the proposed changes, ask questions, and provide comments. The meeting will be held on Wednesday April 27, 2016 from 6-9 pm at the Blackwater National Wildlife Refuge Visitor Center, address 2145 Key Wallace Drive, Cambridge, MD 21613.

The purpose of the proposed changes are to provide more opportunity for quality public deer hunting, while reducing current deer populations to a size that is more compatible with refuge management goals and objectives. Revisions to the refuge hunt plan are necessary given the continuing concern over deer crop depredation on both refuge and adjacent private lands. Agricultural crops grown on Blackwater and surrounding private lands during the past several years have been extremely damaged due to deer depredation.

A document summarizing the proposed changes is available for viewing at the Blackwater National Wildlife Refuge headquarters, and on the Refuge website at <http://www.fws.gov/refuge/Blackwater>. Comments should be submitted in writing to the attention of Mr. Nate Carle, Wildlife Biologist, at Chesapeake Marshlands NWRC, 2145 Key Wallace Drive, Cambridge, MD 21613; or [nate\\_carle@fws.gov](mailto:nate_carle@fws.gov). Comments will be accepted until May 16, 2016.

*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). Connect with our Facebook page at [www.facebook.com/usfws](http://www.facebook.com/usfws), follow our tweets at [www.twitter.com/usfwshq](http://www.twitter.com/usfwshq), watch our YouTube Channel at <http://www.youtube.com/usfws> and download photos from our Flickr page at <http://www.flickr.com/photos/usfwshq>.*

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