

Blackwater National Wildlife Refuge (NWR) is one of over 560 national wildlife refuges in the United States. The primary objective of a national wildlife refuge is to provide habitat for the conservation and protection of wildlife.

Your hunt permit authorizes you to take specified game only. Harming or needlessly disturbing any other wildlife is a violation of refuge regulations and is cause for prosecution. The regulations listed in this brochure supplement the general regulations which govern hunting on national wildlife refuges set forth in Title 50: Part 32, Code of Federal Regulations. Individuals may have their permits revoked if found to be in violation of any Federal or State laws. Hunting will be in accordance with applicable State regulations and the following special refuge regulations.

APPLICATION GUIDELINES

Applications will only be accepted by mail postmarked no later than October 1st. The only exception will be the archery permits. They will still be available at the visitor center starting Sept. 8th and continuing throughout the archery season.

- Beginning July 5th - applications will be available at the Visitor Center from 9:00 am – 4:00 pm.
- Completed hunt applications must be received through the mail. Include check or money order made out to the **U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service** (USFWS) in the appropriate amount.
- Area U and B1 will be closed to archery during the Youth Hunts on November 5th & 6th, 2016.

Permit Application Fees

- Archery Application: \$20
- Quota Muzzleloader: \$10
- Non-Quota Muzzleloader: \$10
- Quota Shotgun: \$10
- Non-Quota Shotgun: \$10 or \$20 (for each block of days)
- Youth Fees: \$5 for each hunt
- Free for Youth Hunt Days (Nov. 5th & 6th)

Note: Fees are reduced by 1/2 for Golden Age Passport/Senior Pass or Golden Access Passport/Access Pass holders. Pass numbers must be provided.

PERMIT LICENSE REQUIREMENTS

Hunters are required to possess a printed valid Maryland hunting license and all required stamps, valid government-issued photo identification, and a valid original printed hunting permit issued by the refuge on their person at all times during refuge hunt and scout days.

For hunt information, call Hunt Coordinator Allen Johnston at 410-221-8815. During the quota hunts only, Allen may be contacted by cell phone at 443-205-5290.

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

GENERAL REGULATIONS

Other than archery permits and the youth hunt days, we require all hunters, regardless of age, to submit a Big Game Hunt Application (FWS Form 3-2356) **by mail** to obtain a permit. All permits are non-transferable. Only participants possessing authorized permits will be allowed to enter the hunt areas. The only exceptions are non-hunting assistants for youth hunters and hunters with disabilities.

Youth Hunt

Hunters 16 years of age or younger may participate in the youth hunt if the individual possesses a valid hunting license or is exempt from Maryland hunting license requirements. Prior to hunting on the refuge during the youth day hunts, all youth and their legal guardians must sign the permit on the front of this brochure. Youth must be accompanied in the field by an individual who is 21 years old or older and possesses a valid Maryland hunting license, or is exempt from hunting license requirements, and is not afield with a firearm, bow or other hunting device. Hunter check-in is not required. Only areas B1, N and U are open for the designated youth hunt days.

Hunters with Disabilities

We require all hunters with disabilities to provide, with their application, a copy of a valid Maryland DNR issued hunt from vehicle permit. Individuals with a disability may have an assistant during the hunt. Persons assisting a hunter with a disability must be at least 18 years of age and obey all refuge, State, and Federal laws and regulations. Persons actively assisting hunters with disabilities may hunt in Areas Q2 and U1. If assistants wish to hunt they must have all the required licenses and a refuge hunt permit. The use of ATVs is only permitted by disabled hunters in areas Q2 and U1, and they must stay on established roads and/or field edges. Vehicles cannot be used in Area U1, only ATVs.

Access

Motorized vehicles are authorized for access only on designated roads and parking areas indicated on the hunt map. We prohibit the use of ATVs, motorized off-road vehicles, and amphibious vehicles to access the refuge. Only hunters with disabilities are authorized by the refuge manager to use ATVs in area U1 and Q2. All other access is limited to boats, floatation devices, walk-in or bicycles. We prohibit hunters taking bicycles off designated roads and trails while on refuge lands. Boats and floatation devices may not be left on refuge property overnight. We require hunters to notify a refuge representative and receive permission from the refuge manager or designee prior to entering a closed area to retrieve game.

Scouting

Scouting will only be permitted by hunters with a permit from 7:00 am to sunset on September 8; October 16; November 20; December 11, 2016; and January 1, 2017. The Hunt Coordinator will be available to provide information at the Refuge Visitor Center during all scout days from 9:00 am -12:00 pm. All youth hunt permit holders must be accompanied by an adult/guardian age 21 or older.

Tree Stands

We only allow portable or temporary tree stands and blinds while hunting. Tree stands may be pre-installed during the scouting days. We prohibit hunting from a permanently constructed tree stand or blind. We require hunters to mark in plain sight any tree stands or blinds left unattended on refuge property with permit number and year. We also require hunters to remove all stands, blinds and marking devices, including flagging or tape, by sunset of the last day of the designated “stand removal week” (Feb. 4-12, 2017). We prohibit paint or any other permanent marker to mark trails. We prohibit screw-in steps, spikes, or other objects that may damage trees. The refuge will not be held responsible for damage, theft, or other hunter occupancy. Any stands left in a hunt area after February 12, 2017, will be confiscated and deemed abandoned property.

Other Regulations

- Only participants possessing authorized hunt permits will be allowed to enter the hunt areas.
- Hunters are prohibited from being on the refuge (including parking lots) between 9:00 pm & 4:30 am.
- We prohibit the use of rimfire or centerfire rifles and all handguns including muzzleloading pistols.
- We prohibit leaving deer entrails or other waste within 50 feet of any trail, road, or refuge structure.
- Camping and campfires are not permitted. All cooking devices must be self-contained and these are restricted only to designated parking areas.
- Hunt permit holders may not engage in guiding, outfitting, advertising, or audio or visual productions for commercial purposes.
- Baiting is not permitted.
- Use and/or possession of alcoholic beverages while hunting is prohibited.
- Automatic, motion-activated game or trail cameras are prohibited on the refuge.
- Driving deer is permitted only on Dec. 8-10; Jan.6-7; and Jan. 28.
- Shooting or hunting within 150 yards of any occupied structure is prohibited.
- Shooting from, across or down any designated refuge road is prohibited. An open gate designates a refuge road.
- Parking in front of gates is prohibited.
- Boats may be used in open navigable waters. They may not be left overnight.

Tagging and Checking Instructions

Hunters who harvest deer during the quota hunts must present deer for examination at the refuge check station (see map) on the day of the kill, between 9:00 am and 9:30 pm during the muzzleloader hunt and 9:00 am and 8:00 pm during shotgun hunts. Hunters who fail to check deer during operating hours of the check station will notify the refuge hunt coordinator of their kill to include species, area harvested, sex, and for male deer the number of points on each antler by noon of the following day. The Hunt Coordinator will be available from 12:00 pm – 1:00 pm at the Refuge Visitor Center during the non-quota muzzleloader and non-quota shotgun hunts. Deer taken at Blackwater NWR **will not** count against your Maryland state bag limit. In addition, **ALL** deer killed must be field-tagged, recorded, and checked in accordance with State regulations. The public land code for Blackwater NWR is 543.

Youth Hunt Day Permit
 For youth 16 years of age or younger, this will serve as your permit to hunt during the Nov. 5th & 6th Youth Hunt days. You and your legal guardian are required to sign this brochure. You and your hunting assistant are responsible for knowing and following all regulations listed in this brochure. This permit is only valid for the Nov. 5th & 6th youth hunt days. All other hunt permits must be obtained through the application process explained within this brochure.

Signature of hunter

Signature of legal guardian

Hunters that harvest a doe during any of the designated quota hunt days may apply early for next year’s hunt. However, to qualify the doe must be physically checked in during check station hours. Call-Ins will not be accepted.

Season	Date	Total Bag Limit Per Weapon Type
Archery	Sept. 9 - Oct. 19, 2016 Oct. 31 - Nov. 25, 2016 Dec. 12 - Dec. 16, 2016 Jan. 2 - Jan. 5, 2017 Jan. 9 - Jan. - Jan. 27, 2017 Jan. 30 - Jan. 31, 2017	Sika: 3 (only 1 antlered) White-tailed: No limit (only 1 may be antlered)
No Sunday hunting!	Area U and B1 closed to archery hunting on Nov. 5 & 6, 2016	
Quota Muzzleloader	Oct. 20, 2016	Sika: 3 (only 1 may be antlered) White-tailed: 10 antlerless 1 antlered
Non-Quota Muzzleloader	Oct. 21; 27 - 29, 2016	
Quota Shotgun	Nov. 26 & Nov. 28, 2016	Sika: 3 (only 1 may be antlered)
Non-Quota Shotgun	Dec. 2-3; 8-10; 17-18, 2016 Jan. 6-7; 28, 2017	White-tailed: 10 antlerless 1 antlered
Youth	Nov. 5 & 6, 2016	Sika: 3 White-tailed: 3
Scout Days	Sept. 8 th , Oct. 16 th , Nov. 20 th , Dec. 11 th , Jan. 1 st	

Blackwater National Wildlife Refuge
 Cambridge, Maryland



Hunting Regulations
 2016 - 2017

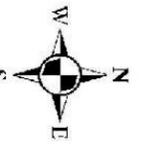
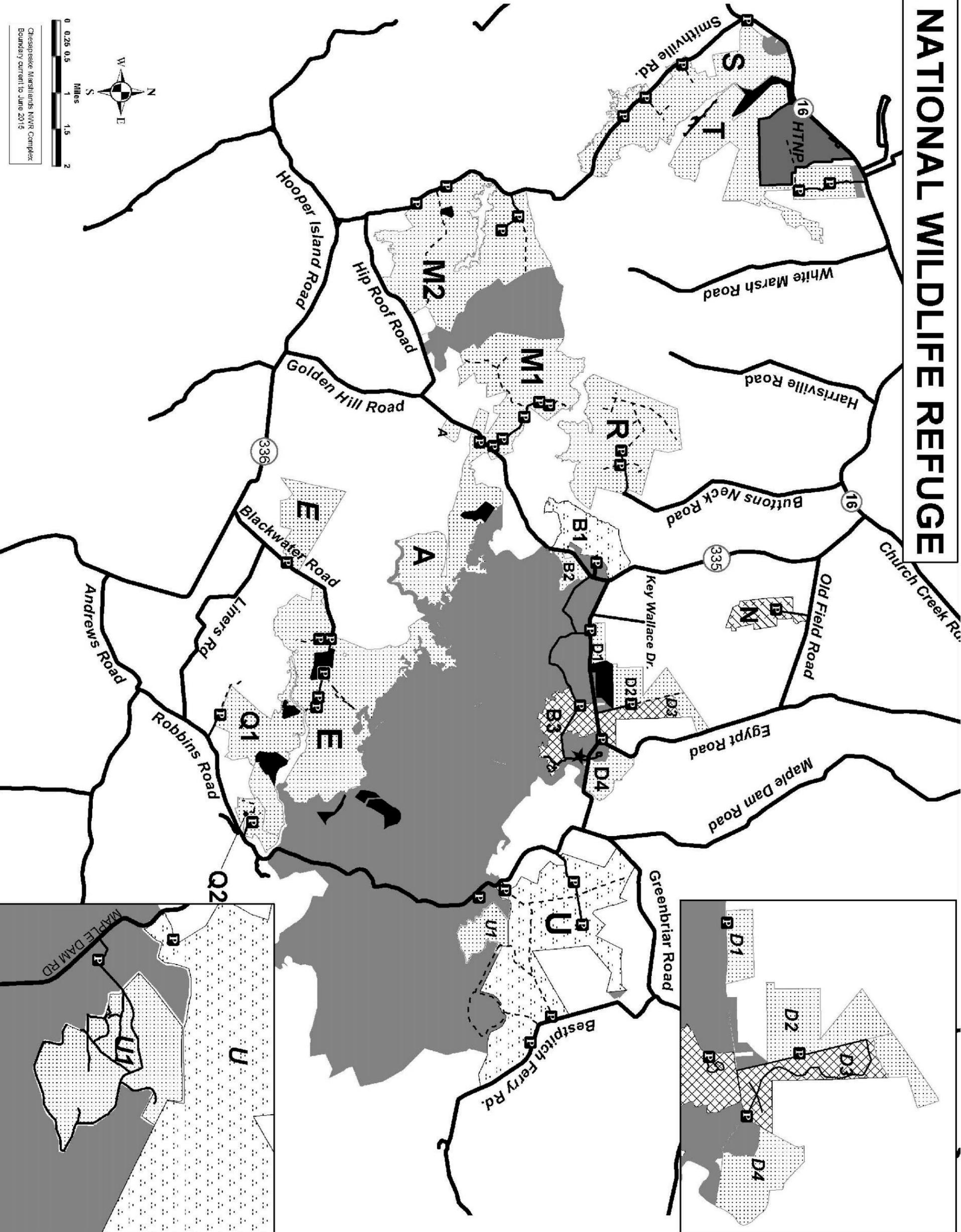
BLACKWATER NATIONAL WILDLIFE REFUGE

Deer Hunt Units 2016 - 17 Season

- Shotgun, Muzzleloader
- Shotgun, Muzzleloader, Youth
- Archery, Shotgun, Muzzleloader
- Archery, Shotgun, Muzzleloader, Youth
- Closed to All Access
- Private Inholdings
- Harriet Tubman National Park (HTNP)
- Check Station
- Hunt Parking
- Major Roads
- Refuge Roads
- Closed to Vehicles

Area	Acres	Archery	Shotgun	Muzzleloader	Youth
A	790	X	X	X	
B1	369	X	X	X	X
B2	81	X	X	X	
B3	318		X	X	
D1	70	X	X	X	
D2	222	X	X	X	
D3	263		X	X	
D4	180	X	X	X	
E	1838	X	X	X	
M1	1055	X	X	X	
M2	1789	X	X	X	
N	211		X	X	X
Q1	502	X	X	X	
Q2*	303	X*	X*	X*	
R	1152	X	X	X	
S	1200	X	X	X	
T	1125	X	X	X	
U	1926	X	X	X	X
U1*	203	X*	X*	X*	

*Q2 & U1 Certified Disabled Only Check Dates
 B3 Limited Hunt Area



Chesapeake Marshlands NWR Complex
 Boundary current to June 2015