

United States Department of the Interior
FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE
BLACKWATER NATIONAL WILDLIFE REFUGE
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NEWS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: January 13, 2015
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Blackwater National Wildlife Refuge To Close Marsh Edge Trail Due To Nesting Bald Eagles

Blackwater National Wildlife Refuge (NWR) staff announced that the Marsh Edge Trail, located along the refuge's Wildlife Drive, will be closed to public access beginning Tuesday, January 13, 2015 until further notice. A pair of bald eagles has nested in a pine tree adjacent to the trail since 2008, and recent observations indicate that they will continue utilizing this nest in 2015. Due to the potential for disturbance at this high traffic location, the trail will be closed until the eagle chicks leave the nest. As always, visitors are reminded to obey closed area boundary signs and adhere to refuge regulations.

Despite being removed from the endangered species list in 2007, efforts continue to protect bald eagle nest sites and communal roost sites at the refuge. The bald eagle is still a federally protected species under the Migratory Bird Act and the Bald and Golden Eagle Protection Act.

Good opportunities to view eagles and other wildlife exist along the remaining portions of Blackwater NWR's Wildlife Drive, which will remain open for access. The Woods Trail, accessible from the Wildlife Drive, will also remain open, as well as the Key Wallace Trail and the Tubman Road Trail. Additional quality eagle viewing opportunities exist along the lower reaches of Maple Dam Road south of Key Wallace Drive.

For those unable to visit the refuge, bald eagles can often be viewed on the Friends of Blackwater's 'Eagle Cam,' which can be found on their website at www.friendsofblackwater.org. The Eagle Cam is located in a loblolly pine tree on the refuge, and captures live images of a breeding pair of bald eagles.

For further information, please contact the Visitor Center at 410-228-2677 or visit www.fws.gov/refuge/blackwater. The Visitor Center is open every day except Thanksgiving Day and Christmas Day from 8:00 am - 4:00 pm weekdays and 9:00 am - 5:00 pm weekends. Blackwater National Wildlife Refuge is located about 10 miles south of U.S. Route 50 in Cambridge, MD.

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.

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