

News Release

Blackwater National Wildlife Refuge

2145 Key Wallace Drive

Cambridge, MD 21613

Fax: 410-221-7738

Email: Marcia_pradines@fws.gov

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Contact: Marcia Pradines

Date: February 23, 2018

Phone: 410-221-1045

Big Game Hunting Program on Blackwater National Wildlife Refuge Open for Public Comment

The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service will be hosting a public meeting to discuss big game hunting on Blackwater National Wildlife Refuge (BNWR) on March 24, 2018 from 10am-12pm. The meeting will be an opportunity to learn more about big game public hunting opportunities on the refuge, ask questions, and provide comments on the hunt program in general.

Topics will include the results of the first ever deer population density survey with the University of Delaware, as well as public input on dates, improvements to handicapped hunt units, new units, and modifications to boat access. The meeting will be held at the Blackwater National Wildlife Refuge Visitor Center, address 2145 Key Wallace Drive, Cambridge, MD 21613.

Blackwater National Wildlife Refuge is a strong economic engine for the surrounding area. The refuge receives 180,000 visitors annually who contribute to the local economy. On average the refuge returns \$4.87 to the local economy for every \$1.00 Congress appropriates to fund the refuge (Banking on Nature 2010 report).

Project Leader Marcia Pradines encourages everyone to provide input on the hunt program for 2018 either at the meeting or in writing. Comments may be emailed to fw5rw_bwnwr@fws.gov, or write to the Blackwater National Wildlife Refuge, 2145 Key Wallace Drive, Cambridge, MD 21613.

Blackwater National Wildlife Refuge, located on the Eastern Shore of Maryland, protects over 29,000 acres of rich tidal marsh, mixed hardwood and pine forest, managed freshwater wetlands and cropland for a diversity of wildlife. To learn more, visit our website at www.fws.gov/refuge/blackwater or @BlackwaterNWR.

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.

-END-