

Welcome to Blackwater National Wildlife Refuge.

Please remember! Your hunt permit authorizes you to take specified game only. Harming or needlessly disturbing any other wildlife is a violation of refuge regulations.

The regulations listed in this brochure supplement the general regulations which govern hunting on national wildlife refuges set forth in Title 50: Part 27 and 32, Code of Federal Regulations. Hunting will be in accordance with State regulations and subject to the following conditions and regulations. Failure to abide by any Federal laws, State laws, or the terms and conditions under which a hunt permit is issued may result in the revocation of the permit and hunting privileges.

General Information

Season bag limits: 1 bearded Eastern Wild Turkey
Hunting Season: April 21, 24, 28, May 1, 5, 8, 12, 15, 19 and 22.

Youth Hunt: Saturday, April 14.

Hunting Hours: April 21 through May 8: One half hour before sunrise to noon. May 12 through May 22 and April 14: One half hour before sunrise to sunset.

A daily maximum of 14 hunters will be selected for each of the 11 turkey hunting days. The maximum number of hunters for each area are: one for Area B1* (hunters with disabilities), four for Area M2, one for Area N, two for Area R, one for Area S, two for Area T, and three for Area U.

PERMIT & LICENSE REQUIREMENTS

Each hunter must have the following in his/her possession while hunting and scouting, and display them upon request.

1. A printed valid Maryland State hunting license.
2. Valid Government issued photo identification.
3. Valid refuge turkey hunt permit.

All hunters must obtain a permit regardless of age. Permits are non-transferable. There will be no standbys. Each permitted hunter may be accompanied by a non-hunting assistant.

The non-hunting assistant must remain within sight and normal voice contact of hunter. Non-hunting assistants

must not be afield with a hunting firearm, bow, or other hunting device, must read the turkey hunting brochure, and must sign the permit of the person they are assisting in ink. Non-hunting assistants must possess a valid government-issued photo identification on their person. Non-hunting assistants who call and/or set up decoys must possess a valid Maryland state hunting license.

Youth Turkey Hunt

The Youth Turkey Hunt will be held on Saturday, April 14th. Youth hunters must be 16 years of age or younger to participate and must be accompanied by only one licensed or licensed exempt, unarmed adult, 21 years of age or older.

Hunters with disabilities

Hunters wishing to qualify for the hunt in area B1 must have a Federal Access Pass, along with a completed Turkey Hunt application. Disabled hunters may have a non-hunting assistant, at least age 18. We require assistants of disabled hunters to maintain within sight and normal voice contact. To hunt from a vehicle, including ATVs, you must possess a Maryland Universal Disability Pass.

Scouting

You may only scout within your permitted hunt area. Scouting will be permitted within your hunt area on the day before your hunt, and on March 31st and April 1st, and April 7th and 8th from 4:00 a.m. until sunset.

Blinds

Temporary blinds are allowed on the refuge. Blinds may be put in place during scout days. Refuge blinds will not be provided for hunters in area B1. Unoccupied blinds must be clearly tagged with your permit number and year. The refuge assumes no responsibility for your blind. Blinds must be removed by the end of your hunt.

APPLICATION GUIDELINES

Permit

Permit regulations will be mailed to all hunters who indicated they were interested in turkey hunting. The

turkey permit regulations may be obtained beginning February 17th at the Refuge Visitor Center located at 2145 Key Wallace Drive, from 9:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. daily. All applications along with the \$10 administrative fee must be received **only by mail** and postmarked no later than March 15th. Check or money order must be made payable to the **U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service**.

Permits will be awarded through a drawing. A hunter will be selected for one day only. The signed permit or a non-selection card will be mailed to all applicants.

For more information, call Hunt Coordinator Allen Johnston at 410-221-8815 or visit www.fws.gov/refuge/blackwater/visit/hunting.html

REGULATIONS

Tagging and Checking

All turkeys harvested will count toward the State's regional limit and must be tagged, recorded, and checked in according to Maryland state guidelines using the code 543.

Area B1 Access Regulations

We only allow disabled hunters to operate ATV/ORVs. If the disabled hunter is unable to physically do so, the assistant may operate the ATV/ORV.

- Assistants may not operate an ATV/ORV without being accompanied on the same ATV/ORV by a disabled hunter.
- We only allow ATV/ORVs to be operated on established routes of travel and around field edges.
- We do not allow ATV/ORVs to be operated in excess of 15 MPH.
- All ATV operators and passengers must wear a DOT approved helmet and eye protection.

Access Regulations

- Hunters may not enter the refuge before 4:00 a.m. on hunt days and must exit the refuge no later than two hours after legal shooting hours.
- The use of bicycles is permitted on established roads and trails.
- Access by boat and the use of ATVs is prohibited.
- The maximum speed limit on all refuge unpaved roads is 15 MPH.
- Parked vehicles may not impede any road traffic. We

prohibit parking in front of any gate.

- You must notify and receive permission from a Service law enforcement officer, refuge manager, or designee if you need to enter a refuge closed area or another hunting area for which you do not possess a valid permit to retrieve game.

Other Regulations

- We prohibit shooting a projectile from a firearm, muzzleloader, bow, or crossbow from, down, or across any refuge road; a refuge road is any road that is traveled by vehicular traffic.
- Shooting or hunting within 150 yards of any occupied structure is prohibited.
- Filming for commercial use is prohibited.
- Automatic, motion-activated, game, or trail cameras are prohibited on the refuge.
- Commercial guiding, outfitting, or advertising is prohibited.
- Cutting vegetation for any purpose is prohibited.
- Pets and open fires are prohibited.
- Use or possession of alcoholic beverages while hunting is prohibited.
- All personal property including decoys and blinds must be removed by the end of the hunt day.
- All other state hunting and refuge regulations apply.
- You may not leave or remove anything from a national wildlife refuge, including sheds and feathers.

Report accidents, injuries and illegal activity to Federal Wildlife Officer Coles at 443-477-1934.



BLACKWATER NATIONAL WILDLIFE REFUGE

Turkey Hunting Regulations 2018



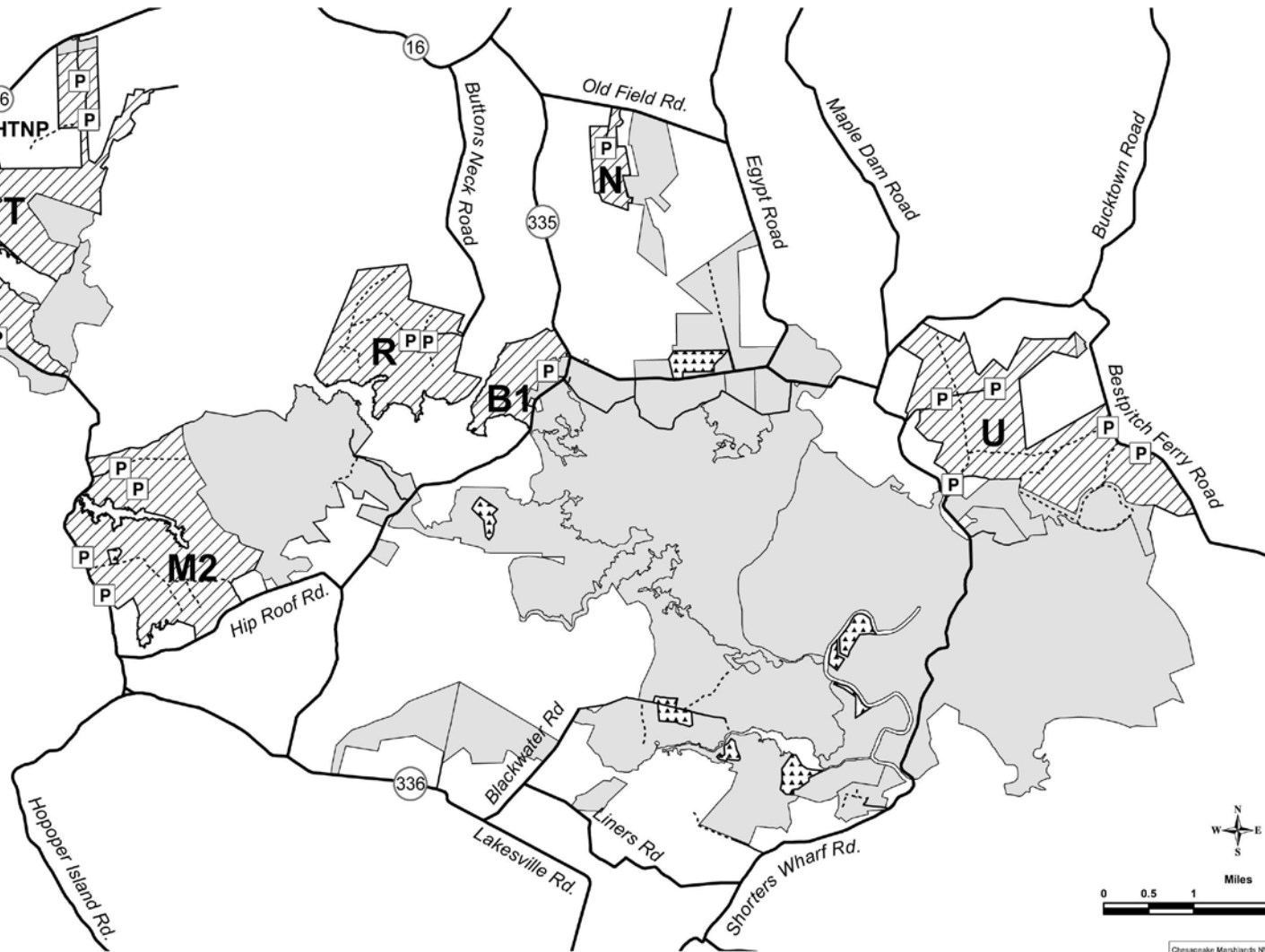
Turkey Hunt Areas

2018 Turkey Season

- HTNP** Harriet Tubman National Park Closed to Hunting
-  Open to Turkey Hunting
-  Closed to Hunting
-  Private Inholdings
-  Hunt Parking
-  Major Roads
-  Refuge Roads
-  Closed to Vehicles

| Area | Acres |
|------|-------|
| B1* | 438 |
| M2 | 1825 |
| N | 215 |
| R | 1150 |
| S | 1170 |
| T | 1160 |
| U | 1920 |

* B1 Disabled Hunting Area



Chesapeake Marshlands WWR Complex
BB_Hunt_2017_Turkey.mxd
N. Carle Feb. 15, 2017

**Blackwater National
Wildlife Refuge
Cambridge, Maryland**