

Blackwater National Wildlife Refuge (NWR) is part of the Chesapeake Marshlands NWR Complex. It is one of 556 NWRs in the National Wildlife Refuge System. The primary objective of the System is to provide habitat for the conservation and protection of wildlife.

The regulations listed below supplement the general regulations which govern hunting on NWRs set forth in Title 50, Code of Federal Regulations. **Hunting will be in accordance with applicable State regulations and the following special Refuge regulations.**

Refuge Regulations

1. ATVs or amphibious vehicles, including Argos, are prohibited on the Refuge.
2. Dogs must be restrained outside blind sites.
3. Only weapons in accordance with State regulations are allowed.
4. Check-in and check-out is not required.
5. Camping is prohibited.
6. Use or possession of alcoholic beverages while hunting is prohibited.
7. The removal or cutting of any vegetation on the Refuge is prohibited.
8. Use of common reed (*Phragmites australis*) in any manner is strictly prohibited.

Legal hunting hours are one half hour before sunrise to sunset.

Hunters must remain within 50 yards of the GPS coordinate of the site. Hunters can hunt from a temporary blind or from a boat directly adjacent to shore.

Hunting Season: Wednesdays and Saturdays Nov. 10, 2012 – Nov. 21, 2012 and Dec. 12, 2012- Jan. 26, 2013, and Thanksgiving-Nov. 22, 2012, and Martin Luther King, Jr. Day-Jan. 21, 2013.

PERMIT LICENSE REQUIREMENTS

Each permittee must have the following in his/her possession and display them upon request of any FWS employee or DNR officer:

1. Valid Maryland State waterfowl hunting license, Federal Duck Stamp, and State Duck Stamp.
2. Valid government issued photo identification.
3. Valid Refuge waterfowl hunt permit.

PERMIT GUIDELINES

Applications for waterfowl permits, regulations, and maps will be mailed or may be obtained at the temporary Refuge Visitor Center. All applications must be received by October 26, 2012. For information, call the Hunt Coordinator at 410-228-5018. For Federal law enforcement matters call 443-477-1934.

A total of 13 blind sites will be available for the 2012/2013 season. **Hunting will be by boat access only.** Assigned hunt blinds will be allocated by a lottery drawing. Results of the drawing will be available after Nov. 3rd and applicants will be notified by mail of the results. Applicants may choose up to five dates and five areas to hunt. Only the original applicant possessing a permit and up to three additional persons will be allowed to enter the hunt areas. Permits are non-transferable.

Due to parking limitations, ramp restrictions and tide fluctuations, hunters are strongly

encouraged to scout blind locations prior to their hunt date. Most blind sites are only accessible with car top boats such as a canoe, kayak, or small jon boat. **In the event that ice, low water, or any other natural events prohibit access to hunt areas, no alternate blind locations or hunt days will be made available or granted.**

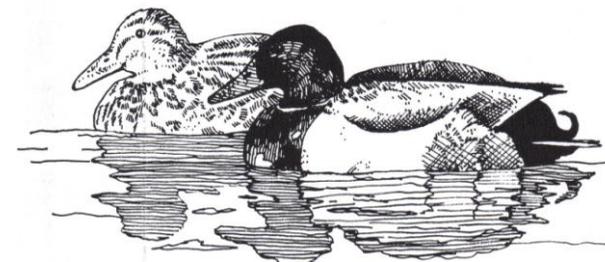
Blind sites 1 through 3 are accessed from the Refuge boat launch on Route 335. Blind sites 4 and 5 are accessed from the Route 16 bridge at Parsons Creek (please note that boats must be portaged over a small dam to reach the blind locations). Blinds sites 6 and 7 are accessible from the Smithville Public Boat Ramp on Smithville Road. Canoes/kayaks are recommended due to shallow water and tree stumps in the creek. Blind sites 8 through 13 are Chesapeake Bay island sites and the only Refuge blind sites that can be accessed with a larger boat.

Fees: A non-refundable administrative fee of \$20 will be assessed for each application. Fees are reduced by half for Golden Age/Senior Pass or Golden Access/Access Pass holders.

Make checks payable to:
The Friends of Blackwater

Mail to:
Blackwater NWR
Attention: Waterfowl Hunt
2145 Key Wallace Drive
Cambridge, MD 21613

Waterfowl Hunting Regulations 2012-2013



**Blackwater
National Wildlife Refuge
Cambridge, Maryland**

