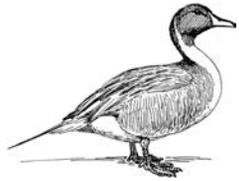


# Waterfowl Hunting Brochure 2016-2017



**Blackwater  
National Wildlife Refuge**  
Cambridge, Maryland

## HUNT PERMIT

I have read and understand the regulations stated in this brochure. By signing below, this brochure will serve as my refuge waterfowl hunt permit.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Print Name

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

\_\_\_\_\_  
Signature



Blackwater National Wildlife Refuge (NWR) is part of the Chesapeake Marshlands NWR Complex. It is one of over 560 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. Failure to abide by any laws or regulations may result in the revocation of the permit and hunting privileges.

### Refuge Regulations

1. We only allow hunters to access hunt sites by boat; the use of air boats, all-terrain vehicles (ATVs) or amphibious vehicles of any type (including Argos), is prohibited.
2. Dogs must be controlled while on refuge property when not actively retrieving.
3. Use or possession of alcoholic beverages while hunting is prohibited.
4. The removal or cutting of any vegetation on the refuge is prohibited.
5. Use of cut common reed (*Phragmites australis*) in any manner is strictly prohibited.
6. All hunt blind materials and decoys must be removed at the end of each hunting day.
7. We require all hunters in a hunt party to only hunt within their assigned hunt unit.
8. Hunters may only use temporary blinds and blind materials.
9. The refuge is closed to all hunter access from 9:00pm to 4:30am.
10. Commercial guiding is prohibited.

### PERMIT LICENSE REQUIREMENTS

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

1. Valid Maryland State waterfowl hunting license, Federal Migratory Bird Hunting and Conservation Stamp (Duck Stamp), and State Waterfowl Stamp.
2. Valid government issued photo identification.
3. Signed 2016-17 Refuge waterfowl hunt permit (this brochure).

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

### PERMIT GUIDELINES

- Reservations are by phone only and non-transferrable.
- Hunters must call in and provide name, date and requested hunt unit.
- The maximum hunt party size is four.
- The individual whose name is on the reservation must be present in the hunt party on the day of the hunt.
- An individual may only reserve one hunt unit per week (see Dec. 19<sup>th</sup> and Jan. 9<sup>th</sup> for exceptions).
- Each hunter must print, read, and sign the permit (front cover).
- This signed brochure will serve as your permit for all refuge waterfowl hunt days. No information will be mailed to the hunter.
- All waterfowl hunt related information must be obtained from the Blackwater NWR website:

<http://www.fws.gov/refuge/Blackwater/visit/hunting.html>

**Fees: There are no fees to waterfowl hunt on Blackwater NWR. However, people wishing to hunt waterfowl on Blackwater NWR must call and reserve a hunt unit prior to hunting.**

**Hunting Days:**

Wednesdays and Saturdays only.

**Early Season (1st Split)**

October 15<sup>th</sup>, 19<sup>th</sup>, 22<sup>nd</sup>

**Early Season (2<sup>nd</sup> Split)**

November 12<sup>th</sup>, 16<sup>th</sup>, 19<sup>th</sup>, 23<sup>rd</sup>

**Late Season (3<sup>rd</sup> Split)**

December 14<sup>th</sup>, 17<sup>th</sup>, 21<sup>st</sup>, 24<sup>th</sup>, 28<sup>th</sup> and 31<sup>st</sup>.

January 4<sup>th</sup>, 7<sup>th</sup>, 11<sup>th</sup>, 14<sup>th</sup>, 18<sup>th</sup>, 21<sup>st</sup>, 25<sup>th</sup> and 28<sup>th</sup>.

**Hunt Unit Reservation:**

**Call in number: 1-410-221-8155**

Reservations for hunt units can only be made on the Monday of each week from 8:00am to 9:00am EXCEPT Oct. 3<sup>rd</sup>, Dec. 19<sup>th</sup> and Jan. 9<sup>th</sup>. (see below).

**Call in dates:**

Oct. 3<sup>rd</sup> will be for Oct. 15<sup>th</sup>.

Oct. 17<sup>th</sup> will be for Oct. 19<sup>th</sup> and 22<sup>nd</sup>.

Nov. 7<sup>th</sup> will be for Nov. 12<sup>th</sup>.

Nov. 14<sup>th</sup> will be for the 16<sup>th</sup> and 19<sup>th</sup>.

Nov. 21<sup>st</sup> will be for the 23<sup>rd</sup>.

Dec. 12<sup>th</sup> will be for the 14<sup>th</sup> and 17<sup>th</sup>.

Dec. 19<sup>th</sup> will be for the 21<sup>st</sup>, 24<sup>th</sup>, 28<sup>th</sup>, 31<sup>st</sup> and Jan. 4<sup>th</sup> and 7<sup>th</sup>.

Jan. 9<sup>th</sup> will be for the 11<sup>th</sup>, 14<sup>th</sup>, 18<sup>th</sup> and 21<sup>st</sup>.

Jan. 23<sup>rd</sup> will be for the 25<sup>th</sup> and 28<sup>th</sup>.

**EARLY SEASON HUNTING UNITS**

(1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> Split, Oct/Nov)

Only one hunt party per unit with a maximum of four hunters per hunt party.

Blackwater River East  
Blackwater River Central  
Blackwater River West

Beaverdam Creek East  
Beaverdam Creek West

Goose Dam Creek North  
Goose Dam Creek South

**LATE SEASON HUNTING UNITS**

(3<sup>rd</sup> Split, Dec/Jan)

Only one hunt party per unit with a maximum of four hunters per hunt party.

Barren Island North  
Barren Island South

Spring Island East  
Spring Island West

Bishop's Head East  
Bishop's Head West

Scout dates are the following Sundays:

Oct. 9<sup>th</sup>, 16<sup>th</sup>, Nov. 6<sup>th</sup>, 13<sup>th</sup>, 20<sup>th</sup>

You must meet the **Permit License Requirements** while scouting.

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

**ACCESS**

Hunt units are only permitted to be accessed by boat. See the map for recommended "access points" for early season hunt units.

Due to parking limitations, ramp restrictions and tidal fluctuations, hunters are strongly encouraged to scout hunt units prior to their hunt day. Scouting may only be done from a boat. Individuals scouting the Goose Dam Creek hunt units will be allowed on land at the Parsons Creek dam only for the purpose of portaging their boat.

Most blind sites during early season hunts 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 hunt unit or hunt day will be made available.

**ACCESS POINTS**

The Blackwater River hunt units are accessed from the refuge car top boat launch on Route 335.

The Beaverdam Creek hunt units are accessed from the east side of Smithville Road near the Smithville Public Boat Launch.

The Goose Dam Creek hunt units are accessed from the southwest side of the Route 16 Bridge at Parsons Creek (please note that boats must be portaged over a small dam to reach the blind locations). Canoes/kayaks are recommended due to shallow water and tree stumps in the creek.

The Barren Island, Spring Island and Bishop's Head hunt units are Chesapeake Bay island sites and the only refuge hunt units that can be accessed with a larger boat from a launch of your choice.