

Chesapeake Marshlands

National Wildlife Refuge Complex

Fact Sheet

Represented by Members of Congress:

Senator Barbara A. Mikulski (D-MD)
Senator Benjamin L. Cardin (D-MD)
Rep.-elect Andy Harris (R-1st)
Senator James H. Webb (D-VA)
Senator Mark Warner (D-VA)
Rep. Robert Wittman (R-VA-1st)

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Profile

Established:

Blackwater	1933
Eastern Neck	1962
Martin	1954
Susquehanna	1939

Current acres:

Blackwater	27,514
Eastern Neck	2,286
Martin	4,569
Susquehanna	4

FY 2010 budget:

*Salaries/ops. (21.7 FTEs)	\$2,730,467
**One-time project funds	\$2,525,168
Fire	\$585,830

2010 volunteer hours: 18,035

2010 visitation: 221,000

*Includes annual maintenance, utilities, contracts, etc.

**Includes deferred maintenance, construction, equipment and biological projects

Complex Facts

- The Chesapeake Marshlands National Wildlife Refuge Complex, located on the eastern shore of Maryland and Virginia, comprises Blackwater National Wildlife Refuge (NWR), Eastern Neck NWR, Martin NWR and Susquehanna NWR.

- Blackwater is the oldest refuge in the Northeast, created in 1933. The lands of the complex extend approximately 125 miles along the Chesapeake Bay, from Garrett Island at the mouth of the Susquehanna River south to Watts Island in Virginia.
- All the refuges in the complex were established primarily for the protection and management of habitat for migratory birds. The complex refuges also manage habitat for threatened and endangered plants and animals and native species.

Management Activities

- Protecting land through acquisitions and easements
- Managing wetland and upland habitat on several Chesapeake Bay islands
- Restoring wetlands through use of dredge material and controlling erosion
- Managing freshwater impoundments and farmland to provide food for migratory waterfowl
- Enhancing habitat and reducing wildfire risk through the use of prescribed fire
- Controlling exotic invasive species and protecting endangered species
- Conducting scientific research to improve management decisions

Visitor Services

- Blackwater NWR and Eastern Neck NWR feature staffed visitor facilities with interpretive displays and trails for hiking, paddling, photography, and wildlife observation.
- Seasonal hunting opportunities for deer, turkey, and waterfowl are offered at Blackwater NWR and for deer and turkey at Eastern Neck NWR.
- Information and an interpretive display about Martin NWR can be found at the Smith Island Cultural Center in Ewell, MD.



Great egrets

Mary Konchar

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November 2010

