

**United States Department of the Interior
FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE
Chesapeake Marshlands NWR Complex
BLACKWATER NATIONAL WILDLIFE REFUGE
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NEWS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

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INFORMATION: Maggie Briggs

410-228-2677

Blackwater National Wildlife Refuge Holds 2009 Refuge Deer Hunts

Refuge Manager Suzanne Baird announces that Blackwater National Wildlife Refuge is accepting applications for the 2009 Refuge Deer Hunts. These hunts will be by permit only and are issued on a first-come, first-serve basis. Applications accompanied by an administration fee will be accepted by **mail only**. Applications must be received no later than October 3 for Muzzleloader Hunts, October 24 for the Youth Hunt, November 14 for the Shotgun Hunts, and December 5 for the December Muzzleloader Hunt. All deer killed during the Refuge hunts will count toward the State's regional combined bag limits, except the youth shotgun hunt. A valid Maryland State hunting license, including any necessary bonus stamps, is required for all hunters.

Hunt dates are as follows:

Archery: September 26 to October 21, November 2, November 21, 2009, and January 16 to January 31, 2010

Quota Muzzleloader: October 23 and October 24, 2009

Non-Quota Muzzleloader: October 29-October 31, 2009 (3 day white-tailed deer only), and December 19, 2009 (sika and white-tailed deer)

Youth Shotgun: November 7, 2009

Quota Shotgun: November 30 and December 4, 2009

Non-Quota Shotgun: December 10-December 12, 2009

Participants in the Youth Hunts must be at least 10, but less than 16 years old, and accompanied by a licensed or exempt from license, unarmed adult, 21 years old or older. In addition to obtaining permits by mail, youth hunters will be issued permits on a walk-in basis at the check in station the day of the Youth Hunt. Deer killed during the youth hunt will **not** count toward the state bag limits.

Two hunting areas have been set aside for disabled hunters. To qualify as a disabled hunter, an individual must provide a completed Blackwater National Wildlife Physician Certification of Disability or a copy of an approved Maryland Department of Natural Resources – Wildlife & Heritage Service Application for Permit to Hunt from a Vehicle, along with the Deer Hunt Application.

An application package may be obtained by mail or acquired at Blackwater National Wildlife Refuge Visitors Center located at 2145 Key Wallace Drive, Cambridge, Maryland, 21613. Permits are non-transferable and there will be no stand-by applications. After September 19, permits for archery may be bought over the counter at the Blackwater National Wildlife Refuge Visitor Center as well as by mail.

For more information, or if you have any questions, contact Allen Johnston, the hunt coordinator, at **410-228-5018**.

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.

*Note: Please print as soon as possible to allow hunters to apply quickly for the first come, first serve by mail applications.