

Blackwater National Wildlife Refuge is part of the Chesapeake Marshlands NWR Complex. It is one of 554 national wildlife refuges in the United States whose primary objective is to provide habitat for the conservation and protection of wildlife. Turkey hunting on Blackwater NWR has been determined to be a compatible priority wildlife dependent public use.

Hunting on a national wildlife refuge is a privilege and your behavior while participating on a Blackwater National Wildlife Refuge hunt may affect future hunting on refuges. The refuge provides habitat for an endangered species, Delmarva fox squirrels. Federal and State laws prohibit any activity that might harm endangered or threatened plants and animals. We believe that these hunts can be conducted without harming Delmarva fox squirrels and have taken certain precautions to insure their safety.

Your hunt permit authorizes you to take specified game only. Harming or needlessly disturbing any other wildlife, including any birds, mammals, amphibians, or reptiles (including venomous snakes), is a violation of refuge regulations. The regulations listed below supplement the general regulations which govern hunting on wildlife refuges set forth in Title 50, Code of Federal Regulations. Hunting will be in accordance with applicable State regulations and the following special refuge regulations.

REGULATIONS

LEGAL TO TAKE

- 1. Species:** Wild turkey (bearded only)
- 2. Season bag limits:** 1 bearded turkey
- 3. Hunting Season:** Tuesdays and Saturdays: April 21, 24, 28, May 1, 5, 8, 12, 15, and 19, 22.
- Youth Hunt:** Saturday, April 14.
- 4. 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.

PERMIT LICENSE REQUIREMENTS

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

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

APPLICATION GUIDELINES

1. 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 10 at the **temporary** Refuge Visitor Center located at the start of the Wildlife Drive, from 9:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. daily. All applications and a \$10 administrative fee must be received **only by mail** no later than March 10. Check or money order can be made payable to the **Friends of Blackwater**. Permits will be drawn by lottery. A hunter will be selected for one day only. The signed permit **or** the non-selection card will be mailed to all applicants.

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 partner. **However, the partner may not assist with the hunt in any manner unless they possess a valid MD hunting license.** All turkeys harvested will count toward the State's regional limit and must be checked in following Maryland State guidelines using the code 543. Weapons will be those allowed by State regulations.

2. Youth Turkey Hunt

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

3. Hunt Areas

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* (certified permanently disabled only), 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.

GENERAL REGULATIONS

1. Check-In/Check-Out Procedures

Only permitted hunters, and their partners, will be allowed to enter their permitted refuge hunt areas. When scouting or hunting, check-in and check-out is not required. Participants should proceed directly to their permitted hunting area to scout.

2. Disabled Hunters

Hunters wishing to qualify for the hunt in Area B1 must provide a copy of an approved *Maryland Department of Natural Resources - Wildlife & Heritage Service Application for Permit to Hunt from a Vehicle*, along with a completed Turkey Hunt application.

3. Access

Motorized vehicles are authorized to access hunt areas from designated roads and parking areas. All other access is limited to walk-in or bicycles. Access by boat and ATV's is prohibited.

4. Scouting

Four weekend scout days have been added for 2012. Scouting will be permitted within your hunt zone on the day before your hunt, and on March 31st, April 1st, 7th and 8th from 5:00 a.m. until sunset. Hunt permits must be carried while scouting. All youth hunters must be accompanied by a licensed or exempt from licensed, unarmed adult, age 21 or older.

5. Other Regulations

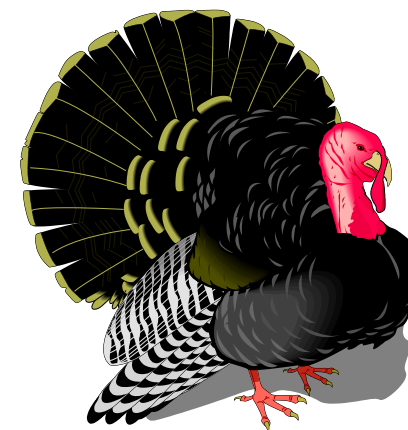
- *Filming for commercial use is prohibited without a special use permit.
- *Pets are prohibited.
- *No open fires.
- *Use of alcohol beverages while hunting is prohibited.
- *Park in designated areas only.
- *Shooting across or down any graveled, dirt, or paved road is prohibited.
- *Area access and hunter participation can be revoked at discretion of the refuge manager.
- *Commercial guiding is prohibited.
- *All other refuge regulations apply.
- *Accidents and injuries must be reported to the refuge headquarters within 24 hours at 410-228-2692.

6. Suggested Safety Tips

Turkey hunters are strongly encouraged, but not required, to use fluorescent orange while turkey hunting. Once at your calling location, tie a fluorescent orange ribbon (or your orange cap) on a nearby tree to make your presence known to other hunters.

For more information, call Hunt Coordinator Allen Johnston at 410-228-5018.

Turkey Hunting Regulations 2012



**Blackwater National
Wildlife Refuge
Cambridge, Maryland**