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The following refuge units have been opened for hunting and/or fishing, and are listed in alphabetical order with applicable refuge-specific regulations.

BLACKWATER NATIONAL WILDLIFE REFUGE

A. Migratory Game Bird Hunting. We allow hunting of goose and duck on designated areas of the refuge in accordance with State regulations subject to the following conditions:
  1. We require you to submit a Waterfowl Lottery Application (FWS Form 3-2356) to be selected to hunt waterfowl. If you are selected, we require you to then obtain a permit (name/address/signature required). Hunting brochures containing hunting application procedures, seasons, bag limits, methods of hunting, maps depicting areas open to hunting, and the terms and conditions under which we issue hunting permits are available at the refuge administration office and on the refuge’s Web site.
  2. We require you to abide by the terms and conditions of the refuge permit and brochure. Hunters may have their permits revoked if they are found to be in violation of §32.3 or other Federal and State laws.
  3. We allow only hunters possessing a permit issued by the refuge to hunt during designated days.
  4. Except in accordance with condition A5, we require hunters to possess a valid Maryland hunting license and all required stamps, a valid government-issued photo identification, and a valid hunting permit issued by the refuge at all times while on refuge property.
  5. We require hunters accompanying a permit holder as part of a hunt party to possess a valid Maryland hunting license and all required stamps, and a valid government-issued photo identification at all times while on refuge property.
  6. You must remove all hunting blind materials and decoys (see §27.93 of this chapter) at the end of each hunting day.
  7. We allow hunters to access hunting areas only by boat, unless otherwise authorized by the refuge manager.
  8. We prohibit the use of all-terrain vehicles (ATVs) or amphibious vehicles of any type.
  9. We prohibit the use of air boats on the refuge.
  10. We encourage hunters to use trained dogs to retrieve game on designated waterfowl hunt days at designated blind areas. We require that hunters confine dogs not engaged in retrieving waterfowl to a vehicle, boat, kennel, blind area, or other container.
  11. We require all hunters to remain within 50 yards (55 m) of the designated hunt site while hunting.

B. Upland Game Hunting. [Reserved]

C. Big Game Hunting. We allow the hunting of white-tailed and sika deer and turkey on designated areas of the refuge in accordance with State regulations subject to the following conditions:
  1. We require you to submit a Big/Upland Game Hunt Application (FWS Form 3-2354) to be selected to hunt on the refuge. If you are selected, we require you to then obtain a permit (name/address/signature required). Hunting brochures containing hunting application procedures, seasons, bag limits, methods of hunting, maps depicting areas open to hunting, and the terms and conditions under which we issue hunting permits are available at the refuge administration office and on the refuge’s Web site.
  2. We allow only hunters possessing a permit issued by the refuge to hunt/scout during designated days.
  3. We require hunters to possess a valid Maryland hunting license and all required stamps, a valid government-issued photo identification, and a valid hunting permit...
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issued by the refuge at all times while on refuge property.

4. We require hunters to notify a refuge representative if they need to enter a closed area to retrieve game.

5. We prohibit the use of rimfire or centerfire rifles and handguns for hunting.

- We prohibit the use of boats, ATVs, motorized off-road vehicles, and amphibious vehicles to access the refuge unless authorized by the refuge manager for use by disabled hunters.

7. We require hunters participating during muzzleloader and shotgun hunts to wear a minimum of 400 square inches (2,600 cm²) of solid-colored-daylight-fluorescent-orange clothing on their head, chest, and back. We require hunters to wear an orange hat at all times.

8. We require the use of a temporary tree stand that elevates you a minimum of 8 feet (240 cm) above the ground for hunting in designated areas.

9. We prohibit screw-in steps, spikes, or other objects that may damage trees (see §32.2(i)).

10. We prohibit hunting from a permanently constructed tree stand or blind.

11. We require you to remove all stands and blinds within 24 hours of legal sunset of the final hunting day of the season. We are not responsible for damage, theft, or use of the stand by other hunters (see §27.93 of this chapter).

12. We prohibit organized deer drives, unless otherwise authorized by the refuge manager.

13. Hunters may use marking devices, including flagging or tape, but they must remove them within 24 hours of legal sunset of the final hunting day of the season (see §27.93 of this chapter).

14. We require all disabled hunters to provide certification of their disability.

15. Disabled persons may have an assistant during the hunt on designated areas of the refuge. Persons assisting disabled hunters must be at least age 18 and obey all refuge, State, and Federal laws and regulations. Persons assisting disabled hunters must not be afield with a hunting firearm, bow, or other hunting device.

16. Hunters may use bicycles to access hunt areas on designated hunt/scout days. We prohibit hunters taking bicycles off of designated roads and trails while on refuge lands.

17. We require that you abide by the terms and conditions of the refuge permit and brochure. Hunters may have their permits revoked if we find them to be in violation of §32.2 or other Federal and State laws.

D. Sport Fishing. We allow fishing and crabbing on designated areas of the refuge in accordance with State regulations subject to the following conditions:

1. We allow fishing and crabbing only from April 1 through September 30 during daylight hours in refuge waters, unless otherwise authorized by the refuge manager.

2. We allow fishing and crabbing from boats and from the Key Wallace roadway (bridge) across the Little Blackwater River, unless otherwise authorized by the refuge manager.

3. We require you to possess a valid Maryland sport fishing license, all required stamps, and a valid, government-issued photo identification while fishing on the refuge. We do not require a refuge permit to fish on the refuge.

4. We require anglers to attend all fish and crab lines.

5. We prohibit boat launching from refuge lands except for canoes/kayaks at the canoe/kayak ramp located near the Blackwater River Bridge on Route 335.

6. We prohibit the use of airboats on refuge waters.

EASTERN NICK NATIONAL WILDLIFE REFUGE

A. Migratory Game Bird Hunting. [Reserved]

B. Upland Game Hunting. [Reserved]

C. Big Game Hunting. We allow hunting of white-tailed deer and turkey on designated areas of the refuge in accordance with State hunting regulations subject to the following conditions:

1. We require hunters to submit a Big Game Hunt Application (FWS Form 3–2356) to be selected to hunt on the refuge. We require you to obtain a permit (name/address/signature required), Hunting brochures containing hunting application procedures, seasons, bag limits, methods of hunting, maps depicting areas open to hunting, and the terms and conditions under which we issue hunting permits are available at the refuge administration office and on the refuge’s Web site.

2. We allow only hunters possessing a permit issued by the refuge to hunt/scout during designated days.

3. We require hunters to possess a valid Maryland hunting license and all required stamps, a valid government-issued photo identification, and a valid hunting permit issued by the refuge at all times while on refuge property.

4. We require hunters to notify a refuge representative if they need to enter a closed area to retrieve game.

5. We prohibit the use of rimfire or centerfire rifles and handguns for hunting.

6. We prohibit the use of boats, ATVs, motorized off-road vehicles, and amphibious vehicles to access the refuge, unless authorized by the refuge manager for use by disabled hunters.

7. We require a minimum of 400 square inches (2,600 cm²) of solid-colored-daylight-fluorescent-orange clothing to be worn on
the head, chest, and back of all hunters participating during muzzleloader and shotgun hunts. We require you to wear an orange hat at all times.

8. We prohibit screw-in steps, spikes, or other objects that may damage trees (see §32.2(i)).
9. We prohibit hunting from a permanently constructed tree stand or blind.
10. We require you to remove all stands and blinds within 24 hours of legal sunset of the final hunting day of the season. We are not responsible for damage, theft, or use of the stand by other hunters (see §27.93 of this chapter).

11. We allow use of marking devices, including flagging or tape, but hunters must remove them within 24 hours of legal sunset of the final hunting day of the season (see §27.93 of this chapter). We prohibit paint or any other permanent marker to mark trails.
12. We require all disabled hunters to provide certification of their disability.
13. Disabled persons may have an assistant during the hunt on designated areas of the refuge. Persons assisting disabled hunters must be at least age 18 and obey all refuge, State, and Federal laws and regulations. Persons assisting disabled hunters must not be ashfield with a hunting firearm, bow, or other hunting device.
14. We require that you abide by the terms and conditions of the refuge permit and brochure. Hunters may have their permits revoked if we find them to be in violation of §32.2 or other Federal and State laws.
15. We allow parking only in designated parking areas.
16. We prohibit hunting in the No Hunting Zones.

D. Sport Fishing. We allow fishing and crabbing in designated areas of the refuge in accordance with State regulations subject to the following conditions:

1. We allow fishing and crabbing from eastern Neck Island bridge and from the boardwalk adjacent to that bridge.
2. We allow fishing and crabbing at the Ingleside Recreation Area only from April 1 through September 30 during daylight hours.
3. We allow fishing from the Boxes Point and Duck Inn Trails only during daylight hours.
4. We require you to possess a valid Maryland sport fishing license and all required stamps and a valid government-issued photo identification while fishing on the refuge. We do not require a refuge permit to fish on the refuge.

Patuxent Research Refuge

A. Migratory Game Bird Hunting. We allow hunting of goose, duck, and dove on the North Tract in accordance with State regulations subject to the following conditions:

1. We require a Refuge Hunt Application (PRR Hunt Form #1). We issue permits through our Cooperating Association, Meade Natural Heritage Association (MNHA), at the refuge Hunting Control Station (HCS). MNHA charges a fee for each permit. Contact refuge headquarters for more information.
2. We publish the Refuge Hunting Regulations, which includes the daily and yearly bag limits and hunting dates, in late summer. We provide you with a copy of the regulations with your fee permit, and we require you to know the specific hunt seasons and regulations.
3. We require hunters, age 17 or younger, to have a parent or guardian cosign to receive a hunting permit.
4. We require hunters, age 17 or younger, to be accompanied in the field by an adult possessing a refuge hunting permit, age 21 or older.
5. You must check-in and out at the HCS and exchange your hunting permit for a daily hunting pass and a vehicle pass every time you enter or exit the refuge. This includes breakfast, lunch, dinner, and other breaks if you leave your designated hunting area.
6. You must use designated and maintained roads for vehicular traffic.
7. You must park within the selected area, specified and not block traffic or gates (see §27.31(h) of this chapter).
8. We restrict you to the selected area and activity until you check out at the HCS.
9. We prohibit hunting on or across any road (paved, gravel, dirt, opened and/or closed) within 50 yards (45 m) of a road (paved, gravel, dirt, opened and/or closed), within 150 yards (135 m) of any building or shed, and within 25 yards (22.5 m) from any designated “No Hunting” and “Safety Zone” areas, except:
   i. You must be more than 50 yards (135 m) beyond the gate at Blue Heron Pond before hunting.
   ii. You must be more than 50 yards (135 m) from the road beyond the barricade at Wood Duck Pond before hunting.
   iii. You may hunt waterfowl (goose/duck) from any refuge permanent photo/hunt blind.
   iv. You may hunt from the roadside, except on the Wildlife Loop, at designated areas, if you possess a Maryland Department of Natural Resources issued “Universal Disability Pass.”
   v. You may hunt from the roadside for waterfowl at the five designated hunting blind sites at Lake Allen.
10. You must wear fluorescent orange in accordance with State regulations subject to the additional following conditions:
   i. You must wear a solid-colored-fluorescent hunter orange that must be visible 360° while carrying-in and carrying-out equipment (e.g., portable blinds).
   ii. “Jump shooters” must wear at least a solid-colored, fluorescent-hunter-orange cap.

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while hunting. If you stop and stand, you may remove it.

11. We allow the taking of only Canada geese during the Canada goose early resident season and late Canada goose migratory Atlantic population seasons.

12. We prohibit hunting of goose, duck, and dove during the youth deer firearms hunts, deer firearms seasons, and the early deer muzzleloader season. The only exceptions are that Blue Heron Pond, Lake Allen, and Area Z will remain open for duck hunters and the Junior Waterfowl hunt day during the early muzzleloader season.

13. We require waterfowl hunters to use trained adult retrieving dogs while hunting duck and goose within 50 yards (45 meters) of the following impounded waters: Blue Heron Pond, Lake Allen, New Marsh, and Wood Duck Pond.

1. We require dogs to be under the immediate control of their owner at all times (see §26.21(b) of this chapter).

B. Upland Game Hunting. We allow hunting of turkey, gray squirrel, eastern cottontail rabbit, and woodchuck on the North Tract and turkey on the Central Tract in accordance with State regulations subject to the following conditions:

1. Conditions A1 through A10i apply.

2. We allow hunting of upland game during the deer muzzleloader and firearms seasons, including the Youth Firearms Deer Hunts.

3. We prohibit hunting of upland game during the deer muzzleloader hunting season and the firearms seasons, except for the use of .22-caliber rimfire rifles during the month of January only to hunt squirrel.

4. We prohibit the use of dogs to hunt upland game.

5. Spring turkey hunters are exempt from wearing the hunter orange.

6. We allow the use of a bow and arrow for turkey hunting.

7. We require turkey hunters to use #4, #5, or #6 nontoxic shot or vertical bows.

8. We select turkey hunters by a computerized lottery for youth, disabled, and general public hunts. We require Maryland Department of Natural Resources required documentation to accommodate hunters with disabilities.

9. We require turkey hunters to show proof they have attended a turkey clinic sponsored by the National Wild Turkey Federation.

10. We require turkey hunters to pattern their weapons prior to hunting. Contact refuge headquarters for more information.

C. Big Game Hunting. We allow hunting of white-tailed deer on the North, Central, and South Tracts in accordance with State regulations subject to the following conditions:

1. Conditions A1 through A10i apply.

2. Prior to issuing hunting permit, we require you to pass a yearly proficiency test with each weapon used. See A1 for issuing information.

3. We allow the use of a shotgun, muzzleloader, or bow and arrow according to Refuge Hunting Regulations.

4. We require hunters to secure longbows, recurve bows, compound bows, and crossbows, with weapons inaccessible, and/or cases, with no arrows nocked, while inside the vehicle.

5. We prohibit possession or use of buckshot for hunting.

6. We allow hunters to wear either a cap of solid-fluorescent-orange color at all times or a vest or jacket containing back and front panels of at least 250 square inches (1,625 square centimeters) of solid-fluorescent-orange color when moving to and from their vehicle to their deer stand or their hunting spot and while tracking or dragging out their deer. We do not require bow hunters to wear solid-fluorescent-orange when positioned to hunt except during the North Tract Youth Firearms Deer Hunts, the muzzleloader seasons, and the firearms seasons, when they must wear it at all times.

7. All bucks harvested must have a 15-inch (37.5-cm) minimum outside antler spread.

8. All deer harvested will have a jaw extracted at the hunter check station before leaving the refuge.

9. You must use portable tree stands that are at least 10 feet (3 m) off the ground and equipped with a full-body safety harness while hunting at Schafer Farm, Central Tract, and South Tract. You must wear the full-body safety harness while in the tree stand. We will make limited accommodations for disabled hunters for Central Tract lottery hunts.

10. We allow the use of ground blinds on North Tract only.

11. We prohibit the use of dogs to hunt or track wounded deer.

12. If you wish to track a wounded deer beyond 2 hours after legal sunset, you must gain consent from a refuge law enforcement officer. We prohibit tracking 3 hours after legal sunset. You must make a reasonable effort to retrieve the wounded deer, which includes next-day tracking. There is no tracking on Sundays and Federal holidays except on a case-by-case basis. Hunters authorized to track on Sundays or Federal holidays must be accompanied afield by a refuge law enforcement officer.

13. We prohibit deer drives or anyone taking part in any deer drive. We define a “deer drive” as an organized or planned effort to pursue, drive chase, or otherwise brighten or
cause deer to move in the direction of any person or persons who are part of the organized or planned hunt and known to be waiting for the deer. We also prohibit organized deer drives without a standing hunter.

14. North Tract: We allow shotgun, muzzleloader, and bow hunting in accordance with the following: Conditions C1 through C13 apply.

15. Central Tract: Headquarters/MR Lottery Hunt: We only allow shotgun and bow hunting in accordance with the following: Conditions C1 through C13 apply (except C11).

16. South Tract: We allow shotgun, muzzleloader, and bow hunting in accordance with the following:
   i. Conditions C1 through C13 apply.
   ii. You must access South Tract hunting areas A, B, and C off Springfield Road through the Old Beltsville Airport. You may not access Cash Lake through the Old Beltsville Airport; and South Tract hunting area D from MD Rt. 197 through Gate #4. You must park in designated parking areas.
   iii. We prohibit driving or parking along the entrance and exit roads to and from the National Wildlife Visitor Center, and parking in the visitor center parking lot when checked in to hunt any area.

D. Sport Fishing. We allow sport fishing in accordance with State hook and line fishing regulations subject to the following conditions:

1. We require all anglers, age 16 and older, to present their current Maryland State non-tidal fishing license and complete the Fishing/Shrimping/Crabbing Application (FWS Form 3–2358). Anglers age 18 and older will receive a free Patuxent Research Refuge Fishing Vehicle Parking Pass. Organized groups must complete the Fishing/Shrimping/Crabbing Application (FWS Form 3–2358), and the group leader must stay with the group at all times while fishing.

2. We publish the Refuge Fishing Regulations, which includes the daily and yearly creel limits and fishing dates, in early January. We provide a copy of the regulations with your free Fishing Vehicle Parking Pass, and we require you to know the specific fishing regulations.

3. Anglers must carry a copy of their Maryland State fishing license in the field.

4. Anglers must display a copy of the Fishing Vehicle Parking Pass in the vehicle windshield while fishing at Cash Lake.

5. We require anglers, ages 16 and 17, to have a parent or guardian cosign the Fishing/Shrimping/Crabbing Application (FWS Form 3–2358). We will not issue a Fishing Vehicle Parking Pass to anglers ages 16 and 17.

6. An adult age 21 or older possessing a Fishing Vehicle Parking Pass must accompany anglers age 17 or younger in the field; they must maintain visual contact with each other within a 50-yard (45 m) distance; and they may take 3 youths, age 15 or younger, to fish under their Fishing Vehicle Parking Pass.

7. We prohibit the use and/or possession of lead sinkers.

8. We prohibit the use or possession of alcoholic beverages (see §27.81 of this chapter).

9. We allow the use of earthworms as the only source of live bait. We prohibit bloodworms, fish, or other animals or parts of animals to be used as bait.

10. We prohibit harvesting bait on the refuge.

11. Anglers must attend all fishing lines.

12. Anglers may take the following species: Chain pickerel, catfish, golden shiner, eel, and sunfish (includes bluegill, black crappie, warmouth, and pumpkinseed). Maryland State daily harvest limits apply unless otherwise noted.

   i. All bluegill taken must be 6 inches (15 cm) or larger.
   ii. We allow take of one chain pickerel per day.
   iii. Anglers must release all bass that they catch.

13. We prohibit fishing from all bridges except the downstream side of Bailey Bridge.

14. North Tract: We allow sport fishing in accordance with the following regulations:
   i. Conditions D1 through D13 apply.
   ii. We allow sport fishing year-round at Lake Allen, Rieve’s Pond, New Marsh, Cat-tail Pond, and Little Patuxent River (downstream only from Bailey’s Bridge) except Mondays through Saturdays from September 1 through January 31 during the hunting season. We also reserve the right to close Lake Allen at any time.
   iii. Anglers age 18 and older must complete an Emergency Contact Information/warning/waiver form (PRR Fishing Form #1) prior to receiving a free North Tract Vehicle Access Pass. Anglers must display the North Tract Vehicle Access Pass in the vehicle windshield at all times and return the Pass to the North Tract Visitor Contact Station at the end of each visit.
   iv. We prohibit the use of any type of watercraft.

15. South Tract: We allow sport fishing in accordance with the following regulations:
   i. Conditions D1 through D12 apply.
   ii. Anglers must park their vehicles in the parking lot located behind Refuge Gate #8 off MD Rt. 197. Anglers may not access Cash Lake from the National Wildlife Visitor Center.
   iii. We allow sport fishing at the pier and designated shorelines at Cash Lake. See Refuge Fishing Regulations for areas opened to fishing. We post other areas with “No fishing beyond this point” signs.
   iv. Anglers may fish from mid-June until mid-October, as posted.
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The following refuge units have been opened for hunting and/or fishing, and are listed in alphabetical order with applicable refuge-specific regulations.

ASSABET RIVER NATIONAL WILDLIFE REFUGE

A. Migratory Game Bird Hunting. We allow hunting of woodcock on designated portions of the refuge in accordance with State regulations subject to the following conditions:

1. We allow woodcock hunting within the portions of the refuge located north of Hudson Road, except those areas north of Hudson Road that are designated as "archery only" hunting on the current refuge hunting map. These archery only hunting areas north of Hudson Road are those portions of the refuge that are external to Patrol Road from its southerly intersection with White Pond Road, northwesterly and then easterly, to its intersection with Old Marlborough Road.

2. We require a Migratory Bird Hunt Application (FWS Form 3-2357). We limit the number of migratory game bird hunters allowed to hunt on the refuge. If the number of applications received is greater than the number of permits available, we will issue permits by random selection.

3. You must possess and carry all applicable hunting licenses, permits, stamps, and a photographic identification while hunting on the refuge.

4. We prohibit use of motorized vehicles on the refuge. The refuge will provide designated parking areas for hunters. Hunters must display issued hunter parking permits (generated from the Migratory Bird Hunt Application, FWS Form 3-2357) on their dashboards when parked in designated refuge parking areas.

5. During any season when it is legal to hunt deer with a shotgun or muzzleloader, we require all hunters to wear a minimum of 500 square inches (3,250 cm²) of solid-orange clothing or material in a conspicuous manner on their chest, back, and head. During all other times, if you are engaged in woodcock hunting on the refuge, you must wear a minimum of a solid-orange hat.

6. We prohibit the use of electronic calls during any hunting season.

7. We prohibit trimming or cutting of branches larger than the diameter of a quarter (see §27.61 of this chapter).

8. We prohibit marking any tree or other refuge feature with flagging, paint, or any other substance. Hunters may use reflective tacks, which we require hunters to remove by the end of their permitted season.

9. You may begin scouting hunting areas on Sundays only beginning 1 month prior to the opening day of your permitted season. We require possession of refuge permits (Migratory Bird Hunt Application, FWS Form 3-2357) while scouting.

10. We allow hunters to enter the refuge 1½ hours before legal hunting hours, and they must leave the refuge no later than 1½ hours after legal sunset.

11. For seasons wherein State regulations allow use of dogs, we allow no more than two dogs per hunting party. We prohibit the training of dogs on the refuge.

12. One nonhunting companion may accompany each permitted hunter. We prohibit nonhunting companions from hunting, but they may assist in other means. All companions must carry identification and stay close enough to the hunter to speak to them without raising their voice.

13. We prohibit construction or use of any permanent structure while hunting on the refuge. Hunters must remove all temporary blinds each day (see §§27.93 and 27.94 of this chapter).

B. Upland Game Hunting. We allow hunting of upland game on designated areas of the refuge in accordance with State regulations subject to the following conditions:

1. We allow shotgun hunting for ruffed grouse, cottontail rabbit, and gray squirrel within those portions of the refuge located north of Hudson Road, except those areas north of Hudson Road designated as "archery only" hunting on the current refuge hunting map. These archery only hunting areas north of Hudson Road are those portions of the refuge that are external to Patrol Road from its southern intersection with White Pond Road,