

United States Department of the Interior
FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE
BLACKWATER NATIONAL WILDLIFE REFUGE
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NEWS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

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BLACKWATER NWR TO CLOSE WILDLIFE DRIVE FOR DEER HUNTS

Blackwater National Wildlife Refuge will close the first section of the Wildlife Drive on Monday, November 26, and Friday, November 30, for the annual deer shotgun hunts. The **second section of the Wildlife Drive will be open and free of charge.** Visitors may enter from what is normally the first exit of the Wildlife Drive, one-quarter mile west of the Visitor Center, on Key Wallace Drive. The tire shredders normally operating at the first exit will be locked down to provide access to the Wildlife Drive. In addition, the Key Wallace hiking trail, located at the corner of Key Wallace Drive and Egypt Road, will be closed during the shotgun hunts.

With the exception of November 26 and November 30, when the deer hunts are in progress, entrance fees will be in effect for full access to the Wildlife Drive and associated facilities. The daily fee is \$3.00 per vehicle, \$1.00 for pedestrians or bicyclists. Three annual passes, the current 2007-2008 Federal Duck Stamp (\$15) and the Interagency Annual Pass (\$80), and Blackwater NWR Pass (\$12), are available at the Visitor Center. Lifetime passes are also available at the Visitor Center. Interagency Senior Passes for senior citizens 62 years or older are \$10, and Interagency Access Passes are free to blind and permanently disabled citizens.

Normal operating hours of the Blackwater Visitor Center are Monday - Friday 8am - 4pm, and Saturday - Sunday 9am - 5pm. The Visitor Center will be closed on Christmas Day. Call 410-228-2677 for more information.