

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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Blackwater National Wildlife Refuge Closes Section of Wildlife Drive

Blackwater National Wildlife Refuge will close the first section of the Wildlife Drive and associated facilities on Monday, June 30, 2008 for replacement of the bulkhead separating pool one freshwater impoundment and dike from the Little Blackwater River. The **second section of the Wildlife Drive will be open and free of charge**. Visitors may enter from what is normally the first exit, one-quarter mile west of the Visitor Center, on Key Wallace Drive and travel the second part of the Drive to exit onto Route 335. The tire shredders normally operating at the first exit will be locked down to provide access to the Wildlife Drive. The construction is expected to take approximately two months.

The Visitor Center, Key Wallace Trail, Tubman Road Trail, and canoe trails will remain open for visitor use. The Visitor Center is open daily 8:00 am to 4:00 pm weekdays and 9:00 am to 5:00 pm weekends. Part of the closed area can still be seen in the Visitor Center observatory.

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.