

Eastern Neck, Martin, and Susquehanna National Wildlife Refuges

Chesapeake Marshlands National Wildlife Refuge Complex Fact Sheet for Members of Congress

Represented by Members of Congress:

Senator Paul S. Sarbanes (D-MD)
Senator Barbara A. Mikulski (D-MD)
Rep. Wayne T. Gilchrest (R-MD-1st)
Senator John Warner (R-VA)
Senator George F. Allen (R-VA)
Rep. JoAnn S. Davis (R-VA-1st)

Contact

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Profile

First unit established: 1962
Current acres:
Eastern Neck NWR 2,286
Martin NWR 4,569
Susquehanna NWR 4
FY 2005 budget:
Salaries/ops. (5 FTEs) \$408,817
One-time project funds \$53,851
Fees \$628
2005 volunteer hours: 7,162
2005 visitation: 72,050

*Includes annual maintenance, utilities, contracts, etc.

**Includes deferred maintenance, construction, equipment and biological projects

Purpose

Eastern Neck, Martin, and Susquehanna national wildlife refuges were established to provide sanctuary and for other management purposes for migratory birds. They represent a unique ecosystem component of the Chesapeake Bay, providing relatively isolated and predator-free critical nesting and wintering habitat. A host of waterfowl, wading birds, shorebirds, terrapins and endangered species rely on these habitats.

Public Use Notes

Eastern Neck National Wildlife Refuge:

- Visitor contact station and bookstore
- Interpretive trails (fully accessible boardwalk with observation tower and bay view/butterfly trail)
- Hunting (deer and turkey)
- Fishing and crabbing
- Public boat ramp (county permit needed)

Martin National Wildlife Refuge:

- Seasonal visitor contact station in the town of Ewell

Management Activities

- Restoring wetlands and submerged aquatic vegetation beds using clean dredged material
- Working to recover populations of threatened and endangered species such as bald eagle, Delmarva fox squirrel and tiger beetle
- Protecting and managing habitat for migratory birds

Highlights

Refuge lands are home to the second largest heron rookery in Maryland and the largest rookery in Virginia.

Bald eagles and large concentrations of ospreys nest and feed throughout the refuge's islands.

These refuges protect 16 percent of the remaining submerged aquatic vegetation in Chesapeake Bay.

Martin National Wildlife Refuge supports the largest colony of brown pelicans in the Maryland portion of Chesapeake Bay.

Refuge islands are important breeding areas for American black duck, colonial nesting shore and wading birds, and diamondback terrapins, and support large numbers

- Preserving natural diversity and plant and animal abundance
- Providing nesting habitats and structures for a variety of wildlife species
- Controlling exotic invasive species
- Enforcing federal wildlife laws and refuge regulations

John and Karen Hollingsworth/USFWS



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of spring and fall migrating songbirds, raptors and monarch butterflies.

Eastern Neck National Wildlife Refuge is a major staging area for migrating tundra swans.

Issues

Coastal erosion and shoreline/wetland loss

Submerged aquatic vegetation decline

Black duck nest decline

Invasive species (mute swan, certain gull species, red fox, mile-a-minute weed and *Phragmites*)

