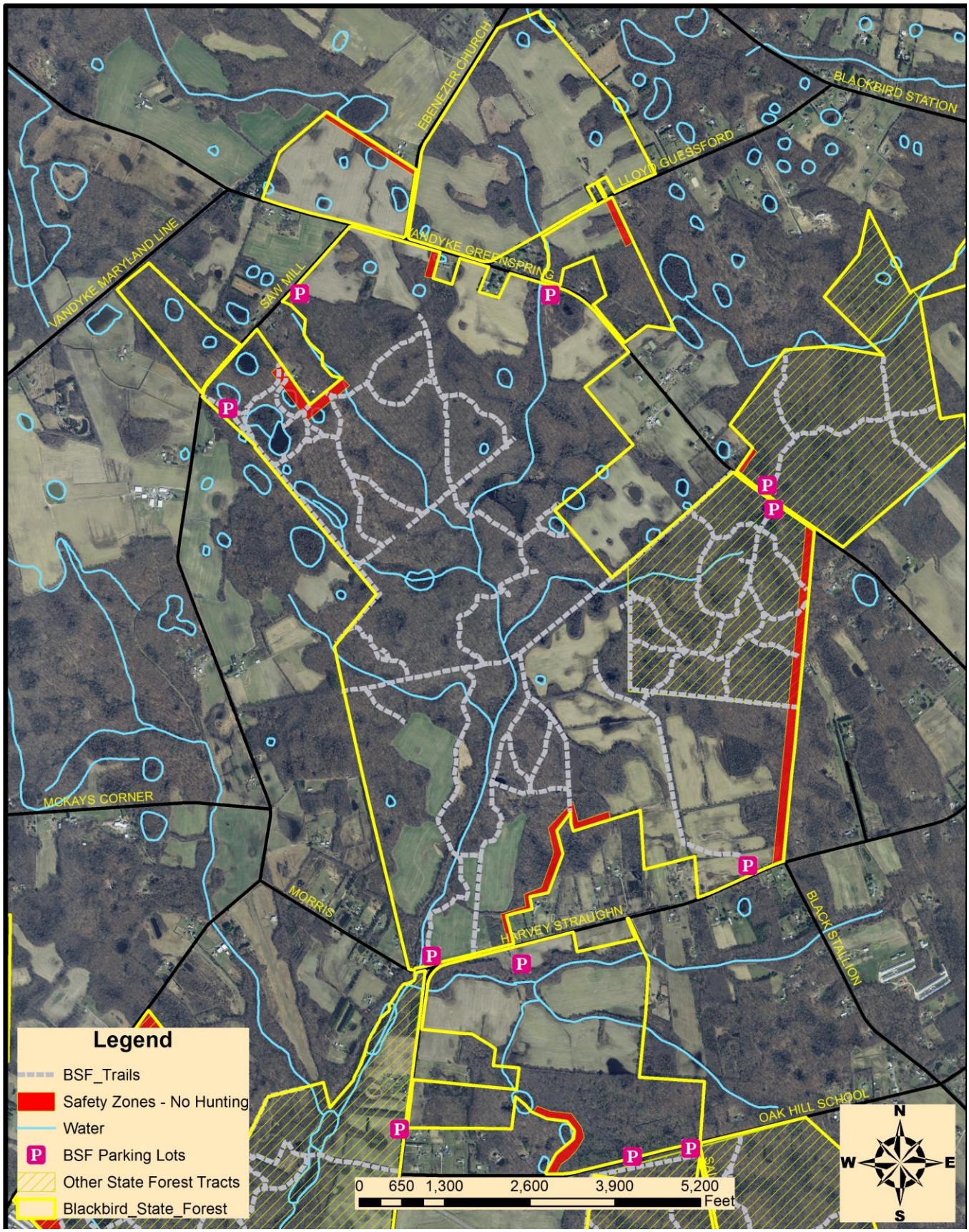
Blackbird State Forest
Cypress Complex - (1,914Acres)



Blackbird State Forest - Hunting Regulations

1. All Blackbird State Forest lands are open for public hunting for game in season by licensed hunters, unless otherwise posted.
2. The following hunting restrictions apply to the Tybout, White Road, Dulany Manor, and South Barlow Tracts of Blackbird State Forest:
   a. All deer hunting on these tracts are limited to the State Forest stands numbered 1 thru 51.
   b. The northern half of the Barlow tract and all of the Meadows Tract are archery only hunting areas, **no firearm hunting** is allowed.
   c. For firearm hunting seasons there will be a lottery drawing at Blackbird State Forest headquarters shop, located on the Tybout Tract at 502 Blackbird Forest Rd. (Rd. 471), 1.5 hours before legal hunting time (2 hours before sunrise as listed in the Delaware Hunting and Trapping Guide). Stands available after the lottery, or later during the day, will be available in the hunting information booth at the Tybout (headquarters) garage.
   d. For the October antlerless deer seasons, the State Forest stands will be closed for hunting. The State stands will still be available for archery hunting and the open areas of the State Forest are open for the antlerless season.
   e. For Muzzleloader seasons there will be a daily lottery held at Blackbird State Forest Headquarters, located on the Tybout Tract on Blackbird Forest Rd. (Rd. 471), 1.5 hours before legal hunting time (2 hours before sunrise as listed in the Delaware Hunting and Trapping Guide).
   f. All hunters on these tracts, during shotgun and muzzleloader season, must hunt from the stand only, as walk around hunting is not permitted.
   g. During Archery season bow hunters must be within 50 yards of their designated stand.
   h. Stands will be available during Archery season on a first come first serve basis. Bow hunters must place a tag (provided), in the hunters' information box, on the post of the stand they are going to be hunting from.
   i. No more than one hunter may hunt from a stand at any one time.
   j. No small game hunting and QDM protocols are in effect on the Dulany Manor tract.
3. These special restrictions apply to the Tybout Tract of Blackbird State Forest:
   a. Dog training is prohibited at all times.
4. The following regulations apply to all Blackbird State Forest tracts:
   a. Squirrel hunting with shotgun is permitted. Squirrel hunting with rifle or muzzle loading rifle is not allowed.
   b. Woods roads and trails are closed to motor vehicle traffic.
   c. Parking lots are available at all tracts.
   d. Target shooting is prohibited. Firearms are allowed for legal hunting and are otherwise prohibited within designated safe areas on State Forest lands.
      - Designated areas shall include State Forest Offices, education centers, and lodges, and shall be identified by appropriate signage.
      - Active duty and qualified retired law enforcement officers may possess firearms within areas administered by the Department, including designated areas, provided that proper and current credentials shall be produced to Departmental authorities upon request.
      - Delaware residents holding an active current permit to carry a concealed deadly weapon may carry a firearm within areas administered by the Department, including designated areas, provided that the permit shall be produced upon request of Departmental authorities.
      - Firearms may be carried within areas administered by the Department, outside of designated areas, by any person not prohibited by 11 *Del. C.* § 1448.
      - Law enforcement officers may limit the discharge of firearms and the use of other weapons within areas administered by the Department, in order to protect public safety and preserve the peace.
      - Any person possessing a firearm shall display identification upon request, sufficient to enable a law enforcement officer to undertake a background check.
   e. Waterfowl hunting is prohibited.
   f. Trapping is prohibited.
   g. No deer driving.
   h. No permanent deer stands, platforms, ladders, or blinds may be constructed. No screw-in steps, tree spikes, screws, or nails are allowed. All parts of temporary (portable) deer stands must be removed on the final day of the January muzzleloader season; any stands remaining after this date will be removed and become property of the Delaware Forest Service.
   i. Blackbird State Forest is a year-round multiple use area. Hunters **MUST** share with other public users, such as hikers, campers, horseback riders, firewood cutters, and loggers.

For more information, call the Blackbird State Forest office at **(302) 653-6505.**