

Cedar Island

National Wildlife Refuge

photo: USFWS



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photo: USFWS



photo: Mike Hopiak



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Refuge Facts

- Established: 1964.
- Acres: 14,480.
- Location: the refuge is approximately 40 miles northeast of Beaufort, NC by U.S. Highway 70 and NC Highway 12 along the confluence of the Pamlico and Core Sounds, located in Carteret County, NC.

Natural History

- Refuge's main feature is an extensive, relatively undisturbed coastal marsh.
- Concentrations of diving ducks (lesser scaups, redheads, canvasbacks, buffleheads), sea ducks, American black ducks, black rails, wading birds, and shorebirds. Shorebird and osprey nesting occurs on beaches, islands and points.
- Habitat consists of irregularly flooded brackish marsh (11,000 acres) and forested wetlands (3,480 acres).

Financial Impact of Refuge

- Staff: one employee (administered from Mattamuskeet National Wildlife Refuge).
- 20,000-30,000 visits annually.
- Current budget (FY 02): None (administered from Mattamuskeet).

Refuge Objectives

- Provide habitat and protection for endangered species such as American alligators and piping plover.
- Provide habitat and protection for migratory waterfowl and other birds.
- Provide wildlife-related recreation and environmental education for the public.

Management Tools

- Prescribed fire.
- Law enforcement.

Public Use Opportunities

- Fishing (saltwater).
- Wildlife observation.
- Photography.
- Waterfowl hunting.
- Two boat ramps.

Calendar of Events

January-December: saltwater fishing.

November-January: waterfowl hunting.

Questions and Answers

What is the common marsh grass that is readily seen as you travel down Highway 12 through the refuge?

Black needlerush. This vast expanse of black needlerush provides habitat for rails, crabs, and other important wetland species.

Can I hunt waterfowl on Cedar Island Refuge?

Waterfowl hunting is permitted on 400 acres of marsh designated as a Public Hunting Area. Federal and state regulations apply.