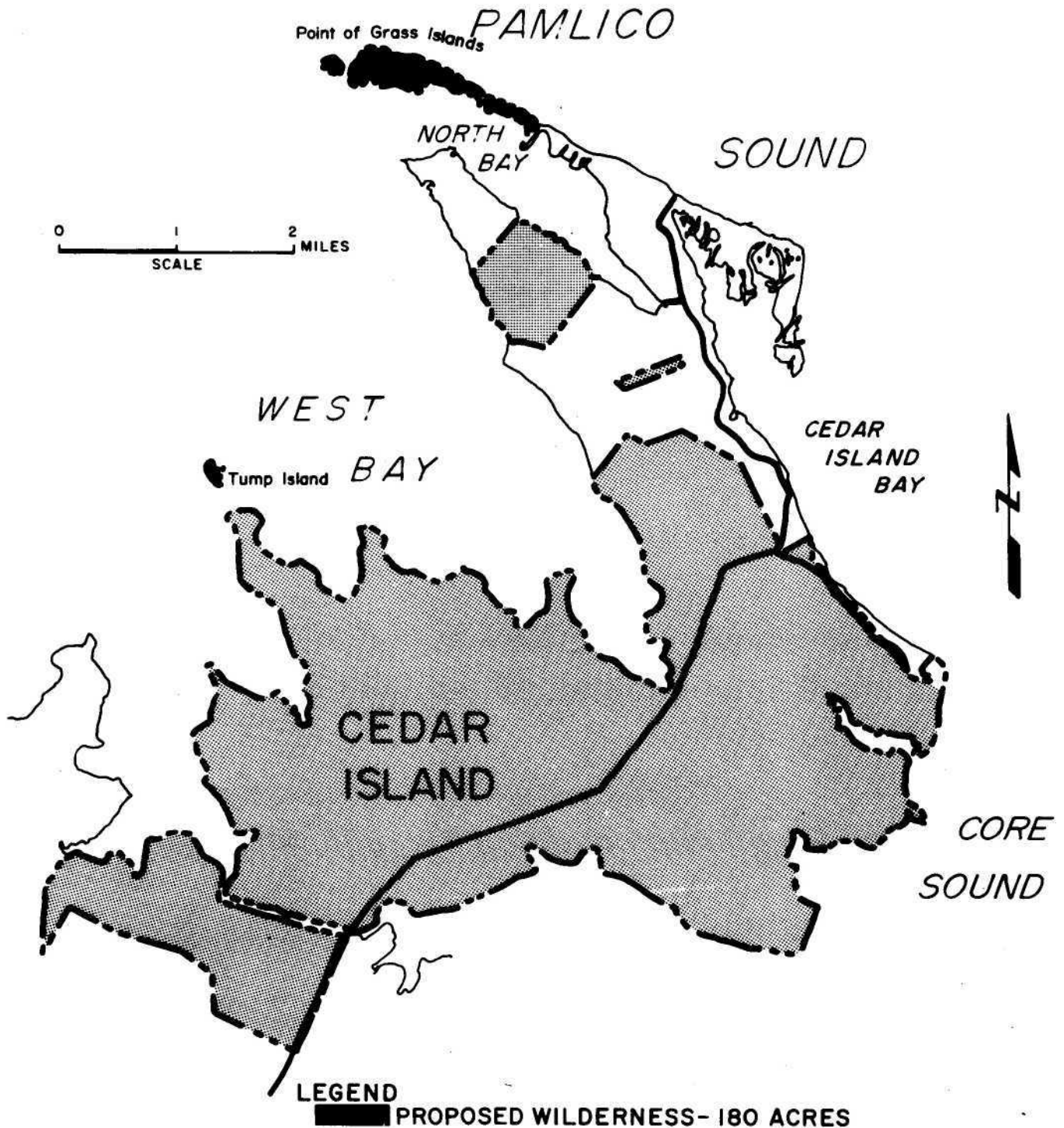


CEDAR ISLAND NATIONAL WILDLIFE REFUGE WILDERNESS STUDY AREA



DRAFT TESTIMONY - CEDAR ISLANDS NATIONAL WILDLIFE REFUGE

The Cedar Islands National Wildlife Refuge was established August 18, 1964, and is located on the south side of Pamlico Sound, in Carteret County, North Carolina. The refuge is dominated by salt marsh with some ridges supporting stands of mixed pine and hardwoods. At the present time the refuge supports only a very modest waterfowl population. Immediate and long term development plans should, however, enable the refuge to attain its potential as a waterfowl use area, and further development is planned at such times as funds become available.

Salt marsh presently accounts for approximately 10,000 acres or 80% of the refuge. In 1972, some 2,900 visits were recorded to the refuge. Most visitors came for general sightseeing purposes and fishing.

Cedar Island is largely undeveloped and consists of mainly needle rush marsh. Proposals for improving the marsh have included excavated ponds, brackish impoundments and draw down impoundments. With these developments the area will be able to meet its waterfowl objectives. At the present time burning plays an important role in reducing the amount of dead vegetation, controlling bursh species, and temporarily opening up the needlerush marsh. Several islands- Tump Island and Point of Grass Islands- are important to shorebirds and can best serve refuge objectives by being preserved in their natural condition. They constitute the proposed wilderness area on the Cedar Islands National Wildlife Refuge.

We support their inclusion in the National Wilderness Preservation System.