

Department of the Interior  
U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service  
Key Cave National Wildlife Refuge  
2700 Refuge Headquarters Road  
Decatur, AL 35603  
Phone: (256)-343-7243

## Information Bulletin



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE  
September 30, 2025

Contact: Drew Wirwa  
Phone: (256)-343-7243

### Key Cave National Wildlife Refuge Announces Final Environmental Assessment

Key Cave National Wildlife Refuge (NWR, refuge) is located southwest of Florence, Alabama in Lauderdale County. Key Cave NWR was established in 1997 to ensure that the biological integrity of Key Cave, Collier Cave, Collier Bone Cave, and their common aquifer remains intact. Key Cave is the only known location for the federally endangered Alabama cavefish and lies on the northern shore of Pickwick Lake in a limestone karst area that contains numerous sinkholes and several underground cave systems. The area's sinkholes are an integral component of groundwater recharge to the caves.

The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service announces the availability of the final Environmental Assessment (EA) and Finding of No Significant Impact (FONSI) for the Spatial Habitat and Species Management Plan (SHSP) Key Cave National Wildlife Refuge. The final EA and FONSI analyze the potential environmental and socioeconomic impacts associated with the SHSP within the Key Cave National Wildlife Refuge.

The Service provided the draft SHSP, EA, and Cooperative Farming CD for a 45-day review and comment period between June 30<sup>th</sup> and August 14<sup>th</sup> 2025. The notice of availability for the draft SHSP/EA/CD was made available online through the refuge website. The evaluation of the Proposed Action demonstrates that there would be no significant effects to the human environment. Therefore, no further environmental impact analysis is warranted, and a FONSI has been issued.

The documents are now available on the refuge's website: <https://www.fws.gov/refuge/key-cave>.

If you have any questions or would like additional information, please contact me at: [Drew\\_Wirwa@fws.gov](mailto:Drew_Wirwa@fws.gov) or 256-343-7243.

Across the country, national wildlife refuges work closely with state and Federal agencies, Native American Tribes, local governments, non-governmental organizations, private partners, and the public, to engage them in refuge management activities and proposals.

#####

*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](http://www.fws.gov).*