

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  
June 30, 2025

Contact: Drew Wirwa  
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### **Key Cave National Wildlife Refuge Seeks Comments on Draft Environmental Assessment and Spatial Habitat and Species Management Plan (SHSP)**

Key Cave National Wildlife Refuge (NWR, refuge) is located southwest of Florence, Alabama. Key Cave NWR was established in 1997 under the authority of the Fish and Wildlife Act of 1956, the Endangered Species Act of 1973, and the National Wildlife Refuge Administration Act of 1966, 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 (*Speoplatyrhinus poulsoni*) 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 is proposing management objectives and strategies for habitats on Key Cave NWR for priority resources of concern stepped down from the Wheeler NWR Complex Comprehensive Conservation Plan. The current proposal would further protect Key Cave, endemic cave species and recharge zone; convert 208 acres of cooperatively farmed land to native grassland habitat; and manage forested habitat on the refuge.

The documents are now available on the refuge's website (<https://www.fws.gov/refuge/key-cave>) for your review and comment.

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.

How to submit comments on the Draft SHSP and Environmental Assessment:

The public review and comment period is open for 30 calendar days from June 30, 2025, to July 30, 2025.

Comments submitted by U.S. mail should be sent to:

Public Comment, Key Cave National Wildlife Refuge, 2700 Refuge Headquarters Rd, Decatur, AL 35603

Comments submitted by email should be sent to: [Drew\\_Wirwa@fws.gov](mailto:Drew_Wirwa@fws.gov) with "Key Cave" in the subject line.

Concerns expressed during the public comment period will be addressed in the final SHSP.

*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).*