



## United States Department of the Interior

FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE  
1875 Century Boulevard  
Atlanta, Georgia 30345

December 30, 2020

John McPherson  
President  
Friends of the Lower Suwannee and Cedar Keys National Wildlife Refuges, Incorporated  
P.O. Box 532  
Cedar Key, FL 32625

SUBJECT: NOTICE OF DISSOLUTION

Dear Mr. McPherson,

Over the years, we have accomplished a significant amount of conservation related work together. We understand and respect your decision to not sign the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service's (Service) Friends Partnership Agreement (Agreement). We appreciate the Friends of the Lower Suwannee and Cedar Keys National Wildlife Refuges (Friends), your board of directors, officers, members, and the individuals that have supported the conservation efforts for Lower Suwannee National Wildlife Refuge and Cedar Keys National Wildlife Refuge.

The Friends Partnership Agreement presented to you for signature has been approved by the Department of the Interior's Solicitor's Office. The Agreement is provided with pre-populated language for ease and consistency in developing agreements nationwide for Service-Friends partnerships. The language is based on Departmental and Service policies and has been carefully crafted to conform to Federal requirements, which govern such partnerships.

Since your organization has decided not to sign the Agreement, the partnership, heretofore, existing between the Friends and Lower Suwannee National Wildlife Refuge and Cedar Keys National Wildlife Refuge is officially dissolved by mutual consent.

Please note, your organization is not required to change its name, nor cease to exist. That is a decision made only by Friends of the Lower Suwannee and Cedar Keys National Wildlife Refuges. Although the Friends and Service will no longer have a formal Friends Partnership Agreement together, we encourage the Friends to continue to work together in other capacities such as individual volunteers or as a group for special events or for frequent volunteer opportunities on the Refuge.

If you have outstanding funds collected for specific priorities or activities directly associated with the Refuge, we encourage the Friends to discuss alternatives with Refuge Manager Andrew

Gude and seek legal counsel on how to manage these funds without affecting your 501 (C) (3) status.

Thank you for your patience and understanding. On behalf of the Service, we wish Friends of the Lower Suwannee and Cedar Keys National Wildlife Refuges all the best in its future endeavors.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'K. Burchett', written in a cursive style.

For Kathleen A. Burchett  
Refuge Supervisor Area II  
(772) 584-1385  
kathleen\_burchett@fws.gov