The Longleaf Alliance: 2016 Accomplishments

There were many collective successes in key areas last year; most notably in areas such as habitat protection, education and restoration. With the help of our individual donors and partners, the Alliance allocated an astounding 84% of income to programs and services last year!

**Habitat Protection**

Sometimes animals need a little more than large, beautiful longleaf pine and a well burned understory. Last year, The Longleaf Alliance teamed with the South Carolina Department of Natural Resources to install artificial nest cavities for red-cockaded woodpeckers (RCWs) on the Aiken Gopher Tortoise Heritage Preserve. We are happy to report that the home building worked and in June, SCDNR biologists discovered that a banded male and female RCW had traveled 11.6 and 18 miles respectively from where they were hatched on the Federal Savannah River Site to these new cavities. We are expanding this program to other State lands and also private landowners in SC willing to accept and manage for the birds through a grant from the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation and International Paper. It’s all good news for the woodpecker and the other species of wildlife that require this special habitat.

**Education**

Our staff provided longleaf technical assistance such as proper planting techniques and prescribed fire management, understory restoration, and stand management to over 4,300 landowners via in-person and hands-on presentations. This included a record fourteen Longleaf Academies in seven states and ten fire training courses. We hosted a wildly successful 11th Biennial Longleaf Conference in Savannah, Georgia in early November. Through social media such as our website and Facebook we touched over 123,000 individuals interested in learning more about the longleaf ecosystem. The Longleaf Leader magazine continues to expand, educate and motivate over 2,000 subscribers annually.

**Restoration**

We are committed to achieving our vision of 8 million acres of longleaf pine by 2024. In the last year, we worked with partners and landowners to assist with the planting of approximately 1.6 million longleaf seedlings on nearly 3,200 acres and assisted with prescribed burns on over 83,000 acres.