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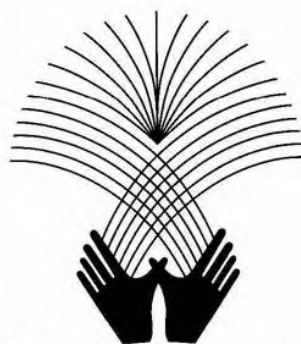


Longleaf Pine: *Making Dollar\$ and Sense*



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THE LONGLEAF ALLIANCE

www.longleafalliance.org



RED-COCKADED WOODPECKER RESTORATION AT ICHAUWAY

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Abstract: In March of 1999 the Joseph W. Jones Ecological Research Center at Ichauway began restoration of a red-cockaded woodpecker (*Picoides borealis*) population constrained by a lack of suitable cavities and demographic isolation. A baseline survey found only 8 usable cavities scattered across >20,000 ac of suitable habitat and only 1 remaining male woodpecker in 1997. Four artificial cavity inserts were installed at each of the 22 cluster locations, on 0.4 mi intervals in 2000 acres of longleaf pine habitat. The first translocated subadult was a female that paired with the remaining solitary male red-cockaded woodpecker in 1999. Twenty-six subadult woodpeckers were translocated to Ichauway from spring 1999 to fall 2003; 19 (73%) remained on site through one breeding season. The woodpecker population expanded from 1 active cluster and 1 successful nest in 1999 to 15 active clusters and 11 successful nests in 2004 with just over 50 birds presently. Woodpecker restoration focuses on cavity and habitat management. Longleaf pine habitat is managed with frequent growing and dormant season prescribed fires (1-2 year rotation) and mechanical removal of midstory hardwoods. Cavities are maintained in optimal condition by removing southern flying squirrels (*Glaucomys volans*) and nest material. The red-cockaded woodpecker population at Ichauway is enrolled in a safe harbor management agreement and serves as the private lands mitigation site for the Red-cockaded Woodpecker Conservation Plan for the Georgia Department of Natural Resources. A demographically isolated solitary group on private lands will be mitigated on Ichauway fall 2004.