

Fallan Flatow

Savannah River Nuclear Solutions

(839) 746-1089, fallan.flatow@srs.gov

For Immediate Release

Investing in nature – SRNS sponsors ALC’s habitat restoration initiatives



ALC’s objectives with the Boyd Pond RCW & Longleaf Restoration Project.

AIKEN, S.C. – (December 2, 2025) – Savannah River Nuclear Solutions (SRNS) is a proud supporter of the Aiken Land Conservancy (ALC). Since establishing a partnership in 2024, SRNS has donated \$10K towards funding ALC’s conservation initiatives.

ALC invited SRNS to partner in a bold conservation effort, the Boyd Pond Park red-cockaded woodpecker (RCW) & Longleaf Restoration Project. This initiative aims to restore essential habitat for the federally threatened woodpecker and enhance biodiversity within Boyd Pond Park, an area rich with ecological and community value. This effort is also crucial for establishing habitat corridors and necessary environmental resources for the woodpeckers, creating habitat links from the Savannah River Site to Hitchcock Woods, the Aiken Gopher Tortoise Preserve and other areas in the county.

Donations, including SRNS’ pledge, are being utilized to install artificial cavities in pine trees to provide woodpeckers with temporary homes, remove invasive species and hardwoods to improve habitat

conditions, monitor and research RCW and ensure habitat links are in place to promote connectivity between various environments in Aiken. ALC strives to increase the biodiversity and transform 71 acres of Boyd Pond Park from a mixed forest into an open pine meadow, reducing the risk of wildfire hazards and promoting land restoration, by 2028.

According to ALC Executive Director Peter Kleinhenz, "Restoration activities to get closer to that goal have already begun thanks to partners like SRNS supporting our work. Restoring habitat for red-cockaded woodpeckers not only helps the birds, but it helps a myriad of other species at the same time while improving forest health and reducing wildfire risk. Aiken Land Conservancy deeply appreciates the partnership with SRNS and all they do to support our local natural areas and the life found within them."

ALC owns 92 acres at Boyd Pond Park and is working to complete the purchase of 25 additional acres to add to the park in partnership with Aiken County, the South Carolina Conservation Bank and the U.S. Forest Service's Community Forest Program. This addition will be leased to Aiken County, expanding the publicly accessible park to 234 acres. Aiken County's ongoing efforts in longleaf pine ecosystem restoration are part of a broader initiative to preserve one of the Southeastern U.S.' most biologically diverse habitats, essential for the survival of numerous species, including the RCW.

"SRNS is honored to contribute to the critical work of the Aiken Land Conservancy," said SRNS Environmental Compliance Manager Amy Meyer. "By partnering with ALC, we're helping to ensure that future generations can enjoy and learn from the rich ecological heritage of our community. We are proud to be part of an initiative that not only benefits threatened species but also enhances the natural beauty and resilience of Boyd Pond Park and beyond."

To fully achieve its vision, ALC is seeking additional sponsorships to meet their \$40,703 fundraising goal. For more information about the Aiken Land Conservancy and ways to support their ongoing efforts, visit <https://conserveaiken.org/>.



Before and after photos demonstrate ALC's expertise in prescribed burns to restore native groundcover to reduce wildfire hazards.

Savannah River Nuclear Solutions, a Fluor and HII partnership company, is responsible for the management and operations of the Department of Energy's Savannah River Site, located near Aiken, South Carolina.