

DOGWOOD ALLIANCE



2016 ANNUAL REPORT



LETTER FROM THE DIRECTOR

2016 was quite a year. Divisive politics at the national level hit new heights just as two of the world's most costly flood events slammed across the Gulf and Atlantic coasts followed by out-of-control wildfires spread across Southern Appalachia. It was a tumultuous year, but here at Dogwood, we stayed the course, doubling down on the work that needs to be done to protect the unique forests and communities of the South with increased focus and determination.

2016 was the first year of our ambitious 20-year plan to change the way forests are valued in the South, the world's largest wood producing region where logging rates are four times greater than in South American rainforests. From moving the needle on international forest climate policy to standing with local citizens to push back forest destroying industries in their backyards, we continue to chalk up victories for Southern forests and communities.

We also began the process of breaking down the wall of separation between social justice and forests in the South, building alliances with communities bearing the brunt of the impacts of industrial logging, pollution from wood processing mills, and climate change.

These communities are often disproportionately rural, low income, and people of color whose voices are not only marginalized in politics but often left out of the conversation about forest conservation. Our understanding of the deep-rooted connections between social justice and industrial scale logging have expanded, bringing new meaning and inspiration to our work. What is good for nature is also good for people. When we degrade nature, we degrade communities.

It was heartwarming to witness the voices of those most directly impacted elevated in our campaigns. This work has given us all greater hope for the future as these communities have brought new ideas and creativity that are influencing our work. Diversity is not just good for the forest, it's good for us humans as well. It makes us stronger, more resilient.

We also laid the groundwork for a new conservation vision for the South, bringing together diverse organizations behind a simple idea: that our forests along our rivers are more valuable standing than logged. From government agencies and landowners to conservation organizations to Native American Tribes and social justice groups, we laid the foundation for an unprecedented effort focused on protecting our region's wetland forests and the people who depend on them for flood control, clean water, scenic beauty, and community well-being.

As our reach expanded and more people took action than ever before on our campaigns, we saw a unifying theme: the protection of forests is as essential as the transition to clean energy in the fight against climate change and for the move towards a just and sustainable economy. This is our gift to the next generation, and we intend to deliver.

For our forests
& communities,



DANNA SMITH
Executive Director



OVERVIEW

Despite the November election of an administration whose campaign promised to roll back decades of environmental progress -- including the US ratification of the Paris Climate Agreement, the Obama administration's Clean Power Plan, and countless other safeguards that keep our communities safe -- our work to protect the forests and communities of the Southern US strengthened and grew.

Witnessing catastrophic flooding in Baton Rouge followed by one of the most devastating storms to batter the Carolinas in decades, Hurricane Matthew, strengthened our resolve to increase protections for our precious wetland forests that keep our coastal communities safe from these ever-increasing storms. Massive wildfires in the Southern Appalachians reminded us that our forests going up in smoke is terrible for the climate and we must redouble our efforts to stop the growing wood pellet and biomass industry.

And in 2016, all of these changes gave us the most important reminder of all - the people of the South are the reason that we stand for forests! Working with communities across the region to protect their backyards, stop the newest forest destroyers, and to envision a world where we truly value our forests and the people who live in them is the guiding light that led us through 2016 and beyond.



OUR WORK

OUR FORESTS AREN'T FUEL



In 2016, Dogwood Alliance's work grew the biomass resistance:



- **An draft EU energy policy** proposed limiting subsidies for wood-to-electricity facilities that are mainly sourcing wood pellets from the Southern US
- Over **30 local officials signed onto letter** to EU government and 2 local governments passed anti-biomass resolutions

- Community efforts **stopped a wood pellet facility** proposed in White Oak, SC (500,000 tons/yr)
- **3 communities organized** to stop proposed mills in SC, GA and NC



- **2,750 people attended rallies** opposing the biomass industry in Charlotte and Atlanta, film screenings across the region, and other organizational events
- Over **200,000 online actions** challenged European, US, state, and local elected officials to stand for forests



WETLAND FOREST INITIATIVE

In 2016, Dogwood led a new, region-wide initiative to protect wetland forests:



- Dogwood chosen as **convener and leader** of Wetlands Forest Initiative (WFI)

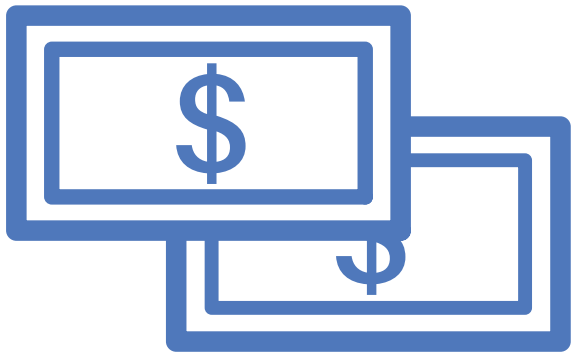


- **25 Partners** (conservation organization, federal agencies, Native American tribes, landowner organizations, environmental justice groups) agreed on mission, vision and structure for WFI
- **Formal initiative launch scheduled** for World Wetlands Day on Feb 2, 2017

THE PAPER CAMPAIGN

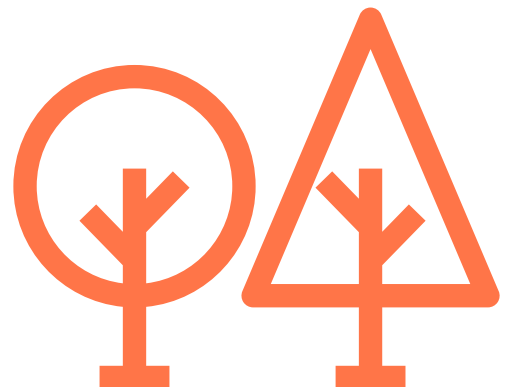
Our work to continue to transform the paper industry led to powerful results in 2016:

- Thanks to our agreement, **Georgia-Pacific** is now actively **screening out wood from 6.1 million acres of Endangered Forests**



- **International Paper** committed to **map endangered forests** across all operations and to an additional **\$10 million in conservation funding**. IP is achieving **industry-leading results on FSC certification**

- Carbon Canopy, a project led by Dogwood Alliance and Staples with a host of partners including Columbia Forest Products, Forestland Group, Pacific Forest Trust, Domtar and more, led to **over 240,000 acres** protected and managed for forest carbon not timber in the Southern Appalachians



EQUITY & INCLUSION

2016 brought an increased commitment to working with communities most impacted by industrial logging in the region we all call home:

- Created **Staff Racial Justice Committee** made up of staff from all departments that focuses on increasing our work, accountability and growth in racial and environmental justice and education
- Staff **participated** in the Environmental Justice Summit, Climate Justice Summit, and Let's Get Free
- Developed and **initiated multi-phase training** on racial justice and equity for all staff
- We **built partnerships** on our Wetland Forest Initiative with Black Family Land Trust, Poarch Band of Creek Indians, Justice Action Mobilization Network, and the Hip Hop Caucus



ORGANIZATIONAL GROWTH & DEVELOPMENT

In addition to positive trends for on-the-ground forest protection, 2016 saw growth in our political influence, our movement, and the visibility of the importance of standing forests:

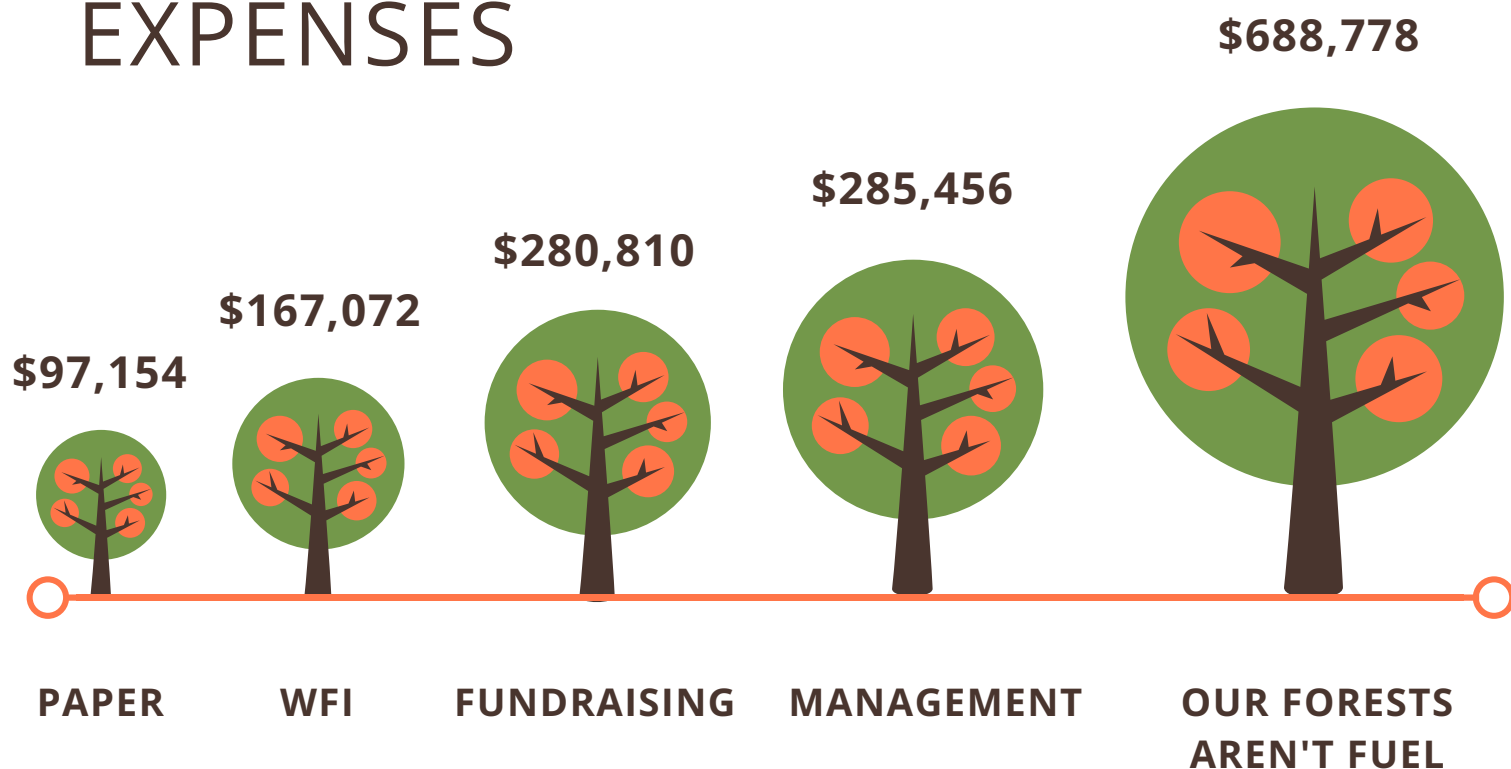


- **65 million people reached** through media stories highlighting our work
- Over **2,000 people attended** our 20th Anniversary at our first annual Woods & Wilds event in Asheville, NC
- GreenBiz named our Forest Fable one of the **top 12 Sustainability Videos** of the Year



2016 FINANCIALS

EXPENSES



INCOME



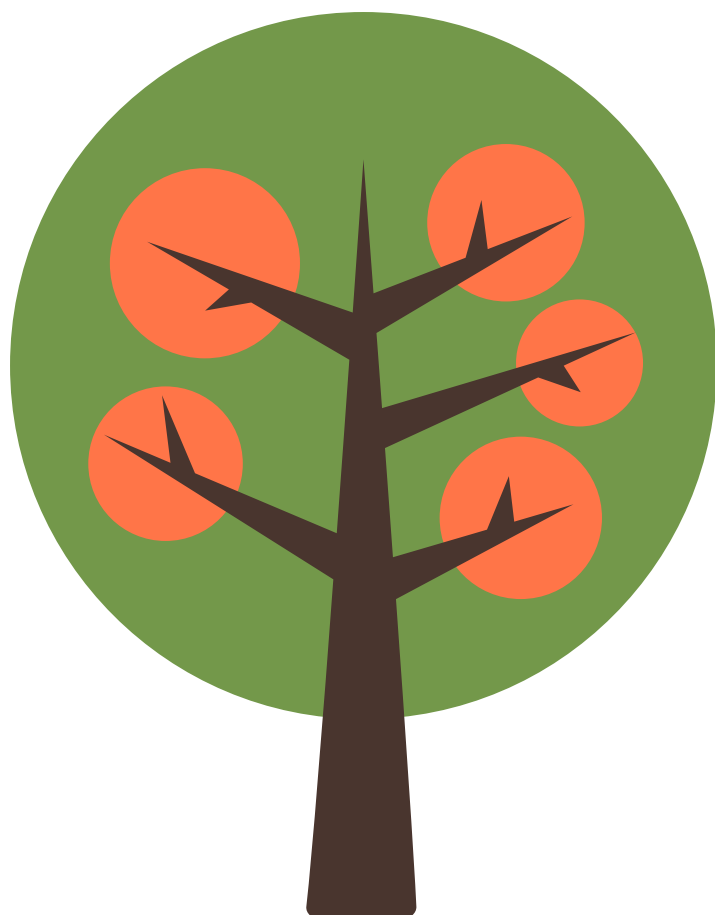
TOTAL INCOME & EXPENSES

\$1,609,515



**TOTAL
INCOME**

\$1,519,270



**TOTAL
EXPENSES**



Though 2016 was a year of political and social upheaval, Dogwood Alliance stayed true to our mission to protect Southern forests and communities and laid the groundwork for success for many years to come. Thanks to our generous supporters and donors, we will continue to Stand for Forests!

Invest in our forests today:
dogwoodalliance.org

