Annual Report, Fiscal 2015: Program Impact

CONSERVATION

- Secured largest conservation easement in the region: 3,777 acres of Black Rock Forest
- Secured new \$1.5 million conservation fund for purchased or eased lands in a critical wildlife corridor, with partner, the Open Space Institute
- Documented rare/threatened birds, applied for Important Bird Area status.

EDUCATION & OUTREACH

- Won \$216,924 Environmental Protection Fund grant to build area's first ADA-accessible forest trail
- Supported nearly 13,000 researcher and student-visitor days at Black Rock Forest
- Consultant found Summer Science Camp students engaged and "on task" 80% of the time in many classes; gave instructors "real time" feedback on how to improve engagement.

RESEARCH

- Hosted Environmental Research Symposium with presentations by 39 science faculty and early-career scientists
- Supported or led eleven research studies in Black Rock Forest, including those of Ph.D. candidates
- New Columbia University study investigates the effects of a documented warmer fall climate on trees (Griffin lab)
- Another new Columbia University study explores tree species that can fix nitrogen from the air, and why they aren't more abundant in regional forests (Menge lab)



Audited Financial Information for Fiscal Year 2015

Lodging and Other \$119,952 \$312,436 (24%) Contributions and Grants \$866,166 (67%) Total \$1,298,554

