**SCP RCW Recovery Working Group Update JAN - MAR 2021**

* **Sandhills Ecological Institute (SEI) and Dr. J.H. Carter III & Assoc (JCA) coordinated RCW cavity management within Southern Pines-Pinehurst (SOPI) private lands active and recruitment clusters.**
  + **9 inserts provisioned in 7 Pinehurst Golf Course clusters (7 replacement inserts)**
  + **2 inserts provisioned at MCCAIN and CALLOWAY Forests**
  + **Cavity restrictor installation and/ or removal within ~ 12 SOPI / BLUE clusters**
* **2021 RCW Population Monitoring:**

**Anticipate similar demographic data collection to past regional efforts with SEI, Endangered Species Branch (ESB), NC Wildlife Resources Commission (WRC), and JCA commitment on Fort Bragg, Sandhills Game Land A-Block and varied state and privately-owned RCW subpopulations.**

* **Research on Avian Keratin Disorder (AKD) in RCWs**
  + **2019 screening by USGS of samples from AKD-affected RCWs found no Poecivirus (novel picornavirus first described in Alaskan black-capped chickadees )**
  + **Zylberberg et al. (2020) discovered Poecivirus in 5 additional Alaskan bird species and in a Blackpoll warbler from Maine, the first documentation of Poecivirus in eastern North America.**
  + **USGS Alaska Science Center will retest Sandhills samples for Poecivirus through highput sequencing to corroborate initial screening negative results.**
* **2021 Sandhills breeding season AKD study. SEI will collect targeted resight and repeat morphometric data through recaptures for ‘longbilled’ RCW on Western Fort Bragg and Camp Mackall to investigate seasonality and consequences of AKD on individuals.**