MCINTIRE-STENNIS

Funded Research at Alabama A&M University

Forestry, Ecology, and Wildlife Program

Alabama A&M University (AAMU) has participated in the McIntire-Stennis Forestry Research Program since 2009. Our research includes detecting rare and endangered wildlife species, silvicultural strategies for restoring mixed pine-hardwood forest and native grasses, ecological patterns of forest dynamics, effects of forest management on aquatic and terrestrial bioindicators, improved forest operations, and minority participation in outdoor recreation.

ECONOMIC AND ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACTS

Our University is one of the largest producers of African American scientists and has the only SAF accredited traditional forestry program at a Historically Black College or University.

Six research projects

Active projects focus on forest restoration and the effects of forest management.

Collaboration

Most of our projects are conducted in collaboration with the USDA Forest Service, Southern Research Station, National Forests in Alabama, and (FIA) Forest Inventory and Analysis.

$300,000+/year

Leveraged federal, state, and private funding.

About McIntire-Stennis

The McIntire-Stennis program, a unique federal-state partnership, cultivates and delivers forestry and natural resource innovations for a better future. By advancing research and education that increases the understanding of emerging challenges and fosters the development of relevant solutions, the McIntire-Stennis program has ensured healthy resilient forests and communities and an exceptional natural resources workforce since 1962.

Experiment sites

Most of our projects are conducted in the National Forests of Alabama and state forests.

Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion

Nearly 60% of the African-American foresters employed by the Forest USFS are AAMU graduates.

TRAINING PROFESSIONALS AND VOLUNTEERS

In the short time that AAMU has been building forestry research capacity with McIntire-Stennis (M-S) funding, eleven graduate students have completed the M.S. degree. Three have completed the Ph.D. degree primarily funded by McIntire-Stennis funds. Currently, eight graduate students are supported by McIntire-Stennis sponsored research. Additionally, the P.I.s have published 25 M-S manuscripts and presented over 60 research presentations at scientific conferences and public meetings.

SUMMARY

The impact of this fledgling program includes building research capacity in forest ecosystem research at the University, training graduate students in forestry and related ecological investigations, building the graduate student academic training program, enhancing faculty research and program development, as well as the discovery of new information and technologies for improved forest management.

Beyond the AAMU campus, we have played a leadership role in the participation of the 1890's universities in promoting common research themes in agroforestry, outdoor recreation, and evaluating forest ecosystem services.