McIntire-Stennis Cooperative Forestry Research Program

McIntire-Stennis in Idaho

McIntire-Stennis funding supports critical forestry and natural resources research in Idaho and the Inland Northwest, which results in a greater understanding of best management practices and their effect on public policy and economic and social systems. The University of Idaho (UI) receives about $600,000 annually through this program.

Through McIntire-Stennis funds, aligned with other state and private research funding, UI researchers address issues vital to Idaho such as decreasing wildfire hazards, protecting forests against insects and disease, improving grazing practices, utilizing wood and other forest products, reforestation and supporting other research and education needs of the forest products industry.

These research projects provide scientific knowledge, technology and management processes to landowners, government agencies and non-governmental organizations involved in forest and range management. Results are often directly connected to ecosystem sustainability and the health of rural economies and communities.

By funding research and technology that directly benefits University of Idaho students, the McIntire-Stennis program also supports the future natural resources workforce. There are currently over 20,000 forestry and forest products jobs in Idaho.

Background

The McIntire-Stennis Cooperative Forestry Research Program is funded through the USDA National Institute for Food and Agriculture as a formula-based and competitive program for forestry and natural resources research at land-grant and related universities.

Recent Accomplishments

- Improving understanding of the effects of drought on long-term tree health and resilience.
- Identification of livestock grazing practices that assist in managing fuel sources to lessen the severity of wildfires.
- Continued development of best practices for prescribed forest burning to enhance tree health and reduce fuel available for wildfires.
- Research and monitoring of climate variation to better understand the long-term effects on forest health and wildfire conditions.
- Continuing to engage students in hands-on learning and research activities to build the capabilities of our future natural resource workforce.
Upcoming Goals

- Better understand the consequences of fire on soil health, insects and susceptibility of trees to disease.
- Identify and compile current policies in place at the federal and state level that facilitate good forest health, active forest management and responsible use of forest resources.
- Develop practices for restoration after wildfire that minimize invasive non-native plant species and promote animal species conservation.

Projected Impact of Continued and Increased Funding

Continued McIntire-Stennis funding supports the University of Idaho’s ability to conduct relevant forest research that supports Idaho landowners and decision-makers and create an environmentally vibrant economic future for forest management.

Increased and ongoing funding places new technology and research opportunities in reach for Idaho students — future natural resource professionals.

Accounts: Agriculture Appropriations, NIFA, McIntire-Stennis

FY17 Funding: House $33.9 million; Senate $33.9 million

For more information, please contact:

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