

# McIntire-Stennis

## Greater investment needed to support forestry and natural resources research and graduate education at land-grant and related universities.

America is blessed with tremendous forest resources — approximately one-third of our landmass is forested. Sustaining these forests in a healthy and productive condition is a national priority demanding a strong, continuing commitment to scientific research and graduate education.

Principal financial support for university-based forestry research and graduate education comes from the McIntire-Stennis Cooperative Forestry program, funded through the USDA’s Cooperative State Research, Education, and Extension Service (CSREES). McIntire-Stennis funds are currently distributed according to a statutory formula to each of the 50 states, Puerto Rico, Guam, and the Virgin Islands, with a dollar-for-dollar match required from the states.

Congress has recently recognized the need to expand the McIntire-Stennis program and provided funding of \$30 million in FY 2007 and \$25 million in FY 2008. The schools and colleges of forestry and natural resources responded in 2007 by producing a McIntire-Stennis strategic plan.

Unfortunately, the President’s FY 2009 budget would cut McIntire-Stennis funding by \$5 million (compared to FY 2008) and make \$12 million of the remainder subject to new competitive multistate procedures.

***If enacted, these changes could result in as much as a 74 percent reduction to some universities. Congress must reject this proposal.***

As outlined in the 2007 strategic plan, McIntire-Stennis funding is critical to:

- Deliver scientific results and management technologies to forest land owners, managers, and policy-makers.
- Prepare the future workforce in forestry and related natural resource science for the 21st Century.

***Therefore, NASULGC urges Congress to fund the McIntire-Stennis Cooperative Forestry program at \$30.008 million, the same level of support provided in FY 2007.***



### Excerpts from the Strategic Plan...

“An investment in the future of our forests is an investment in the future of our nation.”

“The McIntire-Stennis program has been critical to the training and mentoring of the nation’s scientific capacity related to forests and natural resources and has supported the education of greater than a third of all doctoral-level scientists in natural resources.”

“Given the huge need for [research capacity] in natural resources, especially in view of major changes resulting from climate change, population growth, changes in forestland ownership patterns, and restoration needs, at least triple the current federal investment is needed. This will require increases averaging 7 percent per year in [McIntire-Stennis] base funding.”

“[Forests] are a critical component of [our] vitality, wealth, and resiliency. By strongly influencing ecological, economic, and social conditions, the nation’s forests contribute directly to... a vibrant and productive economy... the quality of life of our citizens, and our competitive position in an increasingly complex global marketplace.”

### NASULGC’S PRIORITY REQUEST FOR FY 2009

- McIntire-Stennis Cooperative Forestry .....\$30.008 M

NASULGC, A Public University Association, represents 217 U.S. universities and has members in all 50 states, the District of Columbia, and the U.S. territories.

# McIntire-Stennis Cooperative Forestry

<b>Appropriations Bill</b>	Agriculture
<b>Agency</b>	Cooperative State Research, Education, and Extension Service (USDA)
<b>Account</b>	Research and Education Activities
<b>Project (Program) Name</b>	McIntire-Stennis Cooperative Forestry

## Requested Amount **\$30,008,000**

<b>Authorization</b>	16 U.S.C. 582a, et seq. (McIntire-Stennis Cooperative Forestry Research Act of 1962)
<b>Description</b>	This CSREES <u>program</u> provides funding to support forestry research, (which includes forests and related rangelands) at institutions offering graduate training in the sciences basic to forestry or having a forestry school.
<b>Benefits / Impacts Justification / Explanation</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>■ America’s forest resources are under continually increasing pressures from fires, storms, climate change, insects, diseases, urbanization, fragmentation, and lost economic opportunities. Research funded through the McIntire-Stennis program is essential to address these issues.</li> <li>■ The program develops new knowledge and innovations to sustain healthy, productive forests and address the challenges facing forest owners, forest products manufacturers and all Americans who benefit from our forest resources.</li> <li>■ The McIntire-Stennis program provides base funding that can be leveraged at up to 9:1 for forestry research projects.</li> <li>■ The program also supports capacity within each state to address issues that are essential to their private forest owners, and develop new opportunities for economic benefit from their forests.</li> </ul>

## Funding History

FY 2009 (President’s Budget)	FY 2008	FY 2007	FY 2006	FY 2005	FY 2004
\$19,463,000	\$24,791,000	\$30,008,000	\$22,008,000	\$22,205,000	\$21,755,000

## Misc. Information

<b>Matching Funds</b>	McIntire-Stennis funds are distributed to eligible institutions under a statutory formula.
<b>Final Recipients</b>	(1) 1862 land-grant institutions; or (2) other “state supported colleges and universities offering graduate training in the sciences basic to forestry and having a forestry school.”
<b>Note for Senate Offices</b>	Funding is <u>not</u> being requested for this program through another appropriations bill.

## Additional Information > [www.nasulgc-bac.com/kb.htm](http://www.nasulgc-bac.com/kb.htm)