



School of Forestry & Wildlife Sciences

SOUTHERN PINE DECLINE RESEARCH

A McIntire-Stennis Supported Project

Landscapes of the southeastern U.S. that once supported extensive stands of loblolly and longleaf pine were subjected to decades of agricultural management practices that left the land base degraded and unproductive. Research conducted by the School of Forestry and Wildlife Sciences within Alabama and Georgia noted the premature death of regenerated loblolly and longleaf pine stands on former agricultural lands. A link between the incidence of decline and the presence of specific fungal pathogens was established. Land managers are concerned about long-term viability of pine stands, impact on endangered species, and distribution of affected sites. The role of *Leptographium* species in pine decline requires further elaboration to properly restore desired species on sites previously damaged by agricultural practices. The purpose of this project is to refine our understanding and confirm the conditions necessary for development of southern pine decline, and develop management practices that minimize or prevent the disease.



COLLABORATION

We collaborate with state and federal agencies that manage land as well as forest industry and forest landowners who own small tracts. Our goal is to develop management guidelines and help stakeholders make informed decisions.

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.



IMPACT



24 peer-reviewed journal articles and 300+ presentations produced



53 graduate and undergraduate students conducted research



50 outreach events conducted



Affects the sustainability of endangered species and other wildlife dependent on longleaf pine habitat