

RESTORATION ECOLOGY IN THE WEST GULF COASTAL PLAIN



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A McIntire-Stennis supported project

The Arthur Temple College of Forestry and Agriculture is seeking to restore native forest ecosystems through the development of diverse silvicultural tools specific to key disturbances that have taken place over the past two centuries throughout the West Gulf Coastal Plain.

Bottomland hardwoods once degraded by historic logging practices are now on the path toward successful and cost-effective restoration. In many of these bottomland ecosystems, invasive species such as Chinese tallow continue to pose a major barrier to successful regeneration, but ongoing research into silvicultural treatments, as well as the response of competitive native species, shows promise in the effort to overcome this noxious invasive.

Additionally, researchers are investigating the effectiveness of mine reclamation techniques used in the Appalachian region to increase forest productivity on reclaimed lignite coal mining properties in East Texas.

Through these efforts, thousands of acres of degraded land may once again become productive ecosystems.



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.



COLLABORATION

Partners include Harris County Flood Control District, Harris County Soil and Water Conservation District, Texas Parks and Wildlife Department, and the Office of Surface Mining Regulation and Enforcement.



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Graduate students are supported through this project.

IMPACT

Research findings are actively presented to landowners and timber growers through public meetings and the SFA silviculture website.



>12 million

Acres of forestland in East Texas.



\$120 billion

Dollars in damage caused by invasive species each year in the U.S.



>2.6 million

Acres of mined land have been restored since the establishment of the Surface Mining Control and Reclamation Act.