

INFLUENCE OF WHITE-TAILED DEER ON OAK AND HICKORY REGENERATION

A McIntire-Stennis supported project



White-tailed deer can strongly affect forest composition and structure, especially when overabundant. Our 5-year project intends to build upon a 2-year dataset to understand deer impacts relative to forest management in a Central Hardwood Forest in southern Illinois. Deer impacts to oaks and hickories will be assessed using exclosures and control plots and correlated to deer use. This study will provide distinct recommendations for planning and evaluation of existing wildlife and forest management practices in the Central Hardwoods Region. Analyses of deer impacts in areas undergoing different forest management regimes will allow for targeted management. This project will be useful for informing policy regarding management of forests to benefit both deer and forests on private and public lands.

TARGET AUDIENCE

- Land managers at the Illinois Department of Natural Resources and U.S. Forest Service
- Wildlife managers in Southern Illinois and across the Midwest
- Hunters, woodland owners, and other interested members of the public
- Southern Illinois University students



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

White-tailed deer are causing dramatic impacts to forested ecosystems.



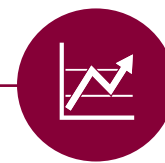
300,000 km²

Inform management policy applicable to nearly 300,000 km² of forest habitat in the Central Hardwoods Region.



2+7

Training for 2 MS students and 7 undergraduates preparing for careers in wildlife management. One undergraduate won a prestigious Southern Illinois University REACH Award as a result of this work.



7+

Thus far, presentations given at 6 professional meetings, and 1 paper in press in a peer-reviewed journal.