

Advancing Forest Wildlife Habitat Modeling, Forest Inventory, and Growth and Yield Strategies in Minnesota and the Lake States.

A McIntire-Stennis supported project

UNIVERSITY OF MINNESOTA

Driven to Discover®

Forest management practices in the past, present, and future have a critical role in shaping habitat for the many forest-dependent wildlife species in Minnesota. The Wildlife Habitat Indicator for Native Genera and Species (WHINGS) model developed at the University of Minnesota translates traditional forest inventory information into habitat conditions for 172 species native to the state.

In conjunction with over 40 years of statewide, publicly available inventory data, the WHINGS model recently identified long-term trends for species with improving or declining habitat in Minnesota, including those listed as threatened, endangered, or of special concern.

These results were presented at a state and regional meeting of natural resource practitioners and scientists, exposing them to this new tool for forest habitat assessment that can be used during their own forest and wildlife planning efforts.



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

Minnesota forest industry businesses and organizations, county agencies, Minnesota DNR, and University of Minnesota researchers.



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Collaborating agencies, organizations, and individuals.

IMPACT

Minnesota forestry and wildlife professionals were introduced to a new tool for quantifying the effects of forest management on wildlife habitat.



100+

Professionals engaged at a meeting of state and regional natural resource practitioners.



17,000,000+

Acres of Minnesota forestland assessed.



172

Habitats of 172 native, forest dependent wildlife species assessed.