

### **The McIntire-Stennis Cooperative Forestry Research Program (MS Program)**

has provided fundamental support for forestry research and graduate training at colleges and universities across the nation for over 50 years.

The purpose of the MS Program is threefold:

1. Increase forestry research on forest productivity, utilization, and protection;
2. Train future forestry scientists; and
3. Cooperate with states in forestry research.

Since its inception, over **9,400 master's degrees** and **3,000 doctoral degrees** have been directly supported by the MS Program. However, nearly all forestry undergraduate and graduate students have benefitted from faculty who have been at least partially supported by the MS Program at some time during their career.

The National Association of University Forest Resource Programs (NAUFRP) and USDA National Institute of Food and Agriculture (NIFA) recently completed the 2016 MS Strategic Plan. Led by a 30-member working group comprised of representatives across key forestry sectors, the process involved interviewing nearly 300 members of forest industry, agency personnel, state foresters, students, NGOs, faculty, administrators, landowners, and congressional representatives and staff. Three goals emerged as critical for strengthening the MS Program currently and enabling it to continue serving the needs of the nation into the future.

One of the clear strengths of the MS Program is its ability to focus on state- and region-specific issues and priorities, as suggested in the original legislation, which enables universities and states to determine research priorities for their geographical area and circumstances.

Fully utilized by NAUFRP, NIFA, and its many stakeholders and partners, this strategic plan will guide the growth and success of the MS Program for the next decade or more.

For those interested in learning more, or participating in the implementation process, please contact Terri Bates ([naufrp@verizon.net](mailto:naufrp@verizon.net)), Executive Liaison, National Association of University Forest Resource Programs (NAUFRP)".



**NAUFRP**  
National Association of University Forest Resources Programs

*Creating Knowledge—Developing Leaders*

# **The McIntire-Stennis Cooperative Forestry Research Program**

## GOAL 1

### Create the future generation of forestry educators, scientists and practitioners through graduate education

*The original language of the MS Program specified that one of the primary goals was to train future forestry scientists and practitioners. This need becomes more urgent as we see anticipate significant loss of forest scientists to retirement over the next several years..*

**Strategy 1:** Assure disciplinary alignment to meet demand for graduates and expertise.

**Strategy 2:** Build strong skill sets to create work-force ready graduates

**Strategy 3:** Enhance diversity in the graduate student body



## GOAL 2

### Build and sustain strategic relationships that enhance overall program effectiveness

*The effectiveness of the MS Program will be enhanced with partnerships that can identify relevant research needs, leverage additional research resources, as well use the information generated to improve forest productivity, utilization, and protection.*

**Strategy 1:** Identify key, strategic potential partners, stakeholders, and advocates for the MS Program

**Strategy 2:** Engage effectively with partners, stakeholders, and advocates of the MS Program

**Strategy 3:** Identify and implement mutually beneficial actions to build trust, leverage connections, and work together for common purposes



## GOAL 3

### Communicate and educate importance, impact, and successes of the McIntire-Stennis Program

*The MS Program is one of the best kept secrets about forestry research in the United States. A concerted effort to communicate the critical state of our forested landscapes, the research and people confronting those challenges, and the importance of continuing to expand the nation's capacity for addressing critical forest management issues is sorely needed.*

**Strategy 1:** Develop marketing plan to share the importance of the MS Program

**Strategy 2:** Create brand and successful communication strategy

