

Principles for a Cooperative McIntire-Stennis Cooperative Forestry Research Program

There are several principles that guide development of the McIntire-Stennis cooperative forestry research program. They are the following:

- **Capacity for research—personnel and infrastructure**
The capacity to conduct research must exist for quality research to be undertaken. Over the course of its history the McIntire-Stennis program has had as a central principle enhancing the capacity of the nation's forestry schools to conduct research and develop the next generation of scientists. This critical theme must be preserved in any program that is developed to ensure that forestry research capacity is sustained in the country.
- **Accountability**
For a viable program one must be able to describe the relevance of the program and be able to ensure that resources allocated to it are well employed. Those responsible for a program must be prepared to stand accountable for its scope and effectiveness and for the results obtained from it.
- **Ethnic and Cultural Inclusiveness**
In an ethnically and culturally plural society it is incumbent to develop and have programs that are inclusive of the values and voices of the members of the society. The McIntire-Stennis research and graduate education program embodies a principle of ethnic and cultural inclusiveness in its implementation.
- **Long-term Capability**
Forests grow for a long time and forest-based research often must be conducted over decades. Capability for long-term projects dealing with issues of growth and development of forests, long-term consequences of management activities, and sustainability of forests and their benefits must be provided.
- **Competitive Benefits**
There are benefits to be achieved by relatively short-term competitive research and the ability to capture these benefits will exist within the program. Benefits such as being able to respond to rapidly changing forest and market conditions, foster integrative and collaborative research, and develop national topical programs might best occur through development of a competitive component within the McIntire-Stennis program.
- **Nested in a Larger System**
The McIntire-Stennis program is clearly one part of a much larger forest research program involving research partners at all levels of government and private sector research providers, and involving stakeholders at all levels of organization. Activities of the McIntire-Stennis program, to the extent practical, need occur in collaboration with other research entities, and need to be viewed in the context of a larger whole. They are critical to the development of long-term research capacity, to continuity and long-term research, and to the leveraging of other research funds. As such, they are critical to a larger forestry research enterprise.
- **Fundamental and Applied Research**

Both fundamental and applied research are necessary and appropriate for the McIntire-Stennis program. Fundamental research provides theory and building blocks for applied research that is focused on areas such as policy, management, and product, service, and market development.

- **Seamless Integration with Transfer of Knowledge and Technology**
To ensure that research results get to where they are needed, the McIntire-Stennis program will incorporate a clear focus on the transfer of knowledge and technology wherever applicable.
- **Options for Integration Across Geography, Administration, and Disciplines**
Forests are inherently integrated systems and the forests of the US span a wide geography, administration, and ownership, and the many academic disciplines of the world. Given this inherent nature of forests it is important that the McIntire-Stennis research program ensure that artificial boundaries do not constrain the type and quality of research undertaken, and where appropriate encourage integrative research and development.