

Proposal Writing Instructions for McIntire Stennis Projects

Funding Source: Research Capacity Fund (McIntire-Stennis)

Principal Investigator and Performing Department: Also list any SEBS/AES faculty that will be serving as co-directors contributing effort

Title: A brief (140 characters including spaces or fewer) statement of the subject of the research. Do not include phrases such as "research on," "investigation of," etc. The title will be used for information retrieval searches, so including specific keywords that are as descriptive of the project as possible is important.

Proposed Start and End Dates: McIntire-Stennis projects are typically three years in duration. Our aim is to eventually have projects begin and end with the Federal Fiscal Year of Oct 1 to Sept 30. If your project will begin mid-year, please make sure the end date is Sept 30.

Non-Technical Summary/Justification:

This entry in the NIFA Reporting System (NRS) is limited to 8000 characters. You may wish to consider this space limitation when writing this section

In lay terms, briefly describe the following:

- 1) The issue and why it is important – this is your opportunity to sum up the importance of your project in terms that non-scientists can understand Also make sure to address these McIntire-Stennis-specific justification areas:
 - The importance of the problem to agriculture, forestry and rural life of the State or region
 - Reasons for doing the work (such as the needs the project will fill) and doing it at this time
 - Ways in which public welfare or scientific knowledge will be advanced.
- 2) Your goal and objectives - all goals should be specific and attainable within the duration of the project and with the available resources. List the forestry research priority area(s) your project will address, choosing from these following areas specified by the McIntire-Stennis Act of 1962:
 1. Reforestation and management of land for the production of crops of timber and other related products of the forest.
 2. Management of forest and related watershed lands to improve conditions of water flow and to protect resources against floods and erosion.
 3. Management of forest and related rangeland for production of forage for domestic livestock and game and improvement of food and habitat for wildlife.
 4. Management of forest lands for outdoor recreation.
 5. Protection of forest land and resources against fire, insects, diseases, or other destructive agents.
 6. Utilization of wood and other forest products.
 7. Development of sound policies for the management of forest lands and marketing of forest products.
 8. Such other studies as may be necessary to obtain the fullest and most effective use of forest resources.

In addition to the legislatively mandated forestry research areas, align the project to any of the emerging knowledge areas identified in the 2017 McIntire-Stennis Strategic Plan:

- Science of integration
- Forest ecosystem services
- Human attitudes and behaviors
- Conflict, uncertainty, and decision-making
- Technological advancements, productivity, and forest applications
- Urban ecosystems and NIFA's societal challenge on Changing Climate

The M-S Strategic Plan can be accessed as this link for more reference: http://naufnp.forest.mtu.edu/wp-content/uploads/2016/10/Mac_Stennis_StrategicPlan16PRINT.pdf .

- 3) The target audiences and how they will benefit. Include how you are addressing stakeholders' input.
- 4) How your activities lead to the outcomes described in the goal statement or objectives. An outcome is defined as a significant change in knowledge, action, or condition

Methodology:

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Describe the ways in which the project will be conducted, with emphasis on the general scientific methods and any unique aspects of significant departures from usual methods. Procedures should correspond to the objectives and follow the same order. Location of the work and the facilities and equipment needed and available should be indicated. The procedures should reflect careful planning and should provide flexibility for changes if changes become necessary.

Previous work and present outlook: This section should be written as a brief literature review or introduction of the issues/problem addressed by this project. It should summarize previous research (citing important publications), status of current research, and the additional knowledge needed which the proposed project is expected to provide.