

ASSESSING DRIVERS OF LONG-TERM POPULATION DECLINES IN GAME AND NON-GAME WILDLIFE SPECIES IN SOUTHERN FORESTS

A McIntire-Stennis supported project



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Over the past two centuries Southern forests have experienced drastic changes in composition and land cover due in large part to anthropogenic forces. In many cases, this modification has resulted in the disappearance, degradation, and endangerment of native plant communities vital to wildlife species.

To better understand current population declines in key game and non-game avian species of conservation concern, researchers at Stephen F. Austin State University are investigating the factors influencing wildlife species occupancy, abundance, and population health among the Eastern wild turkey, Northern bobwhite, and Bachman's sparrow, among others.

The research will monitor and assess the impacts of bottomland hardwood and open pine forest management practices on habitat availability and suitability for these species and provide fundamental knowledge for forest managers as they guide recovery efforts for wildlife species with declining population trends.



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

Partners include the Texas Parks and Wildlife Department, the USDA Forest Service, as well as additional non-governmental organizations and private landowners.



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Undergraduate and
graduate student supported
in this study.

IMPACT

This research directly addresses the population decline among a selection of the 132 terrestrial vertebrate species of conservation concern in the Southern U.S.



63%
Of the original bottomland
hardwood forests in East
Texas have been lost



14%
Projected decline in the
South's upland hardwood
forests by 2020



38
Wildlife species are
considered to be imperiled
in the South.