

Through his sixty years of public service, John C. Stennis maintained a passionate dedication to forestry inspired by the trees of his youth. Possibly no other individual in the latter half of the twentieth century provided greater leadership toward improving America's timberlands. Never one to accept accolades, John C. Stennis, nevertheless, deserves the title, "Champion of Forestry."¹

SENATOR JOHN C. STENNIS

CHAMPION OF FORESTRY

On his father's farm in rural Kemper County Mississippi, John Stennis developed an appreciation for the "tall towering pines...[growing] where the longleaf, loblolly, and shortleaf pines all met. I loved the trees from my youth." According to Stennis, one of the trees scaled 5,000 board feet with

many containing over 1,000 board feet.² During this time, the high quality timber he described did not go unnoticed by the lumber industry as it cut its way through the South.

During the 1930s, in nearby Electric Mills, MS, was the first electrically powered sawmill in the South, and it produced high-quality lumber from the area's forests.³ The timber was harvested, leaving the countryside littered with tree tops and limbs that provided ample fuel for the ever-burning fires. Anticipating that Kemper County's future economy would depend heavily on timber, John C. Stennis was very concerned.

Upon election in 1928 to his first political office in the Mississippi Legislature, John Stennis supported legislation benefiting forestry.⁴ While serving in the legislature, Stennis completed his law degree at the University of Virginia in 1928. After receiving encouragement from a local doctor, he sought and was elected to the office of district attorney where he served for six years before accepting an appointment for a circuit judge vacancy. As he moved his court from county to county, he encouraged the boards of supervisors, legislators, and others in the counties where he held court to "set up a county forester and put on the

necessary tax to support the county forester and the fire fighting units. I preached that wherever I went...and even would chide the county boards if necessary, that wouldn't vote the tax on, and got the people to petition for it." Stennis supported the repeal of the ad valorem tax on forest land and in its place supported "a severance tax that proved to be quite an inducement to growing timber and related matters."⁵

With encouragement of many who recognized his honesty and fairness as a judge, Stennis sought a higher public calling. In 1947, upon the death of Senator Theodore Bilbo, Stennis entered a "winner takes all" election for the Senate. He was considered a "dark horse" candidate facing a field of five opponents, two of whom were currently serving in the U.S. House of Representatives. Stennis won with a small margin of just over 6,500 votes. During his entire political career, Stennis never lost an election, and usually faced minimal opposition. After the 1947 election Stennis told his supporters in Jackson, MS, that he "wanted to start at the bottom and work his way up"⁶ but he soon made the Senate aware of his interest in forestry.

BY DON HARRIS THOMPSON



John C. Stennis, elected to the U.S. Senate in 1947 after the death of Senator Theodore G. Bilbo, promised the people of Mississippi that he would “plow a straight furrow down to the end of my row.” For the next forty-one years he maintained that straight course. Along the way he earned the title “Champion of Forestry” for his support of forestry in Congress.

INITIAL SUPPORT FOR FORESTRY IN THE U.S. SENATE

On July 27, 1951, Stennis sought increased funding for forestry in the Department of Agriculture appropriations.⁷ On August 1, 1953, along with Senator Gordon from Oregon, he requested authorization allowing national banks to make loans on forest tracts.⁸ In 1954 he co-sponsored S.R. 2786 along with ten other Southern Senators, establishing the Southeastern Interstate Forest Protection Compact. This compact allowed the states to work together in fire prevention and protection in an integrated effort where “fire fighting facilities” could be exchanged.⁹ In 1955 he co-sponsored, along with Senator George Aiken of Vermont, Senator Clinton Anderson of New Mexico, Senator Spessard Holland of Florida, and Senator Edward Thye of Minnesota, S.R. 1876 to provide funds to the states for tree planting on private lands.¹⁰ Not all of his Senate proposals were accepted.

In 1956 S.R. 4059 was submitted to provide price reports and increase funds for forest products research. When this bill, authored by Senator Hubert Humphrey of Minnesota, was reported for consideration, Senator Stennis spoke in favor of reporting timber prices in the same manner that agricultural prices were reported to the public.¹¹ Critics of this legislation felt that the increased record keeping by forest industries required in this proposal, along with the variety of products that should be reported, made this an unwieldy and unwanted regulation. On

February 14, 1957, he introduced S.R. 1229 to provide loans to improve forest management practices on private lands.¹² Under this legislation small private landowners could mortgage their land to obtain necessary funds for approved forestry practices.

USDA FOREST SERVICE RESEARCH SUPPORT

As a member of the National Forest Reservation Commission (16 U.S.C.A. sec. 513) in the 1950s, Stennis visited many National Forests. This committee, consisting of two Senators, two Representatives, and three Cabinet members, was responsible for land acquisition and exchange in the National Forest system. A visit to the Institute of Forest Genetics at Placerville, California in 1953 provided the USDA Forest Service an opportunity to recruit Senator Stennis’ help in improving forestry research. At the laboratory in Placerville, Stennis was given a specimen of wood from the bristlecone pine (*Pinus aristata*) which was determined to be over 4500 years old. Senator Stennis wanted to know more about this species so he could tell his Sunday school class in his hometown, DeKalb, Mississippi, about a plant that was living during biblical times. Having received the request from Senator Stennis for more information on bristlecone pine, USDA Forest Service’s Deputy Chief for Research, Dr. Les Harper, seized the opportunity to meet with Senator Stennis.



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Left to right: J.S. Therell, Mississippi State Extension Forester; Senator John C. Stennis, 1952 Mississippi Tree Farmer of the Year; Jack Stewart, Mississippi Forestry Association President; and C. Miller, 1951 National 4-H Club winner in forestry at the annual association meeting. A self-proclaimed “pine tree nut,” Stennis once requested that the seedlings for his tree farm be delivered during Congress’ Christmas break so that he could “personally supervise” their planting.



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(Left to right) Senator John C. Stennis, Mississippi Governor J.P. Coleman, Georgia Senator Richard Russell, and Mississippi Forestry Association (MFA) President David L. Fair in 1958 at Jackson, MS for MFA's annual meeting. Coleman and Stennis were good friends having served together as circuit judges in neighboring districts in the early 1940s. Russell, also an avid supporter of forestry, was the keynote speaker at the MFA meeting. Russell, Stennis' mentor in the Senate, once commented that of the 400 senators that he had known in his 38 year career in the U.S. Senate, none had higher integrity than John Stennis.

Harper learned that the Senator was a tree farmer who was extremely interested in forestry.¹³ Stennis showed his support on July 22, 1959, when he began a crusade to upgrade forestry research.¹⁴ Eventually, "The Senator" would be all that was necessary to identify Senator Stennis when he called upon the Forest Service for information.¹⁵ Harper became a personal friend of Senator Stennis, often breakfasting with him on Saturday mornings.¹⁶ After inspecting several USDA Forest Service laboratories, Stennis readily backed Harper's plans for improving research facilities.

To illustrate the condition of the USDA Forest Service laboratories in the early 1950s, Stennis would often say, "I visited one of the laboratories and there I found highly paid and efficient scientists, who ranked at the very top of their particular field, sitting on nail kegs and using boxes for desks, and old microscopes and equipment of that kind in carrying on this high level work. Obviously, they did not have the tools of their trade."¹⁷ Stennis admonished the Senate to "take the scientists out of the woodsheds and give them the funds to equip themselves with modern research laboratories and facilities."¹⁸ Other Senators supported Stennis' efforts. Table 1 reflects the efforts of Senator Stennis in getting the forest scientists out of the "woodsheds" and into adequate facilities. From 1961 through 1970 he introduced legislation to build or improve 24 laboratories for the USDA Forest Service.¹⁹

Several addresses to the Senate were necessary to prompt enactment of the proposals specified in the USDA Forest Service report, *A National Forestry Research Program*.²¹ During one address on April

13, 1965, Senator Stennis noted that approximately \$76 million was needed annually through 1972 for research with \$50 million necessary to complete varied laboratory construction. To meet these spending goals, an extra \$12 million annually was needed. While Stennis admitted that the sums were large, when compared to the \$6.5 billion spent for defense research, forestry research expenses were not excessive. To summarize the importance of this request for funds, Stennis declared "I referred to the forest areas of my State, to the Southeast and other areas of the Nation. I have visited these areas. Many of those areas also have oil, gas, and other natural resources. I have said, while present in these areas, that long after the last drop of oil is drained from the subterranean reservoirs and the last cubic foot of gas has been drawn out, piped away and used up, the trees, that are being grown on a more scientific basis. . . will be furnishing a livelihood to countless thousands, yes millions of people yet unborn, one generation after another."²²

For his diligent work, Senator Stennis received a tribute from Senator Bob Bartlett of Alaska after Stennis' success in obtaining the needed research funds who said, "no individual has done more to make known the needs of American forestry than has the distinguished and able senator from Mississippi. Future generations will be in his debt as they enjoy the benefits of the American forests, conserved for their enjoyment under programs of development and conservation which have enjoyed his ardent and effective support."²³ In 1977, Senator Hubert Humphrey also paid tribute to Stennis when presenting an amendment co-sponsored



Senator Stennis discussed seedling development with Seaborn Johnson at the U.S.D.A. Forest Service's Ashe Seed Laboratory in Brooklyn, MS, while on a tour of forestry facilities in Southeast Mississippi with state and federal forestry officials in 1955. Stennis had a natural curiosity and was always eager to hear about new ideas in forestry.

with Stennis to amend the Forest and Rangeland Renewable Resources Planning Act of 1974 to improve research by telling the Senate that, "There are few members of this Body with a record as distinguished as his on forestry matters."²⁴

INSTITUTIONAL FORESTRY SUPPORT

With new USDA Forest Service laboratories in place, Deputy Chief Harper wanted to increase the number of scientists. He thought that current researchers should have an opportunity to obtain advanced research degrees at the numerous forestry schools around the nation.²⁵ At the same time, the forestry schools were seeking additional research funds to increase their levels of research. While the Hatch Act provided for forestry research in land grant institutions, many experiment station directors were reluctant to use their Hatch monies for anything other than agricultural research. In 1952, agricultural experiment stations received \$12,857,000 with only \$137,000 or just over one percent going to forestry research.²⁶ With meager forestry research budgets, forestry institutional leaders began their ten year quest to obtain the additional federal funding they needed.

They were not successful in obtaining additional Hatch Act funds earmarked for forestry due to excessive crop surpluses and the reluctance of agricultural supporters to share research funding. Attempts to introduce legislation to increase USDA Forest Service cooperative grants were also futile as the program, though frugally funded, was already in place. The chairman of the House Agricultural Appropriations Subcommittee, Representative Jamie Whitten, advised them to get a program of their own.²⁷ Taking Whitten's advice, the forestry leaders, led by Dr. Ruthford Westveld from the University of Missouri who was the chairman of the Commission on Forestry Research at Land Grant and Other Institutions, searched for sponsors of new legislation. Other

prominent Commission leaders included Albert Nutting from the University of Maine, Frank Kaufert from the University of Minnesota, and Richard Preston from North Carolina State University. Nutting approached Maine Congressman, Clifford McIntire, about the plight of the forestry educational institutions. After being informed by Harper on the proposed legislation, Stennis promised his support.

Representative McIntire introduced H.R. 8535 titled "Forestry Research."²⁸ Senator Stennis introduced on August 11, 1961, on behalf of himself and the senior Mississippi Senator James Eastland, an identical bill (S.R. 2403) entitled "Assistance to the States for Forestry Research Program."²⁹ Over the summer of 1962, the bills were debated within the forestry community. The forest industry, fearful of federal control, did not want the USDA Forest Service to administer the program, and they also wanted an advisory committee in addition to an advisory board to advise the Secretary of Agriculture on research directions for the program.³⁰ After suggested changes were made, the revised bills, H.R. 12688 and S.R. 3609, were offered by McIntire and Stennis.

The House bill passed with no amendments. In the Senate, Stennis' bill (S.R. 3609), "Assistance to States in Carrying on Program of Forestry Research," was referred to the Senate Agriculture Subcommittee on Soil Conservation and Forestry on August 13, 1962, and to the full Senate Agriculture Committee on August 15, 1962. Since H.R. 12688 had passed the House as a "clean bill" with no amendments, the Committee adopted H.R. 12688 rather than the identical Senate bill, S.R. 3609, introduced by Senator Stennis and others earlier.³¹ However, the Senate Agriculture and Forestry Committee offered two amendments to the House bill. One amendment allowed for non-state supported universities to be eligible for funds. The other amendment permitted any school official, not just a forestry school official, to serve on the Advisory Board. The committee vote on the amendments



Senator Stennis questioned Dr. Frank Bonner (right), Project Scientist, on the operation of a seed counter at the dedication of the USDA Forest Service's Hardwood Seed Laboratory in 1969 at Starkville, MS. near the campus of his beloved alma mater, Mississippi State University. Stennis credited the work of Mississippi State's alumni for his election to the Senate in 1947.

was close; six to five in favor.³² On September 25, 1962, Senator Mike Mansfield called H.R. 12688 to the floor with the two amendments. The amendments were approved, and the vote to reconsider was placed on the calendar for further action.³³

On September 28, 1962, Senator Mike Mansfield asked that H.R. 12688, McIntire's bill, be reconsidered.³⁴ Senator Everett Jordan of North Carolina supported the amendment for private forestry school funding so that the forestry school at Duke would be eligible,³⁵ but he didn't speak for the amendments.³⁶ One reason for his failure to speak may have resulted from an earlier discussion with Senator Stennis. Stennis spoke for the bill without the amendments stating that any changes to the already passed H.R. 12688 would not have time to be acted upon by the House before Congress adjourned. Senator Stennis knew that many house members, including Representative McIntire, had already gone back to their districts to campaign.³⁷ Senator Stennis remarked that "such legislation would go a long way toward developing a research program for the furtherance of forestry in America."³⁸ Senator Wayne Morse from Oregon spoke in favor of the bill without the amendments. Even though he agreed with the purpose of the legislation, one Agriculture and Forestry Committee member, Senator William Proxmire from Wisconsin spoke against the bill. His state would be barred from having a member on the Advisory Board, and he felt that Yale and Duke should be eligible. In replying to Senator Proxmire, Senator Stennis reiterated his earlier stated concerns regarding the time

factor saying that changes could be made later. He reminded Senator Proxmire that he had recently supported major funding in Senator Proxmire's state for the USDA Forest Service's Forest Products Laboratory. The amendments, voted in bloc, were defeated, and Westveld's original bill, H.R. 12688, was passed by the Senate.³⁹

The legislation became Public Law 87-788 on October 10, 1962, when President John F. Kennedy signed it. In keeping with the USDA Forest Service custom, PL 87-788 was named after its sponsors and became known as the McIntire-Stennis Cooperative Forestry Research Program. When told by Harper that the legislation would be called the McIntire-Stennis Act, Stennis wasn't sure that he deserved such an honor because he really did not do that much work on the bill. Harper commented, "No other Senator has done as much for forestry as you."⁴⁰

The new program was a culmination of a long effort by forestry leaders who saw a need for improving institutional research. In an interview prior to the program's tenth anniversary in 1972, Senator Stennis commented that Harper "was really the father of that [McIntire-Stennis] movement."⁴¹ Harper acknowledged that Westveld was the "stem-winder" who rallied the support of the forestry school leaders.⁴² Congressman McIntire hoped that the new forestry legislation he co-sponsored would aid in his re-election, but unfortunately he was defeated. Nevertheless, Congressman McIntire considered the legislation as his most important contribution in Congress.⁴³ He continued

USDA Forest Service Laboratories built with Senator Stennis' support from 1962 through 1970.²⁰

	Facility	Location	Built
1.	Forest Hydrology Laboratory	Oxford, MS	1969
2.	Forest Disease, Insects, & Genetics Laboratory	Gulfport, MS	1961
3.	Southern Hardwoods Laboratory	Stoneville, MS	1962
4.	Forest Tree Seed Laboratory	Starkville, MS	1967
5.	Alexandria Forestry Center	Alexandria, LA	1963
6.	Silviculture Laboratory	Sewanee, TN	1966
7.	Loblolly-Shortleaf Pine Timber Management Laboratory	Crossett, AR	1966
8.	Wildlife Habitat and Silviculture Laboratory	Nacogdoches, TX	1970
9.	Forestry Sciences Laboratory	Warren, PA	1963
10.	Hubbard Brook Experimental Forest Laboratory	West Thornton, NH	1962
11.	Timber and Watershed Laboratory	Parsons, WV	1964
12.	Forest Range and Watershed Laboratory	Laramie, WY	1963
13.	Forestry Sciences Laboratory	Flagstaff, AZ	1963
14.	Bottineau Shelterbelt Laboratory	Bottineau, ND	1963
15.	Forestry Sciences Laboratory	Moscow, ID	1963
16.	Forestry Sciences Laboratory	Bozeman, MT	1963
17.	Institute of Northern Forestry	Fairbanks, AK	1964
18.	Forestry Hydrology Laboratory	Wenatchee, WA	1963
19.	Silviculture Laboratory	Bend, OR	1963
20.	Forest Fire Laboratory	Riverside, CA	1963
21.	North Central Forest Experiment Station	St. Paul, MN	1963
22.	Northern Conifer Laboratory	Grand Rapids, MI	1960
23.	Wood Fiber Products Laboratory	Madison, WI	1967
24.	Wood Chemistry Laboratory	Madison, WI	1969



Dr. Ruthford Westveld (left) presented Representative Clifford McIntire (center), and Senator John C. Stennis (right) a commemorative issue of the University of Missouri's Forestry School publication, *The Missouri Log*, for their efforts in establishing the McIntire-Stennis Cooperative Forestry Research Program in 1962. Westveld was the chairman of the organization, Commission on Forestry Research at Land Grant and Other Institutions, which supported the McIntire-Stennis legislation. Since implementation in 1963, the program has provided over \$400 million to forestry institutions for research.

to lobby for enhanced funding for the McIntire-Stennis program while he served with the American Farm Bureau Federation in Washington, D.C. Senator Stennis commented at the tenth anniversary of the program that Congressman McIntire should be given more credit than he for the successes of the program.⁴⁴

For over forty years, the McIntire-Stennis Cooperative Forestry Research Program has benefited the nation's public forestry institutions. Developing future research scientists was one of the program goals. An estimated 2,000 doctoral degrees and 8,600 M.S. degrees have been awarded since implementation to students whose research was fully or partially funded by the program. From FY 1997 through FY 2001, one-third of the graduate degrees awarded at public forestry institutions were linked to the McIntire-Stennis program even though it accounted for less than 10 percent of the research budget at most institutions. Since enactment, McIntire-Stennis funds have provided over \$400 million for forestry research and continues to provide an incubator for future professionals. The program currently funds an average of 700 research projects per year.⁴⁵ While the proportion of forestry research funded by the program has fallen from 22.5 percent to 8.7 percent since 1975, it continues to provide critical base support that allows the institutions to have a cadre of scientists on

hand with which to leverage additional research support.⁴⁶

Throughout his career Senator Stennis supported the program even though he was disappointed that it started with an initial appropriation of \$1 million when he envisioned it starting at about \$7 million. He blamed lack of support in the House for the failure to provide adequate funding. However, he successfully achieved increased funding after the 10th and 25th year commemorations of the program.⁴⁷

LEGISLATION TO AID PRIVATE FORESTLAND OWNERS

While McIntire-Stennis is the only forestry program that bears his name, he was instrumental in other forestry activities. In 1970, Stennis introduced S.R. 3598 to amend the Bankhead-Jones Farm Tenant Act to provide funds for private landowners to perform conservation measures.⁴⁸ In February 1972, Stennis introduced legislation, S.R. 3105,⁴⁹ fulfilling his long-time dream of a forestry incentives plan to "encourage a higher level of forest resource protection, development, and management by small non-industrial private landowners." In June 1972, he made additional floor remarks for the Forestry Incentives Act.⁵⁰ In his speech at the Annual Banquet of the Mississippi Forestry Commission on

October 20, 1972, Stennis told the audience, “I stand before you as a U.S. Senator who has very recently undergone the harrowing experience of trying to get a Forestry Incentives Act enacted by Congress and signed into law. I almost accomplished it. If the House of Representatives and the Executive Branch of the government had been as cooperative as the U.S. Senate, I would have. And I will be back to try again in the next session, and we will get that bill yet. This legislation is very important to the Nation and tremendously important to the future forests of the State of Mississippi.”⁵¹

True to his word, he addressed the Senate again on April 13, 1973, encouraging passage of the Forestry Incentives Program (FIP).⁵² Stennis told the Senate that by the year 2000 the demand for wood would be twice what it was then. Using USDA figures he estimated that about 50 million acres of forest lands was in need of reforestation, with an additional 125 million acres needing silvicultural treatments. With National Forests’ management practices becoming more preservative and forest industry lands producing at capacity, the 4 million private landowners managing over 296 million acres would need to supply the additional wood. Since many of the private landowners were “disinclined” to improve management practices without financial incentives, Stennis’ FIP would be necessary to insure an adequate supply of timber for future generations.

From its beginnings in 1974 until 1994 (when emphasis shifted to the Stewardship Incentive Program), FIP was responsible for approximately 3.32 million acres planted, 1.47 million acres of forestland improved, and 270,000 acres site prepared for natural regeneration.⁵³ During this period \$200 million in cost share monies were distributed to private landowners, with an average rate of return over ten percent and with cost-benefit ratios greater than one. The improvements on private forest lands were projected to add about 1 billion cubic feet of wood each year. By almost any measure, the FIP program sponsored by Senator Stennis was a success.

On April 24, 1974, Stennis introduced S. 3371 to amend the Forest Pest Control Act. He gave the Senate a report on the progress of the FIP on April 9, 1975.⁵⁴ On May 27, 1977, Stennis introduced S.R. 1620 to increase forestry research and to provide cooperative assistance to States.⁵⁵ On October 11, 1979, he introduced a bill to develop energy from renewable resources.⁵⁶

During his last term in office, when he was over eighty-years-old, Stennis was concerned when the National Forests were threatened. On March 18, 1983, Stennis made a plea to the Senate to disregard a Department of Agriculture proposal to sell about 6 million acres of National Forest lands. He said that the lands did not belong to the Department of Agriculture but to the people and were only entrusted to USDA for management. While he did not have a problem with selling surplus facilities, he wanted to further develop the National Forests. He was concerned about the future of any lands sold, feeling that the land might eventually be held by foreign interests.⁵⁷ As Chairman of the Appropriations Committee during his final days in the Senate, Stennis was able with the help of Representative Jamie Whitten, Chairman of the House Appropriations Committee, to see the Tennessee-Tombigbee Waterway completed. By 1997, wood products accounted for one-third of the commodities shipped along the Waterway.⁵⁸



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Mississippi Senator John C. Stennis was a frequent speaker at forestry events. Here he addressed those gathered to celebrate the planting of the three millionth Tree Farm acre near New Albany, MS, on the farm of Varnell and Howard Ray in 1963. Mississippi continues to lead the nation in the number of certified Tree Farms.

LOOKING AHEAD

On his desk in the Russell Senate Office Building, Senator Stennis kept two desk signs. One read “Mississippi Comes First” and the other was inscribed, “Look Ahead.” The two statements guided his judgment in making the decisions that would affect his country. Always an advocate for space exploration, Stennis sponsored a project in Mississippi to monitor natural resources from above. The John C. Stennis Space Center on the Mississippi Gulf Coast provides state of the art remote sensing capabilities. The management of natural resources is more reliable when based on these technologies. Senator Margaret Chase Smith of Maine who served on the Space Committee in the Senate, credits Stennis for the Mississippi facility, “because if it had not been for Senator Stennis, that never would have happened.”⁵⁹ The “Look Ahead” signs in John C. Stennis’ office can now be found today in many other places. His foresightedness advanced forest productivity, protection, utilization, and sustainability.

John C. Stennis was born on August 3, 1901, and he died on August 23, 1995. He is buried on a quiet Mississippi hill in Dekalb’s Pinecrest Cemetery surrounded by the trees he loved. His epitaph simply reads, “He Plowed a Straight Furrow.” His political slogan to “plow a straight furrow down to the end of my row” came from accompanying his father on farm inspections. “I know that I got the idea from him that to plow a straight furrow was to show a skillful operation and also the right kind of purpose, a high purpose toward your work; and it all spelled out to do the job the very

best that you could, do it right and show good workmanship. So from that early experience, I think, I had been taught to think in terms of doing the best one could; and it was illustrated by that straight furrow.”⁶⁰ During the forty-one years he served in the Senate, his goal was always to do his best. His fellow Senators honored his efforts when they unanimously elected him president pro tempore of the 100th Congress. While he is probably remembered by many for his work on the Armed Services and Appropriation Committees, his many contributions to forestry will be difficult to match. America’s forests grow taller today because John C. Stennis plowed a straight furrow to truly become the “Champion of Forestry” in the last half of the twentieth century. □

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NOTES

1. Stennis was considered the “Champion of Forestry” in a scrapbook made by USDA: *John C. Stennis: Champion of Forestry* (Washington, DC: USDA Forest Service, 1972) [Three copies of this scrapbook were prepared for the 10th Anniversary Celebration of the McIntire-Stennis Cooperative Forestry Research Program. A copy is available in the Stennis Collection, Series 47, Box 88, Folder 2, Congressional and Political Research Center, Mississippi State University Libraries, hereafter MSUL].
2. Robert T. Clapp, *Record of Interview with Senator John C. Stennis* (Special Collections. School of Forest Resources, Office of the Dean, Folder 5, Box 1, A-80-37. Mississippi State, MS: Mitchell Memorial Library, 1971), 8.
3. James E. Fickle, *Mississippi Forests and Forestry* (Mississippi Forestry Foundation, Jackson, MS: University Press of Mississippi, 2001), 88.
4. USDA, *Champion of Forestry*, MSUL.
5. Clapp, 1, 5.
6. Billy R. Weeks, “The Pledge ‘To Plow a Straight Furrow’ The 1947 Senatorial Campaign of John C. Stennis.” (MA Thesis, Mississippi State University, 1974), 90.
7. Stennis Collection (Series 47, Box 82, Folder 9/15/80, MSUL).
8. *Congressional Record*, 83rd Cong., 1st sess., 1953, 99, pt. 8:10802–10803.
9. *Cong. Rec.*, 83rd Cong., 2nd sess., 1954, 100, pt. 1: 462–463.
10. *Cong. Rec.*, 84th Cong., 1st sess., 1955, 101, pt.4: 5364–5365.
11. *Cong. Rec.*, 84th Cong., 2nd sess., 1956, 102, pt. 10: 13995–13995.
12. *Cong. Rec.*, 85th Cong., 1st sess., 1957, 103, pt. 2:1987–1988.
13. Verne Lester Harper, *Early USDA Forest Service Research Administrators: Interviews with Verne Lester Harper, George M. Jemison, and Clarence L. Forsling*. Conducted by Elwood R. Maunder. (Santa Cruz, CA: Forest History Society, 1978), 50.
14. *Cong. Rec.*, 86th Cong., 1st sess., 1959, 105, pt. 11: 13963–13964.
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16. R. Keith Arnold, *Interview with R. Keith Arnold by Harold K. Steen* (Durham, NC: Forest History Society, 1994), 15.
17. *Cong. Rec.*, 87th Cong., 2nd sess., 1962, 108, pt.22: 2097.
18. B. N. Timmons, “Stennis’ Forestry Plan Gets Finances,” *Clarion Ledger*, August 13, 1961 in *John C. Stennis: Champion of Forestry*.
19. USDA, *Champion of Forestry*, MSUL.
20. USDA, *Champion of Forestry*, MSUL.
21. USDA Forest Service, A National Forestry Research Program, (Misc. Pub. 965, Washington, DC: Superintendent of Documents, 1964).
22. *Cong. Rec.*, 89th Cong., 2nd sess., 1965, 111, pt. 11:7902–7903.
23. Timmons, “Stennis’ Forestry Plan Gets Finances.”
24. *Cong. Rec.*, 95th Cong., 1st sess., 1977, 123, pt. 14: 17101.
25. Don Harris Thompson, “History and Evaluation of the McIntire-Stennis Cooperative Forestry Research Program,” (PhD Dissertation, Mississippi State University, 2003), 62.
26. Frank H. Kaufert and William H. Cummings, *Forestry and Related Research in North America*. (Washington, DC: Society of American Foresters, 1955), 64.
27. Ruthford H. Westveld, *The Background of the McIntire-Stennis Act for Cooperative Forestry Research*. (Special Report 31, Columbia, MO: University of Missouri Agricultural Experiment Station, 1963), 11.
28. *Cong. Rec.*, 87th Cong., 1st sess., 1961, 107, pt. 11:14731.
29. *Cong. Rec.*, 87th Cong., 1st sess., 1961, 107, pt. 12:15505.
30. Westveld, *Background*, 12–13.
31. U.S. Senate, *Cooperative Forestry Research*, 87th Cong., 2nd Sess., S. Report 2013, 1.
32. Stennis Collection (Series 33, Box 266, Folder 79, Part 1, MSUL).
33. *Cong. Rec.*, 87th Cong., 2nd sess., 1962, 108, pt. 15:20680.
34. *Cong. Rec.*, 87th Cong., 2nd sess., 1962, 108, pt. 16:21184.
35. Vernon L. Harper, *A USDA Forest Service Research Scientist and Administrator Views Multiple Use*, An interview conducted by Elwood R. Maunder, (Santa Cruz, CA: Forest History Society, 1972), 67.
36. *Cong. Rec.*, 87th Cong., 2nd sess., 1962, 108, pt. 16:21184.
37. Stennis Collection (Series 33, Box 266, Folder 79, Part 1, MSUL).
38. *Cong. Rec.*, 87th Cong., 2nd sess., 1962, 108, pt. 16:21185.
39. Harper, *A USDA Forest Service Research Scientist and Administrator Views Multiple Use*, 72.
40. *Ibid.*
41. Clapp, 2.
42. Harper, *A USDA Forest Service Research Scientist and Administrator Views Multiple Use*, 55.
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