

DEER AND COYOTE MANAGEMENT IN THE SOUTHEAST

A McIntire-Stennis project to improve deer management relative to predators and other key factors



UNIVERSITY OF
GEORGIA
Warnell School of Forestry
& Natural Resources

White-tailed deer provide numerous benefits to society, including of recreational hunting and viewing opportunities. Deer numbers have declined in many areas of the southeastern United States over the last decade. Production of healthy fawns is key to the stability of deer populations. Predation is considered one of the most common sources of death for white-tailed deer fawns. Coyotes and other predators have increased drastically during the last century.

Deer are being tracked with global positioning system technology to determine their survival, causes of death, and the habitats they use. Samples of coyote DNA collected from the environment will be analyzed using genetic techniques to estimate how many coyotes occupy deer habitats. By understanding survival of deer relative to predators and habitats, this project will improve management of deer to ensure long-term sustainability of their populations.



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



We are collaborating with Georgia Department of Natural Resources, South Carolina Department of Natural Resources, USDA Forest Service, and the Savannah River Ecology Laboratory.

- Extensive coordination with field and laboratory staff.
- Hundreds of deer captured and tracked.
- Thousands of samples of coyote DNA collected and analyzed.

IMPACT

Historically, deer populations have thrived in the United States. Deer were an important resource in Colonial America and continue to contribute positively to recreation and the function of ecosystems.



10 Million

More than 10 million hunters pursue white-tailed deer in the United States.



The economic impacts of deer hunting total tens of billions of dollars annually.



Improved management of deer will optimize their population levels and maximize recreational opportunities.