

~~Strikethrough print~~ represents text which has been deleted.

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RESOLUTION

HARDWOODS RESEARCH

Delta Council fully endorses efforts set forth by the Center for Bottomland Hardwoods-USDA to initiate priority research projects. Priority research should support goals and objectives of private forest landowners, including improved growth and yield tables and refinement of classification systems, to continue expansion of hardwoods management and regeneration research at the Stoneville Laboratory.

The Center for Bottomland Hardwoods Laboratory should work with State, federal and private-sector partners to bring the highest degree of quality assurance in seedstock and stem production for bottomland hardwoods.

Delta Council encourages the Forest Service of USDA and the project leader at the Stoneville Laboratory to work diligently to shape the future research trends in a way that meets the challenges facing bottomland hardwoods production, reforestation, afforestation, and ecosystems management. Emphasis should be placed on the study of various management practices that impact hardwood stand management, to determine whether these practices can be improved insofar as maintaining profits, regeneration and quality habitat for native wildlife and migratory birds in order to meet private forest landowner goals and objectives. Private forest landowners and forestry consultants in the Delta should consult with independent, third-party professionals at Mississippi State University and the Forest Service-USDA at Stoneville prior to entering into a long-term commitment to a forest management practice commonly referred to as *Desired Forest Conditions* (DCF's).

The Center for Bottomland Hardwoods Research at Stoneville should utilize its resources and personnel to coordinate with other federal and state resource agencies, and especially ARS-USDA and the Mississippi Forestry Commission to bring sound science and practical approaches to the silviculture component of wise stewardship for the Delta's rich and abundant natural resources.

Also, the South Delta has experienced flooding in 9 of the last 10 years and we ask the Center to lead a multi-agency task force to determine the impacts that these floods have had on timber stands, quality, and growth.

We also ask that the Center place emphasis on transitioning older CRP and WRE tracts into quality timber stands for future hardwood markets.

Delta Council applauds the actions by former Chairman Thad Cochran and the Congress transferring operations of the Sharkey Site (Brown Tract) from the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service to the U.S. Forest Service in a long-term agreement.

In conclusion, Delta Council requests by this Resolution, that the Center for Bottomland Hardwoods Research review its research on the endangered species, *pondberry*, in order to confirm the precise locations of *pondberry* colonies in the Yazoo-Mississippi Delta region, as it appears in their research.

Adopted by: Delta Council Board of Directors
June 2, 2023

