

8-24-1976

Letters Exchanged, State Forester Billy T. Gaddis and Senator John C. Stennis, August 1976

Mississippi Forestry Commission

The office of Senator John C. Stennis

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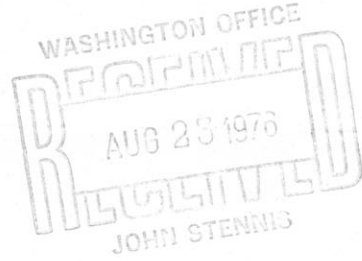
Mississippi FORESTRY COMMISSION

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*Senator -
I have a copy
Robert*

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BILLY T. GADDIS
STATE FORESTER

August 23, 1976



Honorable John C. Stennis
United States Senator, Mississippi
Room 209, Old Senate Office Building
Washington, D. C., 20510

Dear Senator Stennis:

In reference to your letter of July 27, 1976 to Mr. John R. McGuire, Chief of the U.S. Forest Service, concerning the southern pine beetle situation in Mississippi, I would like to offer the following information on the current status of the problem.

As Chief McGuire indicated, southern pine beetle infestations have been at epidemic proportions in various parts of Mississippi since 1971. Last year the epidemic was confirmed to the three northeastern counties of Itawamba, Monroe, and Tishomingo. Activity of the pest in these three counties has been diminishing for the last several months. In July of this year, new infestations were detected in East Central and South Central Mississippi in counties along the Alabama line. A survey of these counties is in process and the seriousness of the situation is being evaluated.

Salvage of infested timber in Kemper, Lauderdale, Noxubee, Clarke, Wayne, Jasper, and Rankin Counties has begun. The Forestry Commission is working cooperatively with landowners and forest industry personnel in these areas to get infested timber salvaged as quickly as possible.

Current funding under the southern pine beetle suppression project for the Transition Quarter (7/1/76 - 9/30/76) is adequate for that period and we anticipate additional funding for next fiscal year (1977). As soon as survey and evaluation data are complete, a suppression project proposal for FY 1977 will be submitted to the Forest Service.

*McG
Robert
too*

The current epidemic of the southern pine beetle is in some counties never before infested with this pest. However, personnel have been trained in identification of the pest and in control procedures. Efforts are also being made to educate and inform landowners concerning this very destructive insect.

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I hope that this information is useful to you. Please let me know if I can be of any further assistance.

Sincerely,


Billy T. Gaddis
State Forester

BTG: ec

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United States Senate

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WASHINGTON, D.C. 20510

T. EDWARD BRASWELL, JR., CHIEF COUNSEL AND STAFF DIRECTOR

August 24, 1976

Mr. Billy T. Gaddis
State Forester
908 Robert E. Lee Building
Jackson, Mississippi 39201

Dear Billy:

Thank you so much for your letter of August 23rd regarding the Southern pine beetle. As always, your letter and your comments are helpful.

What I originally had in mind was to write to you and also to Mr. McGuire, as I wanted to get the viewpoint from the Washington and the Mississippi levels, and I was interested in the current funding for the suppression efforts and also for research in the same field.

Before I could get the letter off to you, I got word from County Forester Anderson at DeKalb through Mr. Nester of the situation as to what you were doing and the Federal cooperation in the suppression project, and in the rush of things I didn't get around to writing you the letter.

I was pleased to know that the funding was in good shape and we got some research money too, although not much.

I consider this a very serious matter and appreciate what you are doing in this and other matters, and look forward to our continued cooperation.

With best wishes, and the hopes of seeing you this Fall,
I am

Your friend,

John C. Stennis
United States Senator

JCS:eh