



There’s nothing like bar-  
reling down the lake in the  
spring or summer at 5:00 in  
the morning. The cool mist  
will wake up anyone. But  
it’s not really the air that  
is alarming, it’s the possi-

bility of a big bass that is  
ready for breakfast – buzz  
bait style. To see the calm  
water come to life with a  
massive explosion is fish-  
ing at its finest. There is,  
however, a technique to

# Hyde-Smith promotes Forest Service - USDA efforts to deliver COVID recovery help

**News Release**  
WASHINGTON, D.C. –  
U.S. Senator Cindy Hyde-  
Smith (R-Miss.) recently  
encouraged continued inter-  
agency cooperation on the  
delivery of COVID-19 eco-  
nomic recovery resources  
appropriated by Congress  
last year for timber harvest-  
ing and hauling businesses.  
Hyde-Smith discussed the  
recovery program with U.S.  
Forest Service Chief Vicki  
Christiansen at a Senate In-  
terior and Environment Ap-  
propriations Subcommittee  
hearing titled “Rethinking  
Resiliency: Budgeting for  
the Future of Forest Manage-  
ment.”  
“In good years, forest-  
related economic activity  
in Mississippi can generate  
more than 60,000 jobs and  
nearly \$3 billion in income.  
Like many other states, pro-  
duction was down in Mis-  
sissippi in 2020, in large  
part due to the impacts of  
the COVID-19 pandemic,”  
Hyde-Smith said. “I hope  
continued cooperation be-  
tween the Forest Service

and the Department of Ag-  
riculture means we can get  
much-needed relief to timber  
harvesting and hauling busi-  
nesses as quickly as pos-  
sible.”  
Hyde-Smith reiterated her  
support for the distribution  
of \$200 million provided by  
Congress in December to  
provide relief to timber har-  
vesting and timber hauling  
businesses that experienced  
revenue losses due to the  
COVID-19 pandemic.  
Christiansen, who outlined  
Forest Service coopera-  
tion with the Farm Service  
Agency (FSA), estimated  
that recovery payments from  
the FY2021 Omnibus and  
COVID Relief and Response  
Act could be available this  
summer.  
“USDA, writ large, we  
take this very serious to get  
this relief out,” Christiansen  
said. “We’re subject mat-  
ter experts working with  
FSA because the vehicle is  
through their processes, of  
course, to allocate all of the  
recovery across the ag sec-  
tor, but much inclusive of

this type of fishing. Most  
people set the hook when  
they see the bass strike.  
That is a big mistake. You  
just missed another one.  
The art to catching bass  
on a buzz bait is not to set  
the hook when you see the  
bass strike but to wait until  
you feel the tug. The time  
between the two may only  
be a second but it’s the dif-  
ference between success  
and failure. It is a hard dis-  
cipline for some because  
we are so used to respond-  
ing immediately to sight. It  
looks like a strike. It looks  
like I’ve got him. It looks  
like he’s on. But he’s not.  
Not until you feel the tug.

the forest sector, as well. It  
will be sometime mid- to late  
summer that those monies  
will be available, as I under-  
stand it.”

Also at the recent hear-  
ing, Christiansen told Hyde-  
Smith the Forest Service  
“will certainly do everything  
we can with the right re-  
sources” to update the master  
plan for the Homochitto Na-  
tional Forest, which would  
help facilitate the transfer of  
150-acres at Okhissa Lake  
for a rural economic devel-  
opment project.

Hyde-Smith secured the  
2018 Farm Bill provision au-  
thorizing the Okhissa Lake  
property transfer to the Sce-  
nic Rivers Development Al-  
liance.

“An updated Forest Ser-  
vice master plan for the  
Homochitto National Forest  
could complement Scenic  
River’s development plan in  
a significant way—additional  
hiking and biking trails, pic-  
nic areas, safe swimming ar-  
eas, and many other things to  
attract visitors and tourism,”  
said Hyde-Smith.

The Senator sought the  
same commitment in April  
from the now confirmed  
Deputy Secretary of Agri-  
culture Dr. Jewel Bronaugh,  
Ph.D.

This is a great lesson for  
life. Most of the time, we  
live our lives according to  
what we see. And we re-  
act accordingly. We think  
whatever the circumstanc-  
es look like, that is what  
they must be. If it looks  
hopeless, it must be. If it  
looks like the end, it must  
be. If it looks like there is  
no way out, there must not  
be. And we react accord-  
ingly. There is, however,  
a mechanism that God has  
placed within us. It’s a tug.  
It’s the voice of God say-  
ing, don’t walk by sight,  
but by faith. It is him say-  
ing don’t ever count the  
situation hopeless until  
I have been added to the  
equation. It is him say-  
ing, no matter how bleak  
the circumstance is, I will  
have the last word. Friend  
don’t set the hook on your  
circumstances at the first  
sight of trouble. Wait on  
the tug of God and he will  
turn every situation into  
one that is worth keeping.  
*gary@outdoortruths.org*



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ton, MS 39095.  
For more information, please call –  
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Sealed bids will be opened on June 14, 2021  
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**TOOLING ALONG**  
By Fred Piscop

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