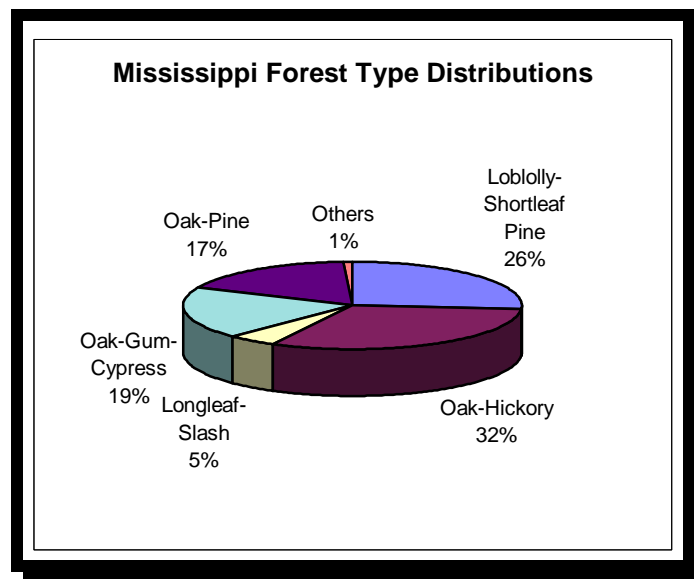


The Resource

Mississippi's forests cover 18.5 million acres, more than 60% of the state's land area. Some 4.9 million acres of the state's forested land is in nonindustrial private ownership, while approximately 1.1 million acres are in national forests. Mississippi's forests are prized for their scenic beauty, supporting tourism and outdoor recreation and providing wildlife habitat throughout the state. Major forest types in the state include oak-hickory, loblolly and shortleaf pine, longleaf and slash pine, mixed oak-pine, and oak-gum-cypress.



Forest health monitoring (FHM) activities are cooperative efforts between the USDA Forest Service and the Mississippi Forestry Commission. The FHM program in Mississippi includes regular aerial and ground surveys to detect forest damage.

Special Issues

Key issues that State and federal programs are addressing cooperatively include:

- Sustainable management of private forest lands
- Protection and development of urban and community forest resources
- Increasing participation by underserved citizens in forestry programs

Forest Influences

Southern pine beetle (SPB) is Mississippi's most significant forest insect pest. Moderate activity was reported on the Homochitto and Bienville National Forests with 111 spots reported, while only 34 spots were detected on private lands in 2004.

Pine engraver beetles (*Ips* spp.) displayed moderate activity in 2004. Because *Ips* infestations tend to be relatively small and scattered, they usually cannot be effectively controlled or salvaged, but their economic costs may equal those caused by SPB.

Gypsy moth surveying continues throughout the state. No moths were captured in the state in 2004.

Pitch canker caused shoot dieback and top kill in young loblolly pine plantations, a phenomenon not commonly detected in the state.

Wind damage resulting from hurricane Ivan and associated tornados occurred along the Gulf Coast and in scattered locations as far inland as Meridian.

Sudden Oak Death surveys were conducted by pathologists from Mississippi State University in 2004. The surveys focused on the perimeters of horticultural nurseries that had received potentially infected stock from shippers in California. No sites infected with the *Phytophthora ramorum* pathogen were identified.

Forest Health Assistance in Mississippi

For further information or assistance, contact:

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