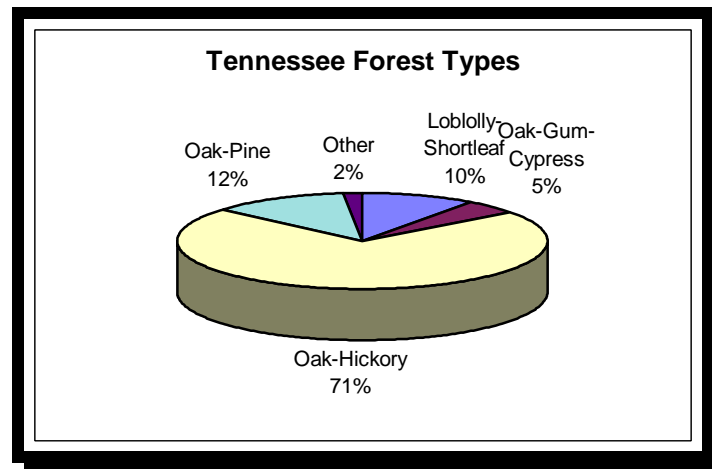


The Resource

Tennessee's forests cover 14.4 million acres, more than half of the state's land area. The majority of the state's forested land, some 8.7 million acres, is in nonindustrial private ownership, while approximately 556,000 acres are in national forest. Tennessee's forests are prized for their scenic beauty, supporting tourism and outdoor recreation and providing wildlife habitat from the Appalachian Mountains in the east to the Mississippi Valley in the west. Major forest types in the state include oak-hickory, loblolly and shortleaf pine, and mixed oak-pine. Oak-gum-cypress and other species comprise 7% of the state's forests.



Forest health monitoring (FHM) activities are cooperative efforts between the USDA Forest Service and the Tennessee Department of Agriculture Division of Forestry. The FHM program in Tennessee includes periodic measurement of fixed plots as well as regular aerial and ground surveys to detect forest damage.

Special Issues

Key issues which 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 Tennessee's most significant forest insect pest. In 2006, SPB activity remained at low levels, with no counties in outbreak status. Only one small spot was reported. The state continues to offer cost-share incentives to landowners to perform restoration work and thinning as part of a SPB Prevention Program.

Gypsy moth is a threat to Tennessee's hardwood-dominated forests. The state works closely with the USDA Forest Service to monitor and quickly identify any accidental introductions of the moth; there have been several successful eradication projects covering as much as 40,000 acres in recent years. In 2006, one eradication project was carried out on a single one-acre site in Cumberland County. Mass trapping efforts were conducted in three locations in Cumberland, Campbell, and Claiborne Counties, the last being the largest current infestation.

Dogwood anthracnose is a disease of cool, moist areas in the higher elevation forests of the state. It is currently causing significant mortality to native dogwoods in 59 counties, with an estimated 49% mortality among trees in infected areas. No new areas of infection were reported in 2006.

Oak Decline impacts timber and recreation in Tennessee. It results in dieback and mortality of large, mature oaks. A complex of factors such as drought, frost, insect defoliation, and secondary agents including root and canker diseases and wood boring insects contribute to the condition. Forest surveys indicate that nearly 9% (738,000 acres) of oak forest is susceptible; oak decline will become more prevalent as forests mature. The problem continues to increase in northeastern Tennessee counties.

Hemlock wooly adelgids are now established in east Tennessee. This small, introduced insect is expected to devastate the state's hemlock resource within the next few years and now infests 22 counties.

Sudden Oak Death surveys were initiated in Tennessee in 2003 and continued in 2006. The survey focused on the perimeters of horticultural nurseries that received potentially infected stock from shippers in California. No infected sites have been identified by the survey in Tennessee.

Forest Health Assistance in Tennessee

For further information or assistance, contact:

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(615) 837-5176**

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(828) 257-4858**

<http://www.state.tn.us/agriculture/forestry/health/index.html>