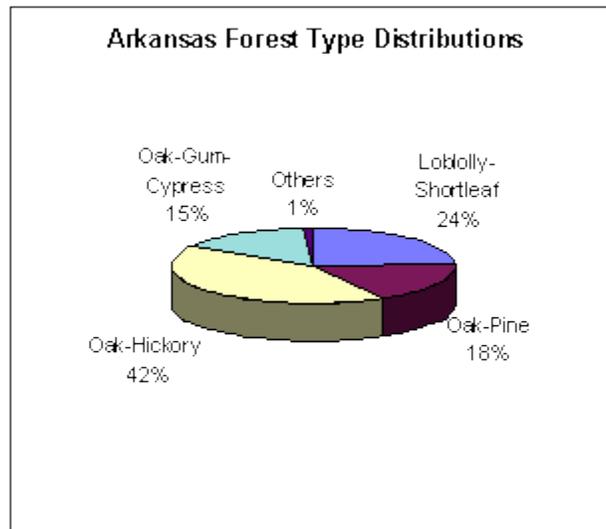


# Forest Health Highlights 1999

## Arkansas

The Arkansas Forestry Commission provides forest health protection assistance to state and private land managers within the State. The State and the USDA Forest Service Forest Health Protection unit fund this program cooperatively.



### **Arkansas Forest Facts**

- Over **50%** of Arkansas is **forested** (more than 18.3 million acres).
- Over **90%** of forested acreage in Arkansas is **privately owned**.
- The **Ouachita and Ozark–St. Francis National Forests** (2.3 million acres) provide recreational and wildlife benefits as well as forest products and jobs for thousands of people.
- In 1999, **red oak decline and mortality** was severe on thousands of acres in north and central Arkansas, following a second year of intense drought. Red oak borers, Armillaria root rot, and Hypoxylon canker were associated with the mortality.
- **Southern pine beetle** (SPB) is Arkansas' most important forest pest. However, SPB populations were undetectable during 1999. A significant outbreak has not affected the state since 1995-96. The outlook for 2000 is for low population levels to continue.
- The variable **oak leaf caterpillar** caused localized defoliation, of several thousand acres in Columbia and Ouachita counties. Periodic outbreaks may lead to some growth loss, but tree mortality rarely occurs.
- An isolated **gypsy moth** infestation was identified in north central Arkansas in 1992. A cooperative gypsy moth eradication project involved participation by the Arkansas State Plant Board, Arkansas Forestry Commission, and USDA Forest Service. Over 43,000 acres were treated with aerial applications of a biological insecticide and after three years of post-treatment trapping, it now appears that the infestation has been successfully eradicated. Delimiting trapping continues in Carroll, Marion, and Newton counties to ensure any resurgence is detected.

- In 2000, the Arkansas Forestry Commission in cooperation with USDA Forest Service Research and Forest Health Protection will participate in the **Forest Health Monitoring Program**. This program is designed to annually collect, analyze, interpret and report on the conditions of the forests in Arkansas.

## The Arkansas Forestry Commission and the USDA Forest Service

In spite of the relatively good health of Arkansas' forests, a variety of insects and diseases (both native and introduced), and human-caused impacts such as air pollution, continue to threaten the State's resources. To deal with this constantly changing mix of challenges, the Forestry Commission and the Forest Health Protection unit of the USDA Forest Service cooperate to prevent, detect, suppress and manage this multitude of threats. The partnership between the two agencies has worked for three decades to maintain and improve the health of Arkansas' forests.

*Forest Health Protection contributions (dollars) to Arkansas Forestry Commission Cooperative Forest Health program, cooperative pest suppression/eradication projects, and Ouachita National Forest suppression projects, 1997-2000.*

	<u>1997</u>	<u>1998</u>	<u>1999</u>	<u>2000</u>
<b>Cooperative Forest Health Program</b>	67,760	71,800	71,800	71,800
<b>Forest Health Monitoring</b>	0	0	0	62,300
<b>Cooperative suppression</b>				
Southern pine beetle	0	0	0	0
Gypsy moth eradication	125,000	50,000	20,000	20,000
<b>Ouachita National Forest</b>				
Southern pine beetle	300,000	55,000	25,000	10,000

### For additional information, contact:

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