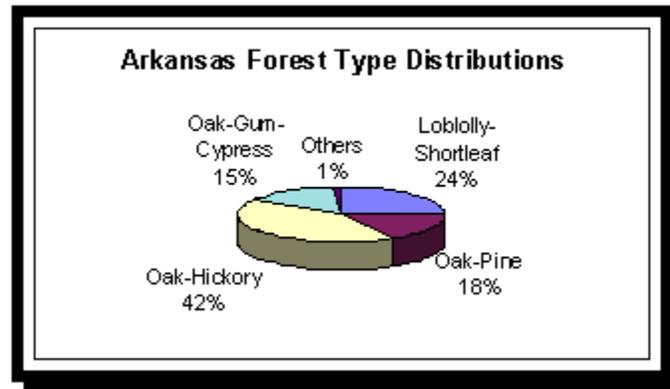


Forest Health Highlights 2001

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 2001, **red oak decline and mortality** continue to be severe on thousands of acres in north and central Arkansas, following a third year of intense drought. Red oak borers, Armillaria root rot, and Hypoxylon canker were associated with the mortality. Red oak borer populations are high with hundreds of attacks per tree on most red oaks. Adult borers emerged during the summer in unprecedented numbers, and newly hatched larvae continued to produce structural damage to oak trunks and limbs, increasing the risk of breakage and injury to forest users.
- **Southern pine beetle** (SPB) is Arkansas' most important forest pest. However, SPB populations were undetectable during 2001. A significant outbreak has not affected the state since 1995-96. The outlook for 2002 is for low population levels to continue.
- Cooperative **gypsy moth** eradication project involving participation by the Arkansas State Plant Board, Arkansas Forestry Commission, and USDA Forest Service was successful. Delimiting trapping continued in Carroll, Marion, and Newton counties to ensure any resurgence is detected. Eleven moths were caught in 2001 in three counties. Trapping will continue in 2002 but no treatments are planned.
- In 2002, the Arkansas Forestry Commission in cooperation with USDA Forest Service Research and Forest Health Protection will continue to 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 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 Arkansas 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, 1999-2002.

	1999	2000	2001	2002
Cooperative Forest Health Program	71,800	71,800	64,434	88,096
Forest Health Monitoring	0	62,300	130,000	65,000
Cooperative suppression, southern pine beetle	0	0	0	0
Gypsy moth eradication	20,000	20,000	10,000	10,000
Ouachita National Forest, southern pine beetle	25,000	10,000	10,000	10,000
Red Oak Borer	0	0	50,000	250,000

For additional information, contact:

Arkansas Forestry Commission
3821 W Roosevelt Road
Little Rock, AR 72204
(501) 296-1940

USDA Forest Service
Forest Health Protection
2500 Shreveport Highway
Pineville, LA 71360
(318) 473-7286