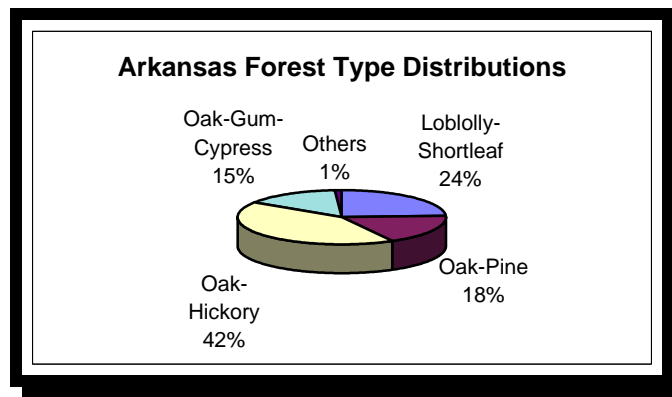


The Resource

Arkansas' forests cover 18.8 million acres, more than 50% of the state's land area. The majority of the state's forested land, some 10.6 million acres, is in nonindustrial private ownership, while approximately 2.3 million acres are in national forests. Arkansas' forests are prized for their scenic beauty, supporting tourism and outdoor recreation and providing wildlife habitat from the Ozark and Ouachita Mountains to the Mississippi River. Major forest types in the state include oak-hickory, loblolly and shortleaf pine, mixed oak-pine, and oak-gum-cypress.



Forest health monitoring (FHM) activities are cooperative efforts between the USDA Forest Service and the Arkansas Forestry Commission. The FHM program in Arkansas 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 Arkansas' most significant forest insect pest. However, in 2005 no SPB activity was reported.

Red oak borer attacks declined in north central Arkansas in 2005, in association with oak decline and past severe drought, even as normal rainfall returned. The unusual activity of this insect has resulted in both mortality and severe degrade in lumber quality in infested trees. The current outbreak has caused oak mortality since 1999.

Gypsy moth No new outbreaks were detected in 2005.

Oak decline continues to be severe on thousands of acres in north and central Arkansas in conjunction with the red oak borer epidemic. Continuing episodic drought, advanced age, and poor site quality of the state's oak forests indicate make this a serious and persistent problem.

Sudden Oak Death surveys were initiated in Arkansas in 2004 and continued in 2005. The surveys focused on the perimeters of horticultural nurseries that received potentially infected stock from shippers in California. No sites infected with the *Phytophthora ramorum* pathogen were detected.

Forest Health Assistance in Arkansas

For further information or assistance, contact:

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