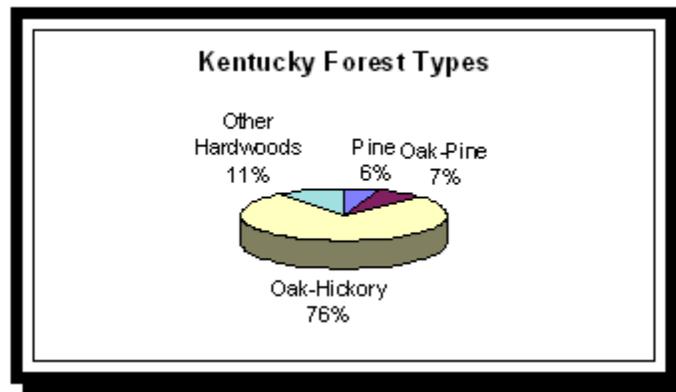


Forest Health Highlights 2004

Kentucky

The Resource

Kentucky's forests cover more than 12.6 million acres, almost half of the state's land area. The majority of the state's forested land, some 11.2 million acres, is in nonindustrial private ownership, while approximately 699,000 acres are in national forest. Forestry is an important industry in Kentucky, providing 29,400 jobs and producing \$468 million in annual revenue. Kentucky's forests are also 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, pine, and mixed oak-pine. Other hardwoods comprise 11% of the state's forests.



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

Special Issues

Key issues that State and federal programs are cooperatively addressing 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 Kentucky's most significant forest insect pest. In 2004, SPB activity was minimal, in large part due to host depletion in the eastern part of the state.

Gypsy Moth, a serious pest of hardwood forests, threatens Kentucky from the north and east. The Kentucky Division of Forestry and USDA Forest Service work closely together to monitor and quickly respond to outbreaks of the moth through a statewide early warning network of survey traps. In 2004, gypsy moth activity was low; delimiting trapping by KDOF continued on a total of 6,458,000 acres.

Hemlock woolly adelgids were found in southeastern Kentucky in 2004. This introduced insect is expected to continue to spread northwestward and will eventually destroy the state's hemlock resource.

Oak defoliators were unusually active in 2004. Fall cankerworm defoliation was intense, especially in northern portions of the state.

Exotic insect pests are an increasing concern in Kentucky. While detection surveys have not yet identified new outbreaks, species such as the emerald ash borer present serious threats to the state's timber resource.

Dogwood anthracnose is a disease of cool, moist areas in the higher elevation forests of eastern and central Kentucky. It is currently causing significant mortality to native dogwoods in 63 counties in the state.

Cedar heart rot, a white fungal rot affecting all age classes of eastern redcedar, was recognized as a major factor affecting lumber values in central and southeastern Kentucky in 2003 and continued to degrade cedar values in 2004.

Forest Health Assistance in Kentucky

For further information or assistance, contact:

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