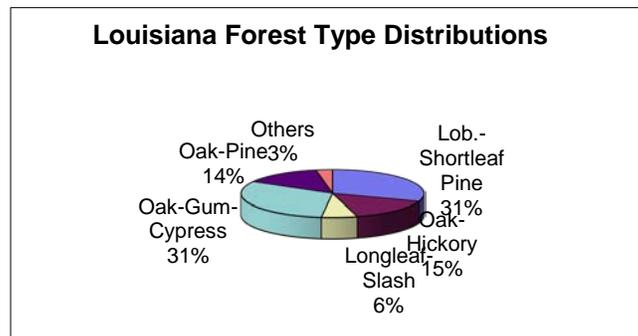


Forest Health Highlights 1998

Louisiana

The Louisiana Office of Forestry provides forest health protection assistance to state and private land managers throughout the State. This program is funded cooperatively by the State and the USDA Forest Service Forest Health Protection unit.



Louisiana Forest Facts

- Almost **50%** of the entire state of Louisiana is **forested** (13.8 million acres).
- Over **90%** of forested acreage in Louisiana is **privately owned**.
- The **Kisatchie National Forest** (603,700 acres) provides recreational and wildlife benefits as well as forest products and jobs for thousands of people.
- The **southern pine beetle** is Louisiana's most important forest insect pest. In 1995, a significant outbreak affected a large proportion of the State. Beetle populations have declined since that time. In 1998, there were 732 spots statewide with populations in outbreak status in Caddo, Morehouse, Richland, and West Carroll Parishes.
- In 1998, the **forest tent caterpillar** defoliated over 88,000 acres of, primarily, tupelo gum in forested wetlands, in Ascension, St. James and St. John Parishes.
- The **fruittree leafroller** defoliated baldcypress over an area of 616,000 acres in southeastern and south central LA in 1998. Defoliation was severe (>60%) on 290,000 acres. Although the predominant impact is loss of growth, repeated annual defoliation has resulted in significant crown dieback and mortality of sapling/pole-sized cypress.
- Defoliation of loblolly pines by the **loblolly pine sawfly** occurred on approximately 5,000 acres in the spring of 1998. Caldwell Parish was most heavily affected, with lesser amounts in LaSalle and Winn Parishes.
- The **larger elm leaf beetle** again affected approximately 3,500 acres of mixed elms in the Sherburne Wildlife Management Area (Iberville Parish).
- The **buck moth** population was found to be on the rise in and around federal historical districts in New Orleans.

The Louisiana Office of Forestry and USDA Forest Service

In spite of the relatively good health of Louisiana's 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 Office of Forestry 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 Louisiana's forests.

Forest Health Protection contributions (dollars) to the Louisiana Office of Forestry Cooperative Forest Health program, cooperative suppression projects, and Kisatchie National Forest suppression projects, 1996-99.

	<u>1996</u>	<u>1997</u>	<u>1998</u>	<u>1999</u>
Cooperative Forest Health Program	66,913	66,913	66,913	66,913
Cooperative suppression				
southern pine beetle	0	225,000	0	0
Kisatchie National Forest				
southern pine beetle	152,573	65,000	51,000	60,000

For additional information, contact:

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