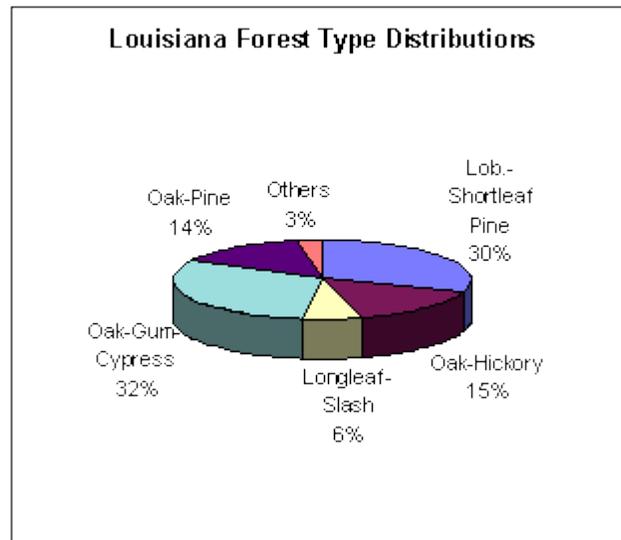


# Forest Health Highlights 1999

## Louisiana

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



### **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 1999, there were no confirmed SPB infestations statewide, although there were thousands of small infestations of *Ips* **pine engraver beetles**.
- In 1999, 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 290,000 acres in southeastern and south central LA in 1999. Defoliation was substantial (>50%) on 140,000 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 loblollypines by the **loblolly pine sawfly** occurred on approximately 10,000 acres in the spring of 1999. Winn, Caldwell, LaSalle and Jackson Parishes had significant defoliation in older plantations. One private industry sprayed 600 acres from the air with insecticides to protect loblolly pine plantations.

- The **larger elm leaf beetle** was scattered throughout southern Louisiana with lower levels than 1999 affecting 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. Pheromone trapping was instituted to identify “hot spots” for further evaluation.
- In 2000, the Louisiana Office of Forestry in cooperation with the 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 the state.

## The Louisiana Office of Forestry and the 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, 1997-2000.***

	<u>1997</u>	<u>1998</u>	<u>1999</u>	<u>2000</u>
<b>Cooperative Forest Health Program</b>	66,913	66,913	66,913	66,913
<b>Forest Health Monitoring</b>				55,500
<b>Cooperative suppression</b>				
southern pine beetle	0	0	0	0
<b>Kisatchie National Forest</b>				
southern pine beetle	65,000	51,000	60,000	25,000

**For additional information, contact:**

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