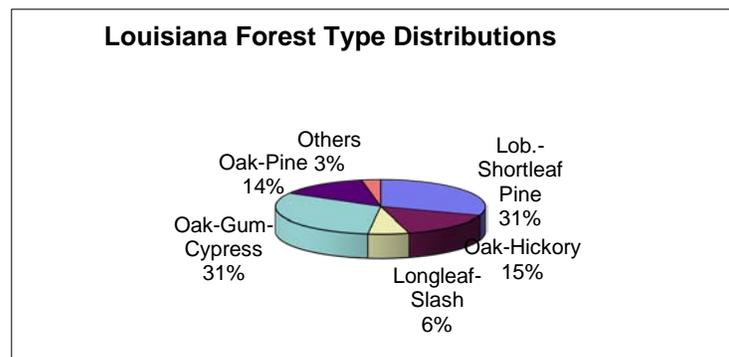


The Resource

Louisiana's forests cover 13.8 million acres, nearly half of the state's land area. The majority of the state's forested land, some 10 million acres, is in nonindustrial private ownership, while approximately 603,500 acres are in national forests. Louisiana's forests are prized for their scenic beauty, supporting tourism and outdoor recreation and providing wildlife habitat throughout the state.

Major forest types in Louisiana include oak-hickory, loblolly and shortleaf pine, longleaf and slash pine, mixed oak-pine, and oak-gum-cypress. Other minor types account for approximately 3% of the forest.



Forest health monitoring (FHM) activities are cooperative efforts between the USDA Forest Service and the Louisiana Department of Agriculture and Forestry. The FHM program in Louisiana 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 Louisiana's most significant forest insect pest. However, SPB activity in the state has been insignificant in recent years and no outbreaks were reported in 2006, a trend that has lasted for more than 8 years. Louisiana is offering cost-share incentives to landowners for SPB prevention practices, such as thinning.

Pine engraver beetles (*Ips spp.*) displayed abundant but scattered activity in 2006.

Because *Ips* infestations tend to be relatively small and scattered, they usually cannot be effectively controlled or salvaged, but their economic costs may exceed those caused by SPB.

Baldcypress leafroller defoliated over 101,700 acres of mixed baldcypress stands in the southern and southeastern parts of the state in 2006. Approximately 70,000 acres were classified as severely defoliated (more than 50%). Dieback and scattered mortality were reported, especially in permanently flooded areas.

Forest tent caterpillar defoliated 218,000 acres of forested wetlands in 2006, affecting primarily tupelo gum. This defoliation was severe on 110,500 acres.

Buck moth defoliation of live oaks has been a problem in New Orleans for several years. The population of these insects continued to decrease in 2006.

Sudden Oak Death surveys were conducted by pathologists from Mississippi State University. The surveys focused on the perimeters of horticultural nurseries that had received potentially infected stock from shippers in California. No sites outside of the nurseries showed infection by the *Phytophthora ramorum* pathogen in 2006.

Weather impacts on Louisiana's forests were prominent in 2006, largely from latent effects from Hurricanes Katrina and Rita. Pine mortality increased significantly, especially in southern parishes. This was highly visible along major roadways, with estimates of an average of 14 dead trees per mile.

Forest Health Assistance in Louisiana

For further information or assistance, contact:

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