

Louisiana



Forest Health Highlights 2010

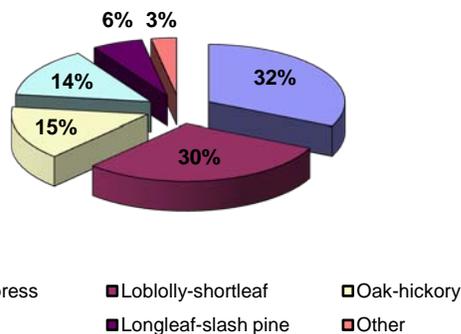
The Resource

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 non-industrial 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.



USDA Forest Service

Louisiana Forest Type Distribution



Forest Influences and Programs

Southern pine beetle (SPB) is Louisiana's most significant forest insect pest. However, activity in the state has been insignificant in recent years, a trend lasting about 12 years. No confirmed infestations were found in 2010 and no serious population buildup is likely. No infestations were detected on national forest or other federal lands.



Erich Vallery, USDA Forest Service

Pine engraver beetles (*Ips* spp.) increased significantly late in the summer with dying or dead pines abundantly visible over much of the state. This is mainly in response to the drought and heat prevalent during 2010. Two particularly large areas of damage documented late in the year were in Franklin (about 11,000 acres) and Evangeline (about 80 acres) Parishes where soils particularly prone to drought effects created severe stress which was followed by *Ips* beetle infestations causing severe mortality. The Evangeline area was also defoliated by sawflies and *Colaspis* beetles in past years. Other such areas probably exist, but remain unreported.



Forest tent caterpillar

William M. Ciesla, Forest Health Management International, bugwood.org

Forest tent caterpillar caused heavy defoliation (>50%), this spring on 276,170 acres of tupelo gum wetlands in South Louisiana. Much of this occurred west of Lake Maurepas in Livingston, Ascension, St. John the Baptist and St. James Parishes. The largest section of heavy defoliation, however, occurred in or near the Atchafalaya Basin. Parishes there include St. Martin, Iberia, St. Mary and Assumption. Light defoliation (<50%) occurred on almost 25,000 acres most of which were in Tangipahoa, Livingston, St. John the Baptist and St. James parishes. **Baldcypress leafroller** also caused moderate to heavy defoliation on 59,130 acres of mixed Baldcypress stands in Assumption, Terrebonne and LaFourche Parishes.

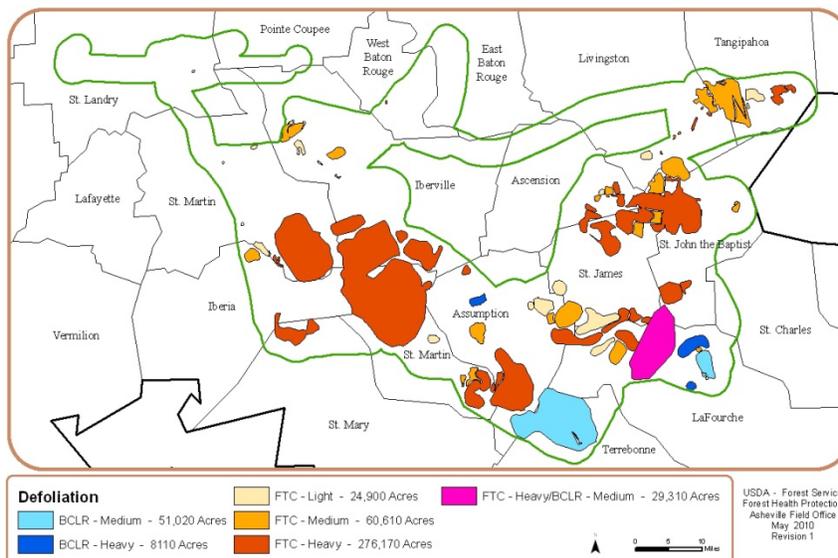


Baldcypress leafroller

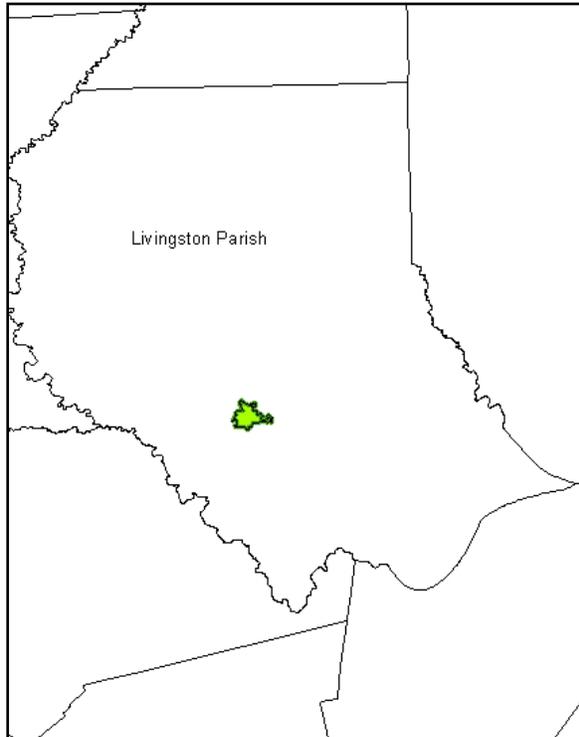
Gerald J. Lenhard, Louisiana St. Univ., bugwood.org

Aerial Survey - Defoliation - Louisiana - 2010

Bald Cypress Leaf Roller (BCLR) - Forest Tent Caterpillar (FTC)



Pine sawfly defoliated or killed over 1200 acres of the loblolly pine pulpwood and sawtimber in Livingston parish. Although the damage was recognized as sawfly, no live specimens were observed to help distinguish which type.



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Forest Health Assistance in Louisiana

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