



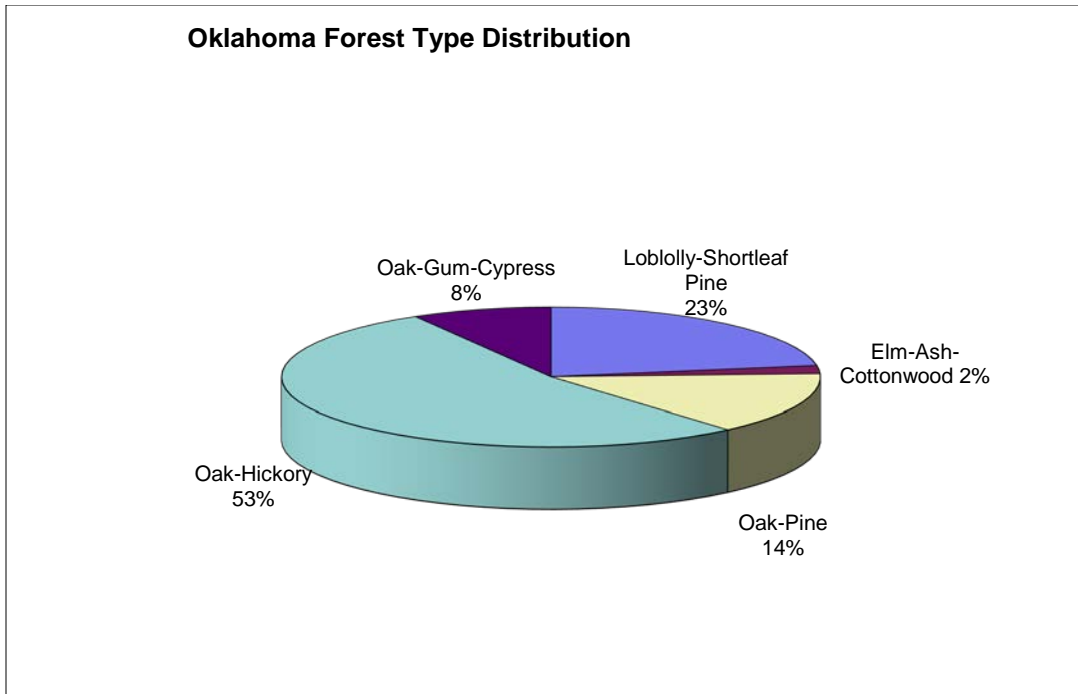
# Oklahoma

## Forest Health Highlights 2015

### The Resource

Oklahoma's forests cover 12 million acres, about 25% of the state's land area. Some 6.9 million acres of the states forested land is in nonindustrial private ownership, while approximately 353,000 acres are in national forest. Oklahoma's forests are prized for their scenic beauty, supporting tourism and outdoor recreation and providing wildlife habitat throughout the state. Major forest types in the state include oak-hickory, loblolly and shortleaf pine, mixed oak-pine, and oak-gum-cypress.





Forest health monitoring (FHM) activities are cooperative efforts between the USDA Forest Service and the Oklahoma Department of Agriculture Forestry Services. The FHM program in Oklahoma includes regular aerial and ground surveys to detect forest damage.

## Special Issues

Key issues which state and federal programs are addressing cooperatively include:

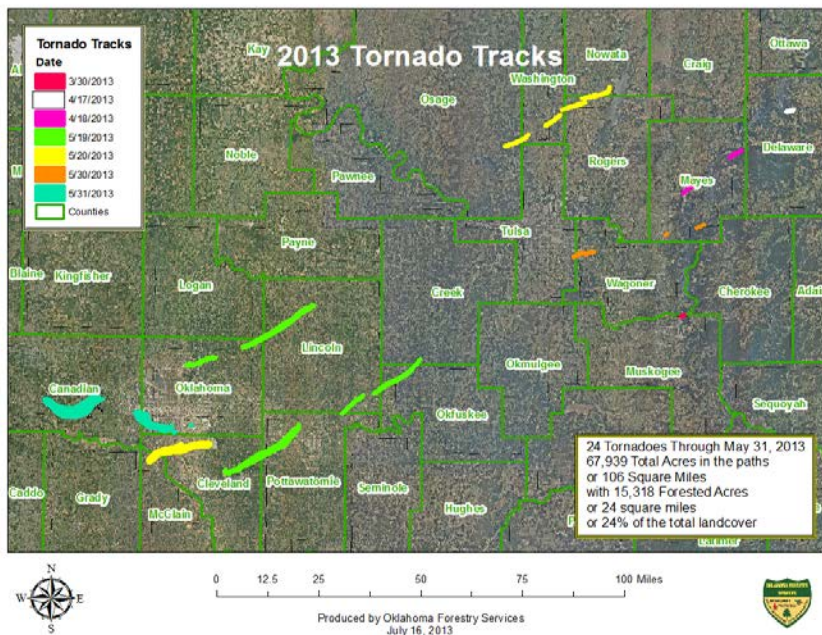
- ✚ Sustainable management of private forest lands
- ✚ Protection and development of urban and community forest resources
- ✚ Increasing participation by underserved citizens in forestry programs
- ✚ Update of Oklahoma's Gypsy Moth Action Plan
- ✚ "Don't Move Firewood" advertisement campaign
- ✚ Utilizing the US Forest Service Forest Health Disturbance Mapper Program

## Forest Influences

Major insect and disease outbreaks have been infrequent within the forested areas of eastern Oklahoma.

**Tornados'** were the major forest damage events in Oklahoma for 2013. Twenty-four confirmed tornados' afflicted twelve Counties in the state. The paths of these tornados encompassed over 67 thousand acres or 106 square miles. This area was 24 percent forested or 15 thousand acres. El Reno, Shawnee, Broken Arrow and Moore experienced the brunt of these devastating storms by losing numerous lives, homes and businesses. These storms affected

portions of the state dominated by hardwoods with the biggest impact occurring within urban forests.



### Southern pine beetle Aerial Detection:

The survey was approximately 800,000 acres of pine located in three southeastern counties. Over a thousand dead pine spots were located in survey area. A majority of the dead pine spots are most likely from a combination of drought conditions, extreme flooding, previous fire incidents, and ips engraver beetle activity while some appear to be southern pine beetle.

### Gypsy moth:

USDA Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS) had no positive samples collected in this year's survey.

### **Tree mortality from prolonged drought:**

This continues to be a major influence affecting Oklahoma's forest health. We have seen increase in mortality among community forest trees. We are collaborating with Texas on an assessment of declining forest health in both states.

### **Non-Native insects of concern**

- ✚ Emerald Ash Borer
- ✚ Thousand Canker Disease (Walnut twig Beetle)
- ✚ Gypsy Moth
- ✚ Asian Long-Horn Beetle
- ✚ Asian Gypsy Moth
- ✚ Mexican soapberry borer

### **Southern Pine Beetle Prevention Program**

This year four contracts completed the Southern Pine Beetle Prevention Program. The four contracts comprised of 417 acres in Southeast Oklahoma. There are eight active contracts treating 533.5 additional acres. A total of \$21,004 of grant funds has been paid and \$33,225 obligated for this year's program.

<http://www.forestry.ok.gov/Websites/forestry/Images/SPB%20Cost-Share%20Application.pdf>

Based upon our review of cost-share rates paid to landowners participating in the Southern Pine Beetle prevention program, amended our program and use the following rates for new applications as of October 1, 2013:

- First Commercial Thinning (CTH) - Flat rate of \$50 per acre (current rate is \$40)
- Pre-Commercial Thinning (PCT) - 50% of actual cost up to \$75 per acre (current rate is up to \$60)
- Consulting fees for planning/harvest assistance - 50% of actual cost up to \$10 per acre (no change)
- The current SPB cost-share balance is \$10,158

### **Don't Move Firewood Advertising Campaign:**

Oklahoma Forestry Services partnered with the Oklahoma Tourism and Recreation Department to install 223 signs on cedar posts in campsites within 44 state parks. A total of 215 posters were also placed within the state parks as well. The signs and posters advertised the "Buy It Where You Burn It" slogan and installed in the summer of 2015.

Oklahoma Forest Health Website: <http://www.forestry.ok.gov/health>

This website generated 55 requests for assistance regarding forest health issues this year and 230 requests since 2011. These request range from single sick tree issues to large acreage of declining trees.

#### Forest Stewardship Program

There were a total of 118 Forest Stewardship plans written or revised this year. All plans contain a Forest Health section, advising the landowner of active or potential forest health issues.

#### Oklahoma Pest Action Council

The Council is comprised of plant health specialist from Universities, Federal and State partners. It was primarily formed to produce a collaborative Emerald Ash Borer Preparedness Plan for Oklahoma.

#### Oklahoma's Forest Statistics

- Of the 50 states, Oklahoma ranks 20<sup>th</sup> in size, with an area of 43,954,560 acres, over 800,000 acres of which are covered by water and approximately 12,000,000 acres are covered by forests.

#### *Eastern Oklahoma, Area of Timberland (productive forest land) by Ownership Group*

| Forest-type                                   | Area of timberland by forest-type and ownership group, East Oklahoma, 2008 |                     |               |                            |                 |                       |
|---|--|---------------------|---------------|----------------------------|-----------------|-----------------------|
|   | All ownerships   | U.S. Forest Service |               | State and local government | Forest industry | Nonindustrial private |
|   |  | Service             | Other federal |                            |                 |                       |
|   | <i>thousand acres</i>  |                     |               |                            |                 |                       |
| Softwood types (Pines and other softwoods)    | 1096.8   | 159.2               | 51.1          | 28.9                       | 350.6           | 507.0                 |
| Hardwood types (oak, elm, ash, hickory, etc.) | 3971.0   | 98.3                | 244.0         | 135.2                      | 214.8           | 3278.6                |
| Nonstocked                                    | 35.3   | 0.0                 | 1.4           | 0.0                        | 2.9             | 31.0                  |
| All groups                                    | 5103.1   | 257.5               | 296.5         | 164.1                      | 568.3           | 3816.6                |

#### *Oklahoma Forest and Paper Industry Employment and Annual Payroll Income*

| Oklahoma Wood-Related Sectors |            |                       |
|-------------------------------|------------|-----------------------|
| Sectors                       | Employment | Annual Payroll Income |
| Forestry & Logging            | 895        | \$31,562,000          |
| Wood Products                 | 4,075      | \$176,234,000         |
| Pulp & Paper                  | 2,943      | \$205,063,000         |
| Furniture                     | 2,788      | \$100,377,000         |
| Total                         | 10,701     | \$513,236,000         |

*Economic Impacts of Oklahoma's privately-Owned Forests*

| <b>Forestry-Related Industries</b> | <b>All Forests</b> | <b>Privately-owned Forests</b> |
|------------------------------------|--------------------|--------------------------------|
| Employment                         | 7,982              | 7,902                          |
| Payrolls                           | \$300,343,142      | \$297,339,710                  |
| Annual Sales                       | \$2,758,886,681    | \$2,731,297,815                |
| Contribution to the State GDP      | \$1,068,876,000    | \$1,058,187,240                |

*Source: Forest2Market, National Alliance of Forest Owners, 2009.*

*Oklahoma manufacturing facilities and value of shipments*

| <b>Oklahoma Forest and Paper Industry</b> |                        |                                    |
|---|------------------------|------------------------------------|
| <b>Manufacturing Facilities</b>           | <b># of facilities</b> | <b>Value of Industry Shipments</b> |
| Sawmills, Millwork, Treating              | 6                      | -                                  |
| Engineered Wood and Panel Products        | 2                      | -                                  |
| Other Wood Products                       | 4                      | -                                  |
| <b>Total Wood Products</b>                | <b>12</b>              | <b>\$452,227,000</b>               |
| Pulp, Paper, & Paperboard Mills           | 7                      | -                                  |
| Converted Paper Products                  | 35                     | -                                  |
| <b>Paper Manufacturing</b>                | <b>42</b>              | <b>\$2,269,266,000</b>             |
| <b>Total All Segments</b>                 | <b>54</b>              | <b>\$2,721,493,000</b>             |