



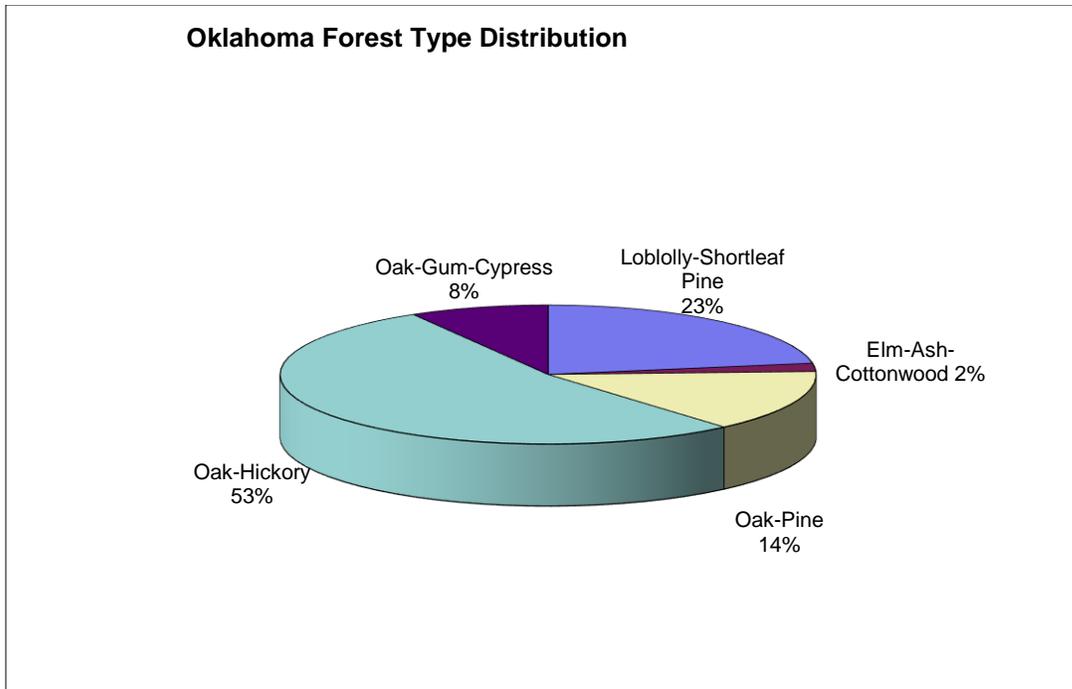
Oklahoma

Forest Health Highlights 2016

The Resource

Oklahoma's forests covers over 12 million acres, about 27% of the state's land area. Some 6.9 million acres of the states forested land is in nonindustrial private ownership, while 707,867 acres are in National Forests. 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 and Emerald Ash Borer Action Plans
- ✚ "Don't Move Firewood" advertisement campaign
- ✚ Utilizing the US Forest Service Forest Health Disturbance Mapper Program

Forest Influences

Southern pine beetle Aerial Detection:

Aerial detection is in the planning stages; Oklahoma Forestry Services has been collecting bids and renegotiating its previous contract. This process has taken longer than expected and the state's aerial detection flights have been delayed with February of 2017 being the earliest possible opportunity. The survey will cover approximately 800,000 acres of pine located in three southeastern counties. The previous year's flights detected over a thousand dead pine spots across the counties with the greatest concentration being in McCurtain County.

***Ips* engraver beetle:**

In April of 2015, Oklahoma Forestry Services personnel visited a subset of the data points recorded in the aerial flights performed in October 2015. No evidence of southern pine beetle was found in Oklahoma but it became evident that Oklahoma is experiencing an outbreak of *Ips* engraver beetle on an unprecedented scale. Areas affected by this beetle ranged from a series of small clumps of pine mortality up to a spot measuring three acres.



Edge of a 3 acre area of Ips caused mortality

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 2 contracts were completed under the Southern Pine Beetle Prevention Program and three more thinning practices were completed and are in the final stages of paperwork before making payment. These five contracts covered 331 acres in Southeast Oklahoma. There are 10 active contracts treating 782.5 additional acres. A total of \$6,700 of grant funds has been paid, \$10,550 of payment are pending final paperwork, and \$39,125 are 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)

Emerald Ash Borer in Oklahoma

Emerald ash borer was discovered for the first time in Oklahoma. A single trap caught located in Grove, Oklahoma, a city near the Oklahoma, Arkansas, Missouri border, had a confirmed catch of this beetle. To this point it has not been discovered anywhere else in Oklahoma or in the immediate area of the neighboring states. This discovery has led to an increased interest in the Don't Move Firewood Campaign by the public and cities in Oklahoma.

Don't Move Firewood Advertising Campaign:

Oklahoma Forestry Services has advertised the Don't Move Firewood Campaign in the Oklahoma State Parks & Outdoor Recreation Guide for the 2016 issue and payments have been made to include it in the 2017 issue. With the recent discovery of emerald ash borer in Oklahoma, OFS personnel have been busy working with other agencies in finalizing the EAB Action Plan for Oklahoma as well as aiding cities in the creation of their own plan. News agencies, newspapers, and radio stations have reached out to OFS for segments on EAB and the Don't Move Firewood Campaign.



Oklahoma recently designed geocache coins for this campaign. They are trackable and are slowly being placed in geocaches across Oklahoma. OFS will be working with local geocaching clubs in the spring to release more of these coins to spread the word, not the wood.

Forest Stewardship Program

There were a total of 58 Forest Stewardship plans written or revised this year as well as 32 management plans. All plans contain a Forest Health section, advising the landowner how to promote the health of their forests as well as any active or potential threats to forest health.

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 20th 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		State and local	Nonindustrial	
		Service	Other federal	government	Forest industry	private
	<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

Forestry-Related Industries	All Forests	Privately-owned Forests
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

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