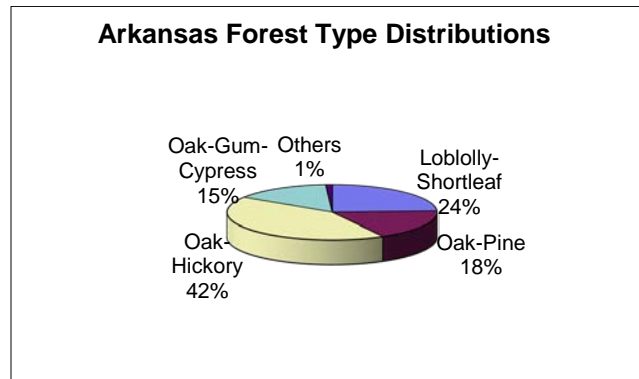


Forest Health Highlights 1998

Arkansas

The Arkansas Forestry Commission provides forest health protection assistance to state and private land managers within the State. This program is funded cooperatively by the State and the USDA Forest Service Forest Health Protection unit.



Arkansas Forest Facts

- Over **50%** of Arkansas is **forested** (more than 18.3 million acres).
- Over **90%** of forested acreage in Arkansas is **privately owned**.
- The **Ouachita and Ozark–St. Francis National Forests** (2.3 million acres) provide recreational and wildlife benefits as well as forest products and jobs for thousands of people.
- **Southern pine beetle** is Arkansas' most important forest pest. In 1995-96, a significant outbreak affected a large part of the state with over 3,600 SPB infestations. Since that time beetle populations have declined. In 1998 there were only 52 infestations in 10 counties. The outlook for 1999 is for low population levels to continue.
- The **loblolly pine sawfly** causes localized defoliation in southern Arkansas each year. The periodic heavy outbreaks lead to some growth loss, but tree mortality rarely occurs.
- An isolated **gypsy moth** infestation was identified in north central Arkansas in 1992. A cooperative gypsy moth eradication project involved participation by the Arkansas State Plant Board, Arkansas Forestry Commission, and USDA Forest Service. Over 43,000 acres were treated with aerial applications of a biological insecticide and after three years of post-treatment trapping, it now appears that the infestation has been successfully eradicated.

The Arkansas Forestry Commission and USDA Forest Service

In spite of the relatively good health of Arkansas' 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 Forestry Commission 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 Arkansas' forests.

Forest Health Protection contributions (dollars) to Arkansas Forestry Commission Cooperative Forest Health program, cooperative pest suppression/eradication projects, and National Forest suppression/eradication projects, 1996-99.

	<u>1996</u>	<u>1997</u>	<u>1998</u>	<u>1999</u>
Cooperative Forest Health Program	67,760	67,760	71,800	71,800
Cooperative suppression				
southern pine beetle	50,700	50,000	0	0
gypsy moth eradication	175,000	78,000	50,000	25,000
Ouachita/Ozark National Forests				
southern pine beetle	699,446	300,000	55,000	25,000
gypsy moth eradication	59,335	15,000	0	0

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