

Arkansas



Forest Health Highlights

2011

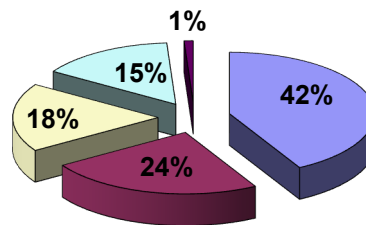
The Resource

Arkansas' forests cover 18.8 million acres, more than 50% of the state's land area. The majority of the state's forested land, some 10.6 million acres, is in non-industrial private ownership, while approximately 2.3 million acres are in national forests. Arkansas' forests are prized for their scenic beauty, supporting tourism and outdoor recreation and providing wildlife habitat from the Ozark and Ouachita Mountains to the Mississippi River. Major forest types in the state include oak-hickory, oak-pine, and oak-gum-cypress.



non-industrial private ownership, acres are in national forests. their scenic beauty, supporting providing wildlife habitat from the the Mississippi River. Major forest hickory, loblolly-shortleaf pine,

Arkansas Forest Type Distribution



■ Oak-hickory ■ Loblolly-shortleaf pine ■ Oak-pine ■ Oak-gum-cypress ■ Other

Forest Health Influences and Programs

Southern pine beetle (SPB) is Arkansas' most significant forest insect pest. However, in 2011 no SPB activity was reported on private, state, or federal lands, a trend that has lasted for more than 14 years. The Arkansas Forestry Commission is offering cost-share incentives to landowners for thinning and restoration work as part of their comprehensive **SPB Prevention and Restoration Program (SPB PRP)**. This program is eagerly sought and well received by landowners. The state is also making special effort to reach out to minority and underserved landowners. The SPB PRP Program enrolled 185 tracts covering 7,288 acres in 2011. Major emphasis was placed on thinning of stands

with basal area of 120 or above. Of the 185 tracts, 93 covering 3,183 acres were first time thinning of these dense stands. In addition to a landowner incentive, loggers received an incentive to thin these stands.

Ips and black turpentine beetle are often attracted to trees stressed by drought or damaged during harvest operations. Statewide, populations of these beetles were far above normal late in the year due to a dry fall. Thinning of pine stands should be conducted to minimize damage to residual trees.

Oak decline and red oak borer: Isolated pockets of ROB still crop up, but nothing on the scale of 1999-2004. Conditions favorable for the development of future oak decline events persist over thousands of acres. Episodic drought, advanced age, overstocked stands and poor site quality of the state's oak forests create a serious and persistent problem.

Early Oak Defoliation due to sudden and extreme late summer and early fall drought resulted in many calls concerning white and post oaks. Most trees will resume growth in the spring.

Eastern Tent Caterpillar infestations were high in most areas. Actual damage from this common defoliator was negligible.

Fall webworm, a common but noticeable pest was extremely heavy in many areas of Arkansas this year.

Gypsy moth trapping is used to make early detections of gypsy moth introduced to the state. No moths were caught in 2011. This is the 6th year with no gypsy moth trap catches in Arkansas.

Invasive Species: Chinese privet is but one of a number of non-native, invasive insect and plants causing problems for foresters and land managers in Arkansas. Other species of interest are Emerald Ash Borer, Asian Long Horned Beetle, Thousand Cankers Disease of Black Walnut, Sirex wood wasp and Cogon grass.

Cooperative programs are addressing some high-value areas such as designated natural areas, forested urban parks and forest regeneration sites. The Arkansas Department of Natural Heritage received a grant to remove or reduce invasive species from Cove Creek, one of their exemplary natural areas.

The Arkansas Forestry Commission (AFC), Arkansas State Plant Board (ASPB) and the Animal & Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS) developed a cooperative response plan to coordinate activities in case of detection of any invasive species.

Forest Health Monitoring (FHM) activities are cooperative efforts between the USDA Forest Service and the Arkansas Forestry Commission. The FHM program in Arkansas includes periodic measurement of fixed plots as well as regular aerial and ground surveys to detect forest damage.

Forest Health Assistance in Arkansas

Arkansas Forestry Commission
3821 W. Roosevelt Road
Little Rock, AR 72204
501-296-1940
<http://www.forestry.state.ar.us>
jim.northum@arkansas.gov

USDA Forest Service
Southern Region, State & Private Forestry
Forest Health Protection
2500 Shreveport Highway
Pineville, LA 71360
318-473-7286
<http://www.fs.fed.us/r8/foresthealth/>