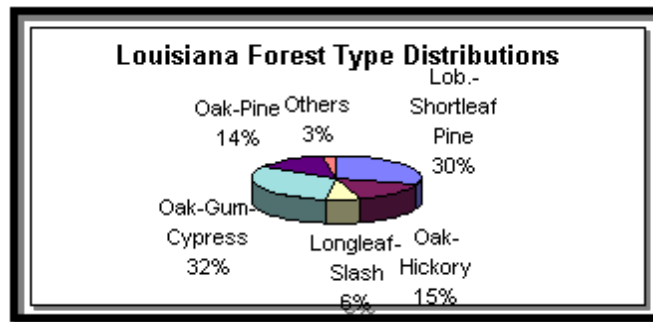


Forest Health Highlights 2003

Louisiana

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 nonindustrial 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.

Forest health monitoring (FHM) activities are cooperative efforts between the USDA Forest Service and the Louisiana Department of Agriculture and Forestry. The FHM program in Louisiana includes periodic measurement of fixed plots as well as 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

Forest Influences

Southern pine beetle (SPB) is Louisiana's most significant forest insect pest. However, SPB activity in the state has been insignificant in recent years and no outbreaks were reported in 2003.

Pine engraver beetles (*Ips spp.*) displayed moderate activity in 2003. Because *Ips* infestations tend to be relatively small and scattered, they usually cannot be effectively controlled or salvaged, but their economic costs may exceed those caused by SPB.

Baldcypress leafroller defoliated 138,500 acres of mixed baldcypress stands in the southern and southeastern parts of the state in 2003. Approximately 57,400 acres were classified as severely defoliated (more than 50%). This insect pest rarely causes mortality, but it can severely impede radial growth.

Forest tent caterpillar defoliated 96,300 acres of forested wetlands in 2003, affecting primarily tupelo gum. This defoliation was severe on 57,900 acres.

Buck moth defoliation of live oaks has been a problem in New Orleans for several years. The population of these insects continued to decrease in 2003.

Forest Health Assistance in Louisiana

For further information or assistance, contact:

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