

# Louisiana



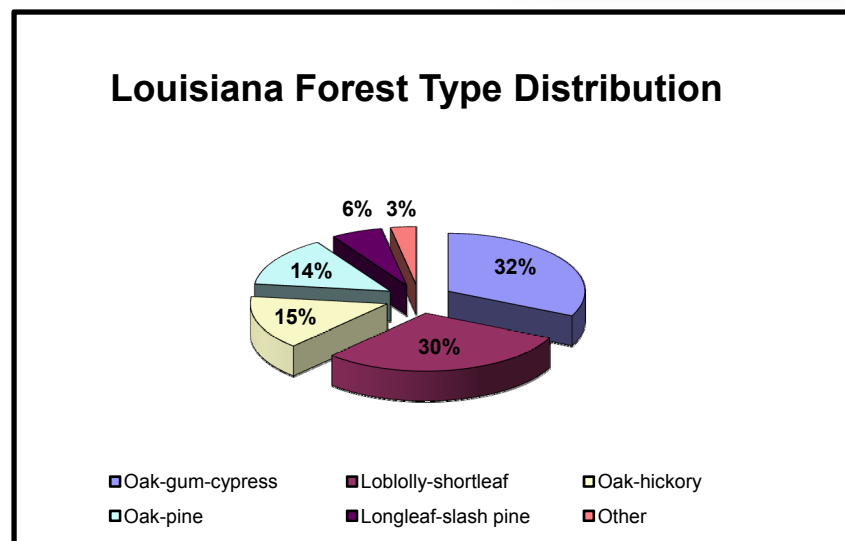
## Forest Health Highlights 2009

### 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 non-industrial 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.



USDA Forest Service



### Forest Influences and Programs

**Southern pine beetle (SPB)** is Louisiana's most significant forest insect pest. However, activity in the state has been insignificant in recent years, a trend lasting about 11 years. No confirmed infestations were found in 2009 and no serious population buildup is likely. Louisiana is currently offering cost-share incentives to landowners for SPB prevention practices to reduce the hazard to SPB infestation.

**Pine engraver beetles (*Ips* spp.) and black turpentine beetle** remain at relatively normal levels. Although, one spot in Beaufort Parish was initially mistaken for SPB because of its size and behavior, bark inspection revealed *Ips*.

Usually, *Ips* infestations tend to be relatively small and scattered which severely limits any effective control or salvage. The collective economic costs of these infestations, however, may exceed that of SPB.

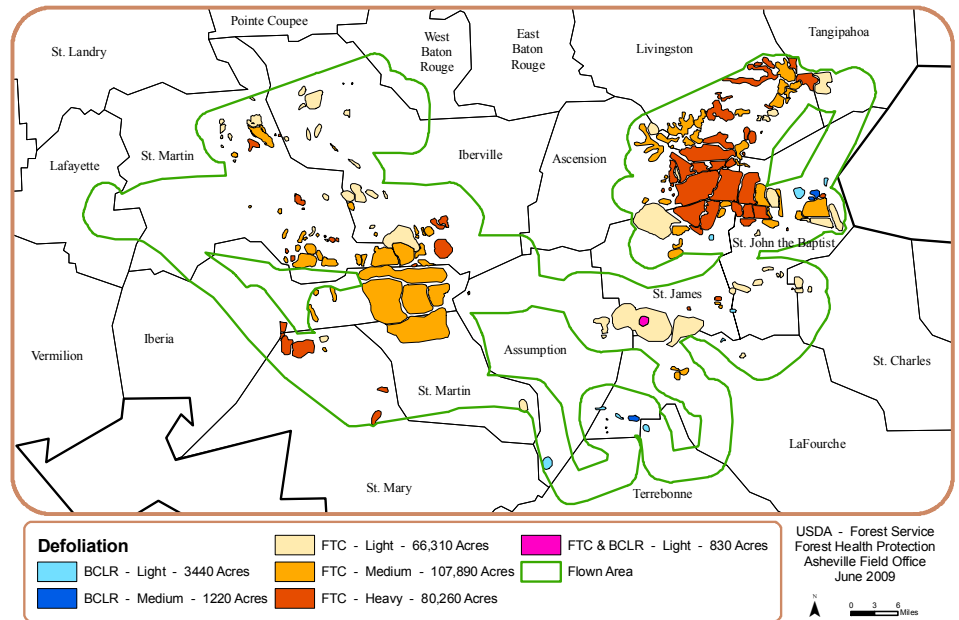
**Forest tent caterpillar** defoliation (heavy;  $\geq 50\%$ ) was detected this spring on 80,260 acres of tupelo gum wetlands primarily west of Lake Maurepas in Livingston, Ascension, St. John the Baptist and St. James Parishes. Most of the 107,890 acres of medium damage occurred within the Atchafalaya Basin in south central Louisiana. Light defoliation (<50%) occurred on over 66,000 acres of both areas.



William M. Ciesla,  
Forest Health Management International,  
bugwood.org

### Aerial Survey - Defoliation - Louisiana - 2009

Bald Cypress Leaf Roller (BCLR) - Forest Tent Caterpillar (FTC)



Gerald J. Lenhard, Louisiana St. Univ., bugwood.org

**Baldcypress leafroller** caused light to moderate defoliation on 4,660 acres of mixed baldcypress stands in Assumption, Terrebonne and St. John the Baptist Parishes.

**Pine colaspis** defoliated pines along fence rows, roads and yards over large areas of mostly rural lands in Avoyelles and Calcasieu Parishes with sites in between. Some baldcypress within this area were also affected. After the first and only defoliation occurred, trees recovered rapidly.



Gerald J. Lenhard, Louisiana St. Univ.,  
bugwood.org



John Moser, USDA Forest Service,  
bugwood.org

**Hail** defoliation which occurred to pines and hardwoods in 2008 on 1700 acres of intermingled pasture and forestland near Hammond was revisited a year later to view results. Severely damaged hardwoods survived well with abundant epicormic branching. Severely damaged pine stands resulted in mortality of most of the pines either from initial damage or by *Ips* attacking the stressed trees. Hardwoods of various sizes suppressed earlier by the overstory of pines were released to grow.



Tim Haley, USFS Forest Entomologist heading the project, said that higher pine mortality occurred among trees that were located near logging slash piles regardless of crown loss.

**Hurricane Gustav**, which came through the middle of Louisiana in 2008, damaged roughly \$77 million worth of hardwoods, about \$8.7 million in baldcypress and over \$6 million in pines and other softwoods. Many of the pines which initially survived along the hurricane’s direct path are still dying in 2009 from hidden root damage, especially along Interstate 10 where excessive winds funneled down its corridor.

### Forest Health Assistance in Louisiana

Louisiana Dept. of Agric. And Forestry  
Office of Forestry  
515 Forestry Road  
Woodworth, LA 71485  
318-487-5982 or 5172  
ccobb@ldaf.state.la.us  
<http://www.ldaf.state.la.us/portal/>

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