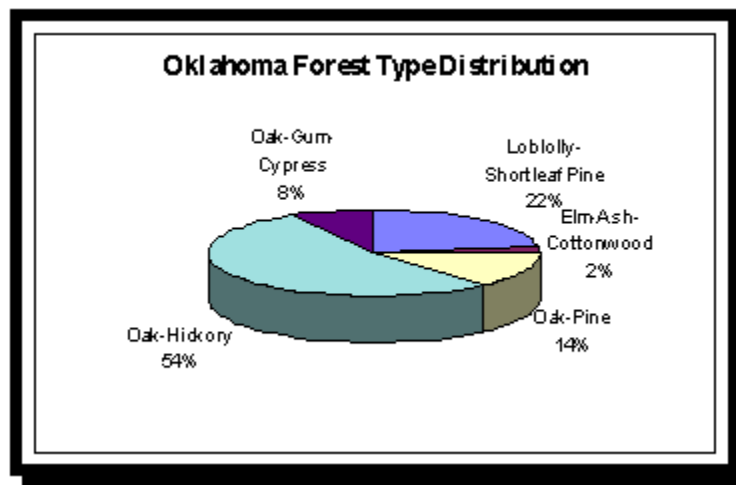


Forest Health Highlights 2002

Oklahoma

The Resource

Oklahoma's forests cover 10 million acres, about 20% of the state's land area. Some 6.9 million acres of the state's forested land is in nonindustrial private ownership, while approximately 397,000 acres are in national forest. 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

Forest Influences

Major insect and disease outbreaks have been infrequent within the forested areas of eastern Oklahoma.

Southern pine beetle (SPB) occasionally causes problems in Oklahoma, but only minor activity was present in 2002.

Gypsy moth surveying continues throughout the state. No moths were captured in Oklahoma in 2002.

Drought and excessive heat continued to impact Oklahoma's forests in 2002. Many trees showed wilt and scorch symptoms.

Forest Health Assistance in Oklahoma

For further information or assistance, contact:

Oklahoma Department of Agriculture

Forestry Services
2800 N. Lincoln Blvd.
Oklahoma City, OK 73105
(405) 521-3864

USDA Forest Service

Forest Health Protection
2500 Shreveport Highway
Pineville, LA 71360
(318) 473-7286