

The Forest Health Program addresses threats to production and sustainability of Arkansas forests. Research is conducted on climate (e.g., drought) and biotic (e.g., insects, pathogens, invasive species) factors and how they influence management decisions.

Arkansas’s forests are aging as annual forest growth exceeds removals by 50% for pine and 70% for hardwoods. While this represents a significant economic opportunity, it also suggests substantial risks to forest health. As standing timber volume continues to increase, there is a corresponding increase of risk from fire, insects, and disease.

A diversity of current efforts to address forest threats include work on emerald ash borer, feral hogs, tree health in green tree reservoirs, upland forest resiliency, and use of unmanned aerial vehicles to monitor forest health.



COLLABORATION

The Forest Health Program cooperates with various federal and state agencies on monitoring invasive species and developing management approaches to increase the health and resiliency of forests so that they can continue to provide fiber, clean air and water, recreational opportunities, and biological diversity of wildlife.



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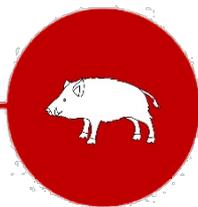
different public and private organizations cooperate in the Forest Health Program, including private foundations, forest industry, nongovernmental organizations, and state and federal agencies.

About McIntire-Stennis

The McIntire-Stennis program, a unique federal-state partnership, cultivates and delivers forestry and natural resource innovations for a better future. By advancing research and education that increases the understanding of emerging challenges and fosters the development of relevant solutions, the McIntire-Stennis program has ensured healthy, resilient forests and communities and an exceptional natural resources workforce since 1962.



IMPACT



\$500,000

saved annually by landowners from identifying ineffective feral hog control strategies on 7 million acres of affected land



5 million

board feet of growth (\$1 million value added) is captured annually from ash trees not yet damaged by the emerald ash borer due to development of more effective monitoring techniques



11.5 million

acres of Arkansas forests are sustained through targeted research on oak regeneration strategies