

# FOREST HEALTH

**Forest health** refers to the present condition and susceptibility of upland hardwood ecosystems to potential threats from insects, diseases, and invasive exotic plants. Our research program seeks ways to maintain healthy forests and increase the supply of goods and services from them. Scientists within the Upland Hardwood Ecology and Management Research Work Unit 4157, along with many [collaborators and partners](#), are working on forest health issues:

- **Health, sustainability, and productivity of upland forests** - the cumulative hydrological and ecological effects that result when management activities are imposed across a landscape. [LANDIS](#) is a spatially explicit forest succession and disturbance model that delineates the extent and dispersion of oak decline is delineated in [Arkansas](#) under two [fire](#) regimes over a 150-year period, and establishes risk ratings for these areas. This is a further step toward precision management and planning. (Contact: Marty Spetich)



- **The Healthy Forest Restoration Act** was passed by congress in 2003 to *"reduce the threat of destructive wildfires while upholding environmental standards and encouraging early public input during review and planning processes."* Under this program an applied silvicultural assessment for maintaining habitat diversity and reducing the risk of mortality from gypsy moth and oak decline is underway on the Daniel Boone National Forest in [Kentucky](#). (Contact: Callie Schweitzer)

